

Inexpensive health plan to supplement OHIP

By B.V.R. Silberman

A cheap Health Insurance Plan that will provide coverage for both domestic and foreign full-time students may soon be available pending a successful on-campus referendum.

The Plan was proposed at the Ontario Federation of Students, (OFS) Conference held over the weekend and if ratified would cost students about \$10 per year. It would also provide the medical coverage that OHIP fails to offer.

Keith Smockum, vice president of University Services for CYSF at York, stated the Plan would give students coverage for semi-private accommodation in hospitals and access to private nursing. It would include full coverage for

prescription drugs such as oral contraceptives. Accident victims and people requiring physio and speech therapy would also be fully insured under the program.

In order to make the Health Insurance Plan operational, the OFS needs twenty to thirty thousand full-time students to take part.

Smockum is optimistic that out of the 160,000 members in the OFS more than enough students will want to purchase the Plan.

He stated there will have to be a referendum at York to determine whether people want to opt into the program and added the cost of the Plan could be included in tuition fees so that every full-time student would automatically be covered.

The referendum, if approved by the CYSF, will occur no later than the upcoming CYSF elections Smockum said. He pointed out that if it received a good response from voters it would still have to be ratified by the Board of Governors, (BOG).

The Health Insurance Plan, according to Smockum, already exists at the University of Guelph, Waterloo and at Cambridge College.

Bookstore manager peeved at book fair

By Paul Lantz

Text publishers who took part in the 'Upper Downview Law Book Fair', held last Thursday and Friday, are "two-faced" and "hypocritical" for doing so, said York bookstore manager Rafael Barreto-Rivera. He said that he intended to contact the publishers involved and request an explanation for their action. The Bookstore might stop dealing with publishers who participated in similar events in the future.

About seventy per cent of the bookstore might stop dealing with per year comes from textbooks. If a substantial portion of this business was lost to student organized book sales, Mr. Barreto-Rivera says, he would have to lay off staff and probably reduce the general level of service provided by the bookstore.

He called both the publishers and the students who organized the

book fair, "short-sighted". While there may be immediate savings for some students he felt in the long run the overall cost of books would not be reduced.

Four major law publishers attended the book fair and offered their products to students at a discount of twenty per cent from list price. The York bookstore generally charges list price for textbooks.

Kevin McLaughlin, the Osgoode student who organized the book fair, said that he intended to organize another one in the fall—with perhaps more publishers and

books for other York faculties. He said that the publishers and books for other York faculties. He said that the publishers who participated were sceptical at first but changed their minds after they sold unexpectedly large numbers of books.

Several publisher representatives, contacted at the book fair, said that it was financially worthwhile for them to sell books directly to students. The fair also gave them an opportunity to acquaint students with some of their products that are not carried by the bookstore.

York's China Week

By B.J.R. Silberman

The first week of the "Year of the Ram" has unfolded in bold and colourful way at York in the guise

of China Week.

Pictorial exhibits and movies shown in Central Square since Monday have caught the eye of many passersby and have attracted large audiences. The main attraction though has been the crafts table opposite the bank.

The most popular items are the fans, fortune cookies and chopsticks. People with more exotic taste buy the dolls, wind chimes and jewellery. Some people even buy the bamboo back scratchers.

In the short time that remains of China Week movies in Chinese with English subtitles will be shown. Most of them will be about folk dancing. The Dinner and Dance Variety Show is scheduled for February 16th. It will be held in the Vanier Dining Hall beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Changing marriage rights

By Greg Saville

Couples venturing into matrimony may have to sign marriage contracts if Margaret Campbell, (MPP - Lib) had her way in the legislature.

"These contracts have been in existence in Quebec and Europe for many years," she said last Thursday at the York Women's center, "and to my knowledge and the statistics available to me they have never taken the romance out of a relationship."

She felt there should be a longer cooling-off period after separation. "I'm not sure there's not a great impatience these days," she added.

Unfortunately, she conceded, much jurisdiction in these matters lies with the federal government.

Campbell, a long-time political figure in municipal and provincial politics, spoke for two hours about women's roles in Canada in an informal and relaxed discussion.

She saw recent family reform legislation as a good thing. Citing divorce within a joint husband-wife business venture she said, "There's now more with the discretion of the judge."

"I think what has been well covered up in the past is the instance of divorce when a wife has worked to put her husband through university or college." This also, she feels, is taken into consideration under new legislation.

Campbell's visit was sponsored by the York Women's Center, Rm. 102, Behavioural Science Building.

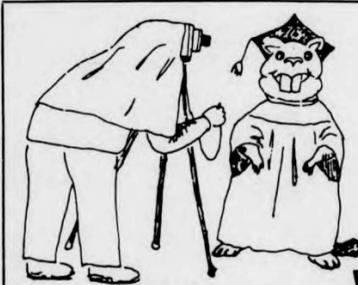
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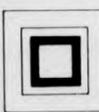
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