

**Emergency Services
Centre - 3333**

University

Growth rate slows after two decades

Campuses fail to reach enrolment targets

For the first time in more than 20 years, growth in university enrolment across Canada has slowed down or come to a complete standstill.

With the situation most serious in Western Canada, some universities have experienced an actual decline in their student population rather than the accustomed 10 percent per year increase experienced in the 1960's.

In a recent issue of the Financial Post, reporter Hugh McIntyre cites figures from the University of British Columbia where enrolment is down 925 from the 21,108 students projected (757 lower than last year). It is UBC's first decline in 23 years.

York's situation is considerably better than that of many other universities. As of Oct. 8, it had come within 500 students of meeting its enrolment projections.

This year York will have about 11,000 full-time students, both graduate and undergraduate, with roughly 10,000 part-time students enrolled at Atkinson College in the summer and fall terms.

After adding more than 800 part-time graduate students and 200 special students, the York enrolment totals more than 22,000.

Operating deficits

With Canadian universities funded almost exclusively by tuition fees and provincial government grants based on the number of students registered, universities that fail to reach projections find themselves running substantial operating deficits. Budget commitments are normally made well in advance of the fall registration.

In Ontario, universities are paid \$1730 for each undergraduate arts student registered and larger amounts for those registered in professional or graduate programs.

Overall, Ontario enrolment is running two to five percent below projections. Established institutions such as the University of Toronto and Queen's have met their targets, but newer ones such as Brock,



Many of the first year students shown above camped out all night to "beat the rush" on registration day last September. For several Canadian universities the "rush" did not

materialize, as many upper year students did not return. York has not been as badly hit as some, but is still close to 500 students short of last spring's projections.

Lakehead and Laurentian are as much as 10 percent below projections.

Glendon reverses trend

One bright spot for York this year is Glendon College, which for several years has relied on overflow students from the York campus to fill its classrooms. Again using the Oct. 8 figures, Glendon has reversed its position and is now one faculty that has met its target.

It has doubled the size of its freshman class to about 600, and has a

total enrolment of close to 1200 students, with roughly 900 in the bilingual stream of the College.

Upper year students

Many reasons have been given for the drop in enrolment, but one factor that confused officials at York and elsewhere is that several universities now underenrolled, met their projections for first year students.

Most of the decline resulted from second and third year students not returning to finish their degree studies.

McIntyre said while "certain provinces, like Ontario and Alberta have made student-aid regulations somewhat more restrictive...the same declines have been seen in other jurisdictions where there has been no change.

"One interesting facet of the problem is noted at Waterloo University, where cooperative engineering students employed in industry have declined to return when it was possible to get permanent employment — a bird in the hand seems to be worth two in the

bush. This may also have influenced some students who got good summer jobs."

On the other side of the coin, students unable to find summer jobs, or with parents put out of work by the rising tide of unemployment, may not be able to finance another year of university.

Economic squeeze

In a recent feature article headed The Economics of University Underenrolment and Youth Unemployment, Ian Wiseman of the Canadian University Press blames the "economic squeeze" as well as the fact that students are beginning to question the value of a university education.

Citing the universities of Calgary, Alberta, Laurentian, McMaster, Waterloo and Carleton as among the most severely hit, he wrote that students "didn't leave the labor market this fall because they either could not afford to go to school full-time or else they figured that a university education no longer held the certain potential of financial security."

So where are the students? No one seems to know. With unemployment highest among people aged 15 to 25 they are not all working in the labor force.

Sudden turnabout

The turnabout has been severe and sudden with York less badly hurt than some universities. Last spring, the Ontario Government asked the universities to increase their quotas to meet demands. Speculation then was that there would be up to 3,000 qualified students unable to find places in Ontario universities.

Somewhere the projections were badly wrong and now as university financial officers across the country attempt to pick up the pieces registrars and planners are trying to find out why.

Odds & Sodds

Performing Arts

New York Times drama and dance critic Clive Barnes will open the Performing Art series lectures, "The Arts: Affluence and Exploitation", on October 29. The lecture will be held in Burton Auditorium at 8:30 p.m. Tickets for this event as well as the entire lecture series are available at the Burton Box Office.

A-V Day

The Department of Instructional Aid Resources is holding an A-V Day, Monday, October 25th from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Audio Visual Centre, Room 031, Central Square. There will be a display of A-V equipment in action, a continuous demonstration of the preparation and use of A-V materials and qualified personnel to offer assistance with the operation of equipment, the educational potential of equipment and techniques, and the range of A-V services available. Everyone is welcome; for further information call 635-3227.

Quote of the week

What peoples hope for, they think at last they have a right to, and when they are disappointed, they actually think they are ill-used.
T.C. Haliburton,
Sam Slick's wise saws, 1853

Photo exhibit

Mr. Michael Lambeth's Photographic Exhibition "En-

counter" is on display in the College "G" Hallway, Steacie Science Library for the next two weeks.

Where to vote at York

Following is a list of Polling Subdivision Numbers and Poll Locations for enumerated resident voters at York University:

Polling Subdivision No.	Location
211A	Intermedia Room 001, Founders College (Founders College and Residence)
211B	Vanier Residence Common Room, lobby first floor (Vanier College and Residence)
212A	Winters Residence Common Room, lobby first floor (Winters College and Residence)
212B	Room 001, McLaughlin College, Social & Debates Room (McLaughlin College and Residence plus Old Stong Farm House)
213	Stong Residence General Purpose Room, off lobby, first floor (Stong College and Residence plus the Old White Farm House and the Old Farm House)
214	Lounge Area on the Main Floor (Graduate Residence No. 1)
215	Lounge Area on the Main Floor (Graduate Residence No. 2)
216	Lounge Area on the Main Floor (Graduate Residence No. 3)

