

# Fraternities and sororities join student protest

by Shay Schwartzman

**B**anned but not banished, three fraternities and a sorority have joined the student table protest in Central Square.

Amid the chaos of the past week, they have taken the opportunity to set up tables. "We're part of the York community," said Alpha Epsilon Pi member Brian Bossin. "It was wrong for the administration to take the tables. By helping out here we're trying to better things for all students."

Sorority Sigma Delta Tau and fraternity Sigma Alpha Mu were occupying tables as part of the protest giving out information about themselves. Sigma Delta Chi took the opportunity to advertise one of its upcoming parties.

Alpha Epsilon Pi, the most visible group with the largest banner did some fundraising for themselves by selling the Gold Card discount coupon book. Members were actively pursuing the book's sale, which they say will also help finance their bowl-a-thon for the Hospital for Sick Children.

Tables, usually supplied by the office of student affairs, were

being given out by the CYSF during the protest. "CYSF wants us here," said Robert Morais of Alpha Epsilon Pi. "[CYSF president] Peter Donato and [vice-president external] Peter Merrick asked us to come out."

Alan Preyra, a "Sammy" — as the Sigma Alpha Mu members call themselves — adds, "We are students fighting the administration. Nobody from the administration said anything to us about being here." Preyra confirmed that his organization's table was supplied by the CYSF.

"We want to fill up Central Square with York students," said Donato. "We want groups that, in our opinion, can contribute to the protest. Fraternities know the issues." When asked about groups conducting non-protest business at the tables, Donato replied, "They have protest pamphlets as well as their own stuff. As well as protesting it should be business as usual."

"The fraternities and sororities are a student group and part of our protest," said Merrick. "We want all students taking part in the protest."

The administration does not recognize fraternities and sorori-

ties as official university clubs. They cannot use university facilities without payment, unlike a recognized university organization. "Greek" organizations, as they call themselves, also have no right to free table space in Central Square.

"We don't think we're breaking any law," said Barbara Schiff, a member of the Sigma Delta Tau sorority. "It's an unfair law," she added, referring to York policy against "Greek" organizations.

Although officially unrecognized by the university administration, fraternities and sororities were given the support of the CYSF in a motion last month.

There has been no action taken against the fraternities and sororities thus far by the administration. "They [fraternities and sororities] are a part of the general student protest," said Cathy Clarke, assistant director of the office of student affairs, "so we haven't taken any action."

No action is planned during the protest because, as Clarke said, "Students have a need to express themselves so we haven't been out policing." As long as corridors are kept clear and safe the table protest can continue, she added.

# "We're being treated like children"

## Students protest admin

by Ken Turriff

**A** large rally was held last Wednesday to protest the banning of display tables in Central Square by the North York fire marshal. The rally, held in the east bearpit, was attended by several hundred students and representatives from campus clubs and organizations, including the CYSF.

George Dipede, CYSF vice-president (programmes), told the gathering the problem is that the administration is making policy decisions that greatly affect students without properly consulting them.

"We're being treated like children," said another speaker. The same speaker said that students were being sacrificed for hot dog stands. She also said the administration was taking over the lecture halls, the common rooms and the dining rooms to assist with university funding. "They'll want to take over the pubs next and make students pay cover charges," she added.

CYSF vice-president (external), Peter Merrick, also addressed the rally. He sees the root of the current crisis as being the lack of government funding to the university system.

This view was shared by Phil Jackson, a York teaching assistant and representative of the International Socialists. Jackson sighted how university underfunding affects everything from students being kicked out of Central Square to the quality and availability of library books and services to campus food services.

Jean Ghomeshi, York NDP co-Chair was pleased with the turnout. "We accomplished what we wanted to do," he said.

The following day, the CYSF held a meeting in Curtis Lecture Hall I to discuss further plans for action. The meeting attracted a much smaller group of only about a hundred and fifty students.

The gathering was dominated by a debate over a proposal to form a student coalition, separate from the CYSF, to represent clubs and students in the fight to get the Central Square tables back. It quickly led to a heated exchange between those for and those against the proposition.

