

FIS bash turns to brawl

By GARY SYMONS

Tennis Canada, an organization that trains young Canadian players for international competition, has embarked on a \$1.6 million expansion of their facilities at York.

Tennis Canada's Executive Director Don Steele said the expansion of the National Tennis Center, due to be completed in May or early June, would include a 13,000 square foot administrative building, complete with locker rooms, showers and a lounge area, and four hard surface tennis courts that would be covered by a 'bubble' in the winter for year-round use.

Steele said Tennis Canada will pay \$1 million of the total cost, and the provincial government will provide a further \$500,000. Steeles also expects Metro Council to allocate \$100,000 towards the project.

"Tennis Canada has been setting aside profits from the annual (Players International Tennis Championship) tournament to pay for the project," Steele added.

Assistant Vice-President John Armour, head of York's Physical Plant department, said York will not be providing any funding as Tennis

Canada is not a York-affiliated body, but has rented four acres of university land on a 66-year lease.

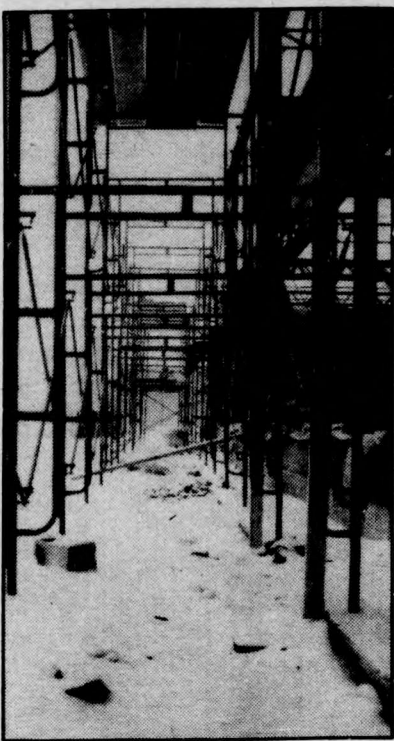
Steele said moving their offices from downtown to the York campus would "assist us from the tournament point of view, and with our training as well. What we're developing... is a national training centre. It just makes sense to have everybody up there together.

"Before we weren't even using it much," he continued, "because it's not the most accessible place in the world."

Despite the problem of poor accessibility to York, Steele said the location is a good one, both for the Tennis Canada association and for the university.

"In terms of the whole image of the university and the sport it's a very nice marriage," Steele said. "We're able to cooperate with the university, to use their in-house capabilities like sports psychology and phys. ed. people. Also we'd like to give tennis a larger profile within the university curriculum."

Steele also said Tennis Canada would arrange to make the tennis centre accessible to York students.



GARY SYMONS

Site of new Tennis Centre building, scheduled to open in spring.

"We've handled overflow in the past," he said, "(and) we've also given coaching assistance (to York tennis players). We're hoping to build in that direction."

Tennis Centre expands

By GRAHAM THOMPSON

The executive of the Federation of Indian Students (FIS) denounced the actions of a few of its members who at an FIS dance on December 1 sparked a brawl at Stong College's cafeteria and later in the college's parking lot.

The cafeteria fight erupted at 1:00 a.m. after someone threw a chair across a crowded dance floor.

"Everything was going fine until all hell broke loose," said Olga Cirak, Assistant to the Master at Stong.

"Two men started to push and shove," said Sandy Crate of the Orange Snail pub, who was tending the bar. "It really did happen very quickly and it culminated in a chair being thrown from the west end (of the room). Someone's head was opened quite severely. The chair missed me by eight or 10 inches. Another in the cafeteria had his ear cut."

"50 or 60 males proceeded to the parking lot," Cirak said, "with pipes and bats" and, allegedly, a machete.

Crate said the metal pipe was four to five feet long and had the appearance of a traffic sign post. The bat was a cricket bat.

"Student security was just amazing. It could have been a lot worse than it was," Crate said. "They were there very quickly, and were very outnumbered."

Michael Latchana, Social and Cultural Coordinator for FIS, said, "It's not fair for the entire group to be penalized for the actions of a few. The dances were to raise funds. CYSF did not give us funding."

