

In selection of new president

Nationality should not be factor - Yolton

By ROBIN POND

Nationality should not be a factor in the selection of the next president of York, acting president John Yolton said this week.

"A person's commitment to the place and to the country is what counts," he stated. "Citizenship is not a criterion. There are both good and bad citizens."

However, Dr. Yolton, an American himself, added that the question of nationality would almost certainly arise during consideration of candidates, and hoped the president turned out to be Canadian in order to avoid unnecessary negative reaction.

He felt that the new president should be a strong person, someone who could work effectively with other persons.

Dr. Yolton, who assumed the post of acting president following the resignation of former president David Slater last January, will himself step down at the end of this school year.

Until then, he said, his primary concern will be "to keep the intellectual excitement and activity going at York."

On the topic of York's deficit budget, he said that the

enrolment of first year students, estimated at 3,000, is closer to what was expected than to what was hoped for.

"No one knows exactly why the registration fell off so dramatically last year," he said. "It's possible that in past years, the universities were overpopulated with people who didn't really belong there."

"Now, at York at least, I think there are more well-motivated people, people who should be here."

While he predicted that the university would be in a better economic position in five years time, he warned that there would still have to be cuts in spending. Although he foresaw no dismissals, he cited the sports staff, faculty and secretarial support staff as areas where such cuts might be made.

He also mentioned that studies were being made of the student-faculty ratio and of the cost of teaching students in the various faculties.

One bright note, he said, was the provincial government's recent promise to the universities of a minimum 4.9 per cent increase in the Basic Income Unit (funds allotted per student to the university).

"It's hard to believe," he said wryly, but added, "we're not counting on anything."



Peter Hsu photo

Acting president John Yolton.

Atkinson withdraws from CYSF

By MICHAEL BARRIS

The Atkinson College Students' Association has withdrawn from the Council of the York Student Federation to ensure the autonomy of the part-time students' school.

Efforts by the ASCA to align Atkinson to its 8,000 students' various social and economic needs — different from the needs of younger, full-time York students — would have been precluded by full membership in CYSF, Sid Kimel, an ASCA executive told Excalibur Wednesday.

"It is readily apparent that only the Atkinson College Students' Association truly represents Atkinson students," Kimel, director of Internal Affairs for York wrote in a May 22 letter to CYSF President Michael Mouritsen.

ASCA's membership in the CYSF had created "a situation in which

both representation and finances had largely been duplicated," Kimel said.

ASCA preferred to maintain or if possible, increase its traditional direct representation on York's administrative and academic councils, committees and sub-committees.

ASCA also believed its resignation from CYSF would open doors for expansion of its representation into other areas.

Kimel said ASCA hopes to change income tax legislation so that single parents can deduct tuition fees from income.

"We have no sore points with CYSF," says Kimel. Under Atkinson's by-laws, the President of the Federation is invited to serve on ASCA as an ex-officio (non-voting) member.

There was speculation that

Atkinson's withdrawal from CYSF might have been prompted by financial difficulties — last year, ASCA paid a \$583 membership fee to CYSF — but Kimel said the withdrawal was "inevitable", that it had been in sight for years.

More on page 9.

What the devil is CYSF?

Quite often during the year, there will be stories in Excalibur about a mysterious body called the CYSF, alias the Council of York Student-Federation. This flashy title is the name our student government has chosen to give itself.

All colleges except Bethune, Atkinson, Glendon and Osgoode Hall, belong to the CYSF. Each year when you pay your tuition, you are

also indirectly paying \$10 to the CYSF. The student council then takes this money and doles it out to the various clubs and organizations on campus.

The CYSF consists of a president, three undergraduate representatives from each college and representatives from three graduate student societies. The undergraduate representatives along

with the president are elected annually by the student body. An executive committee of six members is elected from the council to assist the president.

All student council meetings are open to the York public and information regarding the times and dates of the meetings can be obtained from the CYSF office, N111 Ross Bldg.

