

ANALYSIS

Free trade agreement will cause U.S. PSE programmes to proliferate: Adolph

By NANCY PHILLIPS

Many people are unaware of the seven American post-secondary institutions which have set up degree programmes in Ontario, ranging in content from biology to education. Critics of the Free Trade Agreement, however, are very concerned about the possibility of such programmes proliferating if the agreement is implemented, and feel that this will be to the detriment of higher education in Ontario.

Currently, for an American university to set up in Ontario it must fulfill certain criteria. Each applicant is evaluated by the Ontario Council of University Affairs (OCUA) on the basis of societal need and student demand; the availability of library and other services; and whether or not an Ontario institution has a duplicate programme. The only measure of quality is if the university is accredited in its home state. The OCUA then passes along its recommendations to the Ministry of Colleges and Universities, which accepts or rejects the application. Financial assistance from the Ontario government is not available to these institutions. They must be privately funded.

Dr. William Sayers, of the Council of Ontario Universities, pointed out that Ontario's post-secondary institutions must undergo a much more rigorous evaluation process, "with an emphasis on quality. That means that there is a double standard." Sayers does point out, however, that the entire evaluation process is under review.

Bob Kanduth, the Communications Co-ordinator of the Ontario Council of Faculty Associations, said that "We're concerned about standards. Will the same standards apply to American and Canadian universities? If they're different, we'll have some serious reservations about the whole thing."

Professor Robert Adolph is an executive member of the Council of Canadians, and is faculty advisor to York Against the Deal. He believes that although Ontario will have the right to set its own standards for universities, the pressure to "harmonize" with the United States will be so strong that compromises will be made. He said that "If someone says that I've got \$150 million and I'm going to build a school in Kitchener, there's not a government on earth that's going to say no. That kind of money just shouts."

Adolph pointed out that under the Agreement, "the more investment the better." American big business has enormous resources to back American institutions in Canada.

Adolph is also worried about the effect the Agreement will have on existing Ontario post-secondary institutions. Information and data services are vital to universities, and these services are covered under the deal. Adolph said that the "Americans are unchallenged in the world in this industry. That means that our information industry is going to be gobbled up. . . . We in Canada will be forced to rely on US-dominated databases for our research; these will be oriented to US needs."

In addition, Adolph is concerned about how the Agreement could affect research. He explained that "as American control in Canada accelerates. . . funding for universities will tend, as in the US, to come from industry more than is the case now, with any number of strings attached. For example, Canadian industry will be sucked into the US military-industrial complex more than it is now."

Although culture is supposedly protected by the Agreement, "The whole thrust of the Agreement encourages research which ignores Canadian culture and Canadian social interests, in favour of research which serves interests of large companies which will be dominated by Americans."

Under Section 14 of the Agreement, public Canadian universities are a protected service. Adolph, however, does not believe that this protection is permanent. Section 1405(2) states that, "The Parties (Canada and the US) shall periodically review and consult on the provisions of this Chapter for the purpose of including additional services and for identifying further opportunities for increasing access to each other's service markets."

Thus, according to Adolph, "this is just the beginning. The real news is going to come later." In his opinion, this provision in the deal is vague, and he wonders "If maybe in the future even government-funded institutions can be affected. This is mind-blowing."

Professor Don Daly teaches Administrative Studies at York. He supports the deal, and tried to assuage any fears about it. He said that the Agreement won't have any impact at all on universities. He explained that "One of the problems handicapping educational demands has been the slow growth of the economy. . . . The most important impact of free trade would be on government revenues that would permit the government to put more funds into higher education." In response to the concern about research, Daly pointed out that

"Ontario faculty will continue to want to study Canadian topics. Most scholars would welcome additional research funds."

Daly does not believe that American universities will want to offer more programmes in Ontario, because of the enormous cost. About 80% of the universities' costs are paid for by the government. As no funds will be available to Americans, "There is no financial incentive for them to do it," Daly explained.

Daly said that "I'd be surprised if under the Agreement, 1% of the total university budget would come from US sources for anything, let alone research." He believes that Canadian culture is sufficiently protected, as are publically funded universities.

Daly said that only "those who are ardently anti-business would oppose the Agreement. They don't want to see the market operating more effectively than in the past."