Jean Ghomeshi of the York New Democrats led the fight in favour of the proposal. "The CYSF really do not represent the 41 groups here; you really don't. You're really one of the 41 groups," he argued. He further said that a United Student Coalition would encompass the CYSF, not exclude it.

"I'm against this student coalition," said Peter Merrick, CYSF vice-president (external). "CYSF is the central student government. There's elected representation from all the students on the executive and throughout CYSF."

"If we're going to start separating ourselves, we're not going to get anything done," another person argued. "By starting a central coalition, what you are doing is starting another CYSF."

Several people became disgusted with the exchange. One person argued that they should be dealing with the real issue at hand and not fighting over power.

It was suggested that the proposal be taken to a vote of the students present. This resulted in more heated exchange.

It was finally decided, by a vote, not to pursue the issue any further.

The latter portion of the meeting was directed toward organizing another student rally scheduled for this week.

# FESA may get government status

by Trevor Burnett

**M**embers of the Faculty of Education Students Association (FESA) have their fingers crossed as they await the decision from the office of the provost and the Student Relations Committee (SRC) on whether FESA will be recognized as a separate student government.

This status will enable FESA to get full funding from the university, to further its programmes and offer its constituents a wider selection of activities and services such as guest lectures, workshops and social events, said FESA vice president Petra Strangenberg.

At present, FESA is only recognized as a club and limited to a budget of about \$2,000 a year which comes from fund-raising and faculty contributions. If it receives separate government status, there will be a substantial increase in funding, she said.

FESA is involved in many aspects of education at York and participates in current issue debates and meetings on behalf of education students. It also acts as a liaison between students and different factions of York faculty.

To get to the position of being recognized as a separate government, said FESA co-president Rebecca Forte, FESA was given three conditions to fulfil by November 1, 1989. Since June,

along with acting assistant to the provost Marion Stehouwer, FESA has been working to meet the deadline, Forte said.

The three requirements issued by the provost, according to Strangenberg, were that, "FESA had to hold a referendum with all In-Service students [teachers that take supplementary courses through the faculty of education], and ask them to allocate to FESA that portion of their fee that they would usually pay to CYSF."

The second requirement, Strangenberg said, involved rewriting the FESA constitution, so that it applied to all education students, including concurrent (students taking courses at York and Glendon), as well as all In-Service students. Once it was rewritten, the constitution had to be approved by the education student body, she said.

So far these two requirements have been met. The referendum occurred October 24-26. Students were asked to vote on paying a one dollar fee for each year they are in the faculty of education.

Of the 800 students that were eligible to vote, only about 200 actually did, according to Forte. She said the results of the referendum indicated that all but three were in favour of the annual dollar fee and two ballots were spoiled.

Although optimistic about FESA's future, Forte was somewhat disappointed at the low voter turnout.

"From what we have been told,

only about 29 per cent of the ed. students voted. We did all we could to advertise and educate the voters, and since June we've been working very hard. Many of us have been sacrificing personal time away from our families, academic duties and other commitments to see that everything would go as planned," she said.

"Some ed. students ask, 'what can FESA do for me?' But on the reverse they don't ask what they can do for FESA. And we're there to help them," Forte said. "However, we thank the students that did vote."

If recognized as a student government, FESA would be required to pay a fee to the CYSF in order to be represented on council in the same way as other student governments, such as the colleges.

CYSF vice-president (finance) Franco LoFranco said, "We received a letter from FESA stating that if the referendum and everything else went through, CYSF would receive from between \$10,000 to \$18,000. This might or might not take place this year or next year, depending on what the provost says, but we will be getting money from FESA."

FESA will not know until it hears from the provost and SRC in early December whether it will be recognized as a separate student body, Forte said. She said that in procedures like these there is usually a one month waiting period.



Jason Schwartz

**IN THE BEGINNING:** What began as a Tim Horton's sit in grew into a Central Square rally this week.

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