Children used to routine

Delays wreak havoc with daycare centre

By WARREN CLEMENTS

Construction delays and increased enrolment are creating havoc within the York Daycare Centre.

The centre, housed in the two end buildings of the Graduate Residences, was originally scheduled to move into new, more spacious facilities on Sept. 1.

But these facilities, occupying the ground floor of Atkinson College Residences, required a liberal dose of refinishing, installation of low sinks and toilets, and construction of changing areas before the youngsters could be admitted. The university advised the centre three weeks ago that the new area would definitely not be ready until Sept. 20, and supplied it with a "gymnasium-like" room in the Administrative Studies Building.

The centre is currently forced to shuffle its charges from building to building, and isn't pleased with the arrangement.

"The kids are getting really hyper," said Bill Magney, the centre's treasurer, "and when the parents see the difficulties, they get hyper too. The kids are used to a routine. Some have never been away from their parents before. Others have been here during the summer, and they don't like being bounced around to three different buildings."

"All we hear is that the place isn't ready for occupancy, because painting isn't completed or windows aren't cleaned. It's a combination of little things, and it's really having a negative effect on the kids."

Centre director Maria DeWit reported that the Atkinson building must still meet the standards of fire and health inspectors, and said there was some problem concerning the lack of fire doors.

"We have more than enough safe exits there," she complained. "If we built fire doors in the playrooms ourselves, since we could never have them locked, there would be

nothing to stop the kids from racing out of the room whenever they wanted."

The big problem, and the one which has prompted the move to larger facilities, is the increase in enrolment at the centre from 60 children last year to 100 this year, and the addition of two new sections. The tots, children of York faculty, students and staff, run from 10 infants in the 1 to 9 month division, to 25 children in the 3½ to 5 year division.

"We have 14 staff members to deal with them, but we need more volunteers," director DeWit said. She added that the centre is seeking permanent substitutes as well, for paying positions during the year open to "anybody who likes kids".

In the crush of numbers, parents are being asked not to bring their children to the centre until Sept. 20,

but already 92 toddlers have wandered in. A saving grace is that, to enter a child in the program, a parent must agree to participate for four hours a week, a co-operative system which actively draws the mother or father into the daycare atmosphere and gives staff members a brief rest.

In addition, Seneca College, one of the few institutions in Ontario which offers any pre-school training, occasionally sends teacher-training students in to work with the staff. These students frequently join the staff upon graduation, and the centre, says Bill Magney, is "proud that we're getting better and better staff".

But there are problems. While staff salaries rose from a minimum of \$4,500 to a new minimum of \$5,275 over the summer, the workers — including registered nurses — are

poorly paid compared to the salaries they could receive outside the university. As well, the daycare centre has run a deficit during the past two years, and CYSF, which had previously been supplying it with a grant, withdrew that grant last year.

The situation is improving, since with funds from Bethune College and the Graduate Students Association, and an offer of a delayed payment schedule from the university, the centre is on its way to eradicating its \$16,000 deficit.

But contrary to past principles, the university has started to charge rental on the daycare premises, and providing subsidies which essentially cover the rent. "They take with one hand and give with the other," said Mr. Magney.

Beyond the rent and cleaning costs, the university has left the

centre on its own. In consequence, fees for keeping children at the centre have risen from \$60 a month across the board last year, to \$85 for kids to 18 months and \$75 for older children this year, with a \$10 advantage for a second child.

All of which means that the York Daycare Centre is still running, under duress, and is juggling 92 children while they wait for the university to unlock the bottom floor of Atkinson Residence on Sept. 20.

"Any further delay," remarked Mr. Magney, "would be catastrophic."

The centre runs daily from 8:45 to 5:15 p.m., and there are still a few places open for older children. For further information, contact director Maria DeWit or administrative assistant Sandy Stone at 667-3273.



Children at the daycare centre can't get used to being shuffled building to building.