Dr. Robert Fitzgerald is the director of the University of Bridgeport Connecticut's, (UOFB), masters programme in bio-nutrition. Classes are held on the first weekend of every month for 18 months, at Toronto General Hospital. The course is perfect for those who work full-time. Fitzgerald said that he "just can't believe the fears that are being expressed and the exaggeration of reality." Tuition fees are so high at American institutions, (\$160 a credit at UOFB), that only a select few will choose to attend. Lloyd Armstrong, a student in this course, said that "If a Canadian programme existed, I would take it, because it would be cheaper." Due to high tuition fees, the "chances of winning a competition for students in Ontario would be almost impossible."

According to Fitzgerald, "Canadian universities could be a little more responsive to the needs of students. Loosen up a little, be a little more innovative. That would solve the problem. I would imagine that whatever demands the American universities are servicing could be served by Canadian universities, if they wanted."

Ultimately, under the Agreement American universities will continue to run their programmes in Ontario, but due to the financial constraints there is little chance that they will flourish. Ontario must, however, protect the quality of education by regulating curricula on an equal basis. The true impact of the Agreement on Ontario's quality of education, information and data services, research, and culture, will not be understood, until it is fully implemented.

Elson, and the social/cultural representative from the college's student council, Marco Alla.

Winter-summer students experience several problems that the bulk of the York population don't have. Not least of these is the alarming prospect of early enrolment; before the student has had enough time to decide whether (s)he like the courses (s)he is taking or not, or has learned the routes from the parking lot to the classroom or library, it is time to line up for next year's selection of courses. There is also the disorienting entry into a school atmosphere that is already in full swing, perhaps already working on final papers.

Attendance of first-year advisees was perhaps only one-third of the total of registered students, but it is anticipated that those who were unable to come will be in touch with their advisors individually. The next group session is scheduled for Friday, February 19 in the same place, the March enrolment procedures likely the main item on the agenda.

順來風飯店 小菜、粥、粉、麵、飯、堂食、外賣 THE WINDS RESTAURANT



SUPERB CHINESE FOOD
DINING, TAKE-OUT & HOME DELIVERY
UNIVERSITY CITY PLAZA
59 FOUR WINDS DR., DOWNSVIEW, ONT.
PHONE: 736-4646
SUN-THURS, 11:30 a.m.-12:00 midnight
FRI & SAT, 11:30 a.m.-1:00 a.m.

STUDENT VENTURE CAPITAL

Be Your Own Boss

\$3,000
Interest-Free
Loan To
Start Your
Own Summer
Business

ASK US HOW. CALL THE
YOUTH HOTLINE FREE
1-800-387-0777.

You could qualify if you are a full time student, 15 or over and returning to full time studies in the fall.

Student Venture Capital is sponsored by the Ontario Ministry of Skills Development in co-operation with The Royal Bank of Canada, the Ontario Chamber of Commerce and local Chambers of Commerce and Boards of Trade.



Ministry of
Skills Development
Alvin Curling
Ontario Minister

Winter-summer students welcomed

By MARK KEMP

The Winter-Summer Term was launched last Friday at Winter's College with an Academic Orientation Day, in which in-coming first-year students met with advisors from the newly-created First Year Advising Programme.

Some 800 new students are entering York this term, either as mature students or directly from Grade 13 in secondary schools using the semester system. As part of the First Year Advising programme initiated throughout the Faculty of Arts in September 1987, all of these freshmen (with the exception of those taking Winter's college courses) have been assigned to small groups for personal advising.

The advisors are nearly all upper-level students (third or fourth year, occasionally second), invited to participate on the basis of their academic record. They are themselves primarily Winter's students who began in winter-summer. Their function will be as peer contacts, who will

answer questions or discuss problems of a general nature, refer new students to other services or counsellors and to provide a sense of "connectedness" to those first-year people who find it difficult to orient themselves in the crowded, complex university environment.

It is hoped that the new advising programme will address these and other concerns of these students. During last Friday's orientation day, a well-attended workshop for the advisors was held in the morning, at which needs and resources, and expectations as well as anxieties were discussed in some detail. Associate Dean of Arts Deborah Hobson and the Co-ordinator of the Advising Centre, Nancy Accinelli, conducted both the workshop and the advising session which took place in the afternoon in the Winter's College Dining Hall. After the initial session, welcoming speeches were made by Hobson, as well as by Academic Vice-President Kenneth Davey, Acting Master of Winter's College Nick

MUG SHOTS.



Chocolate Mug Shot
Hot chocolate
Shot of Southern Comfort
Top with mini-marshmallows

Coffee Mug Shot
Hot black coffee
Shot of Southern Comfort
Teaspoon of sugar
Top with whipped cream