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## Glendon council sends funding shock to women's centre

by Christine F. de Leon

Glendon's student council came under fire last week with a decision to inadequately fund the women's centre.

At last week's council meeting, the Glendon College Student Union (GCSU) announced an allocation of only \$500 to the women's centre for this year.

According to Lynn Daley, a volunteer at the centre, the decision undermines the effectiveness of the centre.

"Five hundred dollars won't even cover our telephone bills. They [the GCSU] have interfered with the value of the centre to the community," Daley said.

Glendon college has a female population of approximately 78 per cent.

Bassam Abdou-Naim, vice president of finance for the GCSU, said one of the reasons for lack of funding to the women's centre is that it would duplicate the services for women offered by GCSU.

"If we give them all the responsibility to put on projects for rape awareness and other programs, the GCSU won't be doing anything and we'd appear sexist," said Abdou-Naim.

GCSU President Marc Adlam said the council provides some of the same services as the women's centre. "I do know that a university here will not help fund or sponsor any event

twice," he claimed.

According to Daley, there is no duplication of services. She said the GCSU often directs students to the centre for referrals. "The y [the GCSU] don't provide support services or referrals," said Daley. "If there is a duplication of services I'd like them to show us how they're working, what their guidelines are, and where they find the money in the budget."

Abdou-Naim also said the GCSU is not in a financial position to further fund the centre. "Financially we're not ready. The administration should be responsible for the funding of the women's centre."

Gilles Fortian, manager of student affairs at Glendon College, said the centre "is a student-initiated project," and should be funded by the GCSU.

Fortian explained that a fee of \$1.59 per credit is included in the tuition of Glendon students and goes to the GCSU to fund clubs and services.

Of their annual budget, the GCSU has allotted \$1,000 to campus services and \$11,000 to clubs. "We have placed the women's centre as a service, and we can't give them all of that money," explained Abdou-Naim.

According to Daley, the budgetary decisions are made arbitrarily by the council.

"They're getting away with this kind of sexism — 4 out of the 5 people making the

decision were men, and the women on council aren't informed on the issues enough to challenge them."

In an October interview, Adlam told *Excalibur* that women's issues were a priority on his election platform. Adlam clarified the issue this week, saying "Women's issues was something, but it wasn't the first thing on my agenda."

Michelle Hughes, president of the York Federation of Students, attended the general meeting as an observer and called the situation "a case of priorities."

"Budgets are not made objectively, money is geared to people's biases," Hughes said. "I understand the GCSU is working on a tight budget, but for them to give a few of their clubs \$1,000 and (only) \$500 to the women's centre is a joke."

The YFS gives \$9,500 to the women's centre on York's Downsview campus.

Adlam said he was offended by Hughes' presence at the meeting. "It looks to us as a college that we as a student union can't handle this, that's what they're saying (by being at the meeting)."

Adlam admitted that the council may have allocated too much of their budget to orientation week events, at the expense of clubs and services. "Perhaps an error in judgement was that maybe there was too much emphasis put on orientation," he said.

However, after repeated requests from *Excalibur*, Adlam, Abdou-Naim, councillor Karen Fieten and other GCSU members all refused to say how much was spent on orientation week.

Lynn Daley said last year the women's centre was one of the most active groups on campus. "We had training programs, we had forums, speakers and support groups on campus."

Last year the centre relied on spot funding from the GCSU to fund such events as International Women's Day activities. This year the centre was given space vacated by the elimination of the Glendon health clinic and was hoping to offer increased services to students on campus, Daley said.

Lack of funds means the women's centre will have to cut back. "It's frustrating. Our energies will be going to fundraising and not to services," said Daley.

Daley said the lack of funding to the women's centre is not atypical of positions taken by the council on women's issues this year.

"Council, as an example, decided to hold a Christmas ball on Dec. 6, the day York University declared as official women's remembrance day, a day of mourning [to remember the 14 women killed in the Montreal Massacre]. This speaks volumes about this particular council and the climate for women at Glendon."

### Budget figures unavailable

## Faculty, students wonder where parking fee dollars are going

by Jennifer Lim

Some community members are wondering where the money is going from this year's enormous parking fee increases.

In the Oct. 15 issue of *Active Voice*, the York University Faculty Association newsletter, YUFA asks whether the extra parking revenues are being used as "a convenient source of revenue" for the university.

This summer, unreserved parking decals increased by 52 per cent up to \$160. Other parking passes increased by as much as 109 per cent.

According to William Farr, vice president of finance and administration for York University, the extra fees are being used to cover a \$200,000 deficit and to pay for the construction of a future parking facility.

Pam MacDonald, executive director for security and parking services, said parking revenue normally covers the entire cost of parking operations and 50 per cent of security operations.

"A big chunk of parking revenues is used for security, which was inadequate in the past," MacDonald said. "Otherwise, we would not be able to afford current security services."

Farr said he is not willing to remove the financial ties between parking and security in order to ensure lower parking rates.

"I am not prepared to implement the cutbacks in security that would be necessary if we could not use from the parking revenue to pay for it," he said.

YUFA Vice-Chair David Clipsham said YUFA wants to know how the fees are being used. "We have never seen detailed financial statements or analysis of any kind of how parking revenues are spent."

Nikki Gershbnain, internal vice president of the York Federation of Students and a member of the Presidential Advisory Committee on Parking, said PACOP members have not been given any specific information on the parking budget.

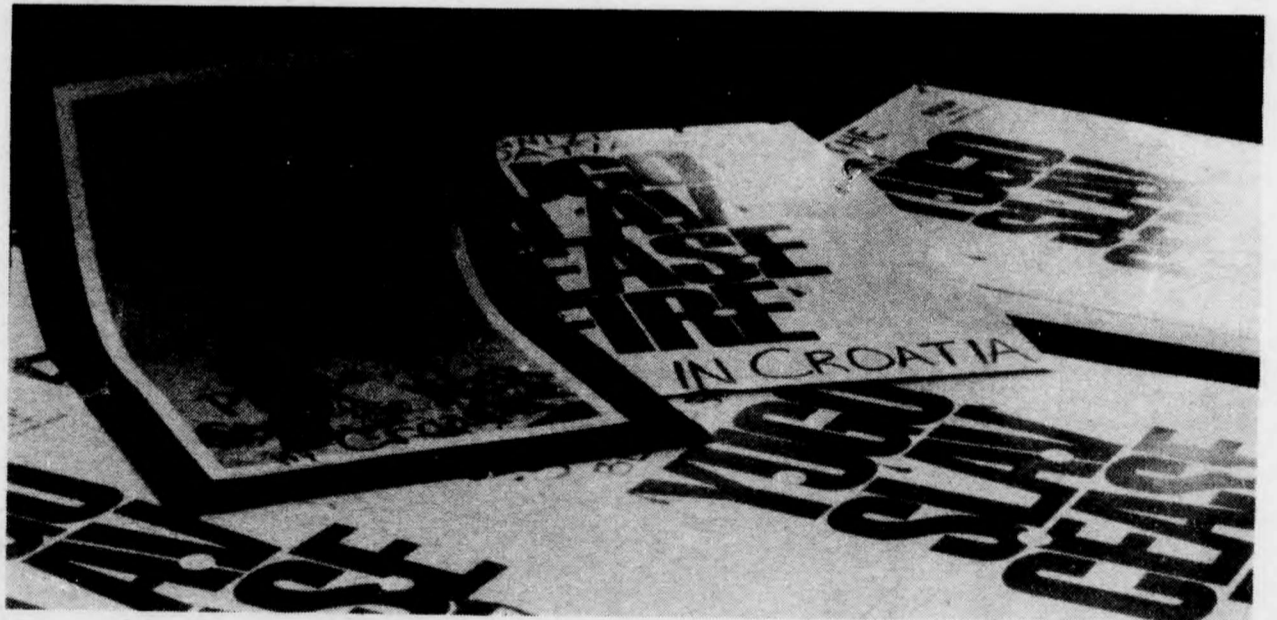
"We have no reason to believe that the university isn't using the parking money for their own budget," Gershbnain said. "We have a pie chart which shows where the money is supposed to go, but we have no budget to prove it. They could be doing anything with it."

Clipsham questioned the administration's decision to implement such steep parking rate increases.

"Is the jump driven purely by demands of parking? Or is it the need to generate more revenue to subsidize the university budget?"

MacDonald said all the fees were

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## Croatian students harassed on campus

by Elaine Bellio

Although the war between Croatia and Serbia is being fought half way around the world, hostility between the two communities may have found its way on to campus.

Croatian students at York are complaining of harassment they say is linked to the political situation in Yugoslavia.

On the morning of November 11 Sandra (who wishes her surname be withheld) found a chewed-up orange thrown at the windshield of her car, parked in lot 5A.

Sandra has a Croatian flag hanging from her rearview mirror. "It is obvious that they were Serbians, throwing it at the flag," she said.

"Somebody who is Serbian is being offended because I have the flag

displayed. I have the flag because of how I feel. I am proud," said Sandra. "If I saw a Serbian flag, I would respect it, so they should respect me."

According to Bob Stevens, coordinator of investigations and audits for York Security, "there is a possibility that the Croatian flag perpetrated the incident."

"We don't think it's a personal threat but we're paying more attention to property in our parking lots," said Stevens.

Elissa Horscroft vice-president of equality and social affairs at York Federation of Students said this is typical of things that go on at York "A group gets picked out and becomes the brunt of an attack."

"Unfortunately, in this attack, people are becoming really fright-

ened and getting hurt," she added.

This is not the only such incident that has occurred at York University. Another student who asked to remain anonymous, found a note on her car reading "everybody in Croatia deserved what they were getting."

According to Martin Gamula, a member of the Croatian Students Association, most of the Croatian students feel scared, as do those who support them.

"There have also been Serbs who have helped the Croatian cause, but it are usually private support because they face repercussions from their own community," said Gamula.

Serbs and Croats have been locked in months of civil war following Croatia's declaration of independence from Yugoslavia in July.