

Rumoured increases in intra-mural fees provoke protests

By JEFF SHINDER

The Administration of the Physical Education Department is presently considering an increase in intra-mural athletics entrance fees to offset increased costs.

According to Steve Manweiler, president of the Inter-College Athletic Council (ICAC), "they (the Physical Education and Administration) are going for a cost effective program that is going to cost the students a lot more—and is going to destroy the intra-murals." (The ICAC, a sub-division of Recreation York, which oversees recreational athletics, organizes intra-murals on campus.)

Roger Seaman, the assistant chairman of the Physical Education department, denied that an increase had been decided upon. "We don't have a budget for next year," Seaman said. "(Raising the fees) is just one of the many options presented. Very real costs that have increased have to be met."

As an example, Seaman pointed to the need for two lifeguards at the pool instead of just one. "These higher wages are very real costs," Seaman said.

Manweiler repudiated Seaman's assertion that a decision had yet to be made. Specifically, he cited a Recreation York meeting with the ICAC that outlined a tripling of the intra-mural entrance fees. Man-

weiler added that the Physical Education department ordered Recreation York representative David Demonte to remain silent about the proposed increases.

Seaman took exception to these comments. "It's not true. Demonte is not involved in the budget decision-making process and is free to voice his comments," Seaman said. "It's very premature to talk about any figures because we don't have a budget set. Our budget will depend on the amount of money allocated from the Administration and how we allocate that money." Physical Education does not make public the breakdown of its funds.

Two years ago intra-mural entrance fees were free. Presently, each college pays around \$1,500 for their entire intra-mural program. Tripling the entrance fees would be too expensive for most of the colleges. According to Manweiler, "Intramurals were free for 19 years, suddenly in the next two years the financial problems became so severe that they're going to wreck the program."

The problem, according to Denise Christie, vice president of Founders College, is that the Physical Education administration has relegated Recreation York to a low priority. In Christie's view "what we are protesting is the whole philosophy of the

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Laser lab research receives GM backing

By MIKE KOHN

York's laser processing lab has attracted financial backing from General Motors (GM) for its unique research into developing new industrial applications.

"York is probably the only university in Eastern Canada developing this kind of laser processing," said Walt Duley, a York physics professor and director of York's Laser Processing Laboratory. GM is particularly interested in using laser processing to machine tool car parts and for cleaning the surfaces of various parts before painting or glueing.

According to Duley, corporate funding at York University has boomed in the past year. Last year, in the face of declining government support, the Administration decided to encourage private corporations to participate in the funding of York's research. The National Research Council (NRC) has been particularly hard hit by federal budget cuts. "We are the only country in the western world that has cut back in basic research and development," Duley said. "In spite of lobbying by interest groups, the federal government is threatening to turn Canada into a technological backwater."

Despite strained NRC resources, Duley is enthusiastic about his laser research. Laser processing provides interesting projects for Doctorate work because chemistry and physics students have a new field to study, he said. This in turn has immediate job applications, as students receive a unique preview of the jobs that will be available in industrial research

and development when they have finished their degrees. According to Duley, several students were hired, shortly after graduating, by the company that built one of York's lasers.

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Hare Commission to look at 'student life as a whole'

College system scrutinized

By JAMES FLAGAL

The Hare Commission, devoted to studying the future role of non-faculty colleges at York University, began its formal hearings last Friday in the midst of an ongoing debate between supporters and adversaries of the college system.

The Commission, named after its chairman Dr. Ken Hare, provost of Trinity College at the University of Toronto, is also headed by York Social Science Professor Jane Banfield Hayes, York History Professor John Saywell, and was initiated by York President Harry Arthurs.

According to Hare, the mandate of the Commission is to "re-examine once again, the unending debate of what role the colleges ought to play in the University." This includes studying student affairs, the roles of the Administration, faculties, and other groups on campus, so the function of colleges "can be placed in the proper context," Hare said.

Hare emphasized that while the recent Gilmor Report stressed



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"central student government," his commission is concerned with the role of colleges "in student life as a whole." Hare noted that his Commission will consult the Gilmor Report for information on student government, and will entertain any criticisms about Gilmor at his scheduled hearings next week. "I'll play it by ear," said Hare. "All I'm there for is to break the ice," and let the student, faculty and Administration representatives express their concerns.

Saywell describes the Commission's mandate as a chance to decide "whether or not its time to throw away the college system." According to Saywell, it is the University's decision whether the colleges should continue or not, because it is the University who created the colleges and gave them space to exist and expand.

Tom Wilson, academic advisor at McLaughlin College, agreed with Saywell's analysis, but added that "the colleges have developed an

autonomous existence (from the University) over the past 20 years." Wilson feels that the college system is not differentiated enough, and that "specialization in the system would serve individual needs better."

Theodore Olson, a Professor of Strategic Studies, noted that it is "no wonder students have such a weak identity with colleges, considering they are assigned at random by computers to these institutions." He added, "Why not have some social college, a jock college, and a college devoted to intellectual distinction?" According to Olson, it is important that "our approach to education remain as pluralistic as possible so we can cope with change easier."

Olson recognizes that "there are powerful steering effects like decisions on financing," which force the University system of government to become more centralized. He stressed, however, that this trend of centralization should never be

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HAVE WE GOT LETTERS?! You betcha. This week, in fact, was an *Excal* record-breaker with over nine feet of controversial correspondence vying for the ultimate "last word." . . . Pages 6, 9 & 11

FEATURES

CUSO CULTIVATES NEW IMAGE: Over 25 years ago, CUSO began recruiting Canadian university students to work in the Third World. Now, the organization is turning to older, skilled professionals to meet the needs of developing countries. *Excalibur's* Laura Lush offers this CUSO update. . . . Pages 12-13

ARTS

ART FOR WHOSE SAKE? Come and find out at this year's cross-campus fine arts extravaganza, running all next week. The festival will include an *outdoor* dance performance, ice sculptures, an Italian luncheon for only \$1.50, bands, mural painting, and an end-of-the-week bash. . . . Pages 14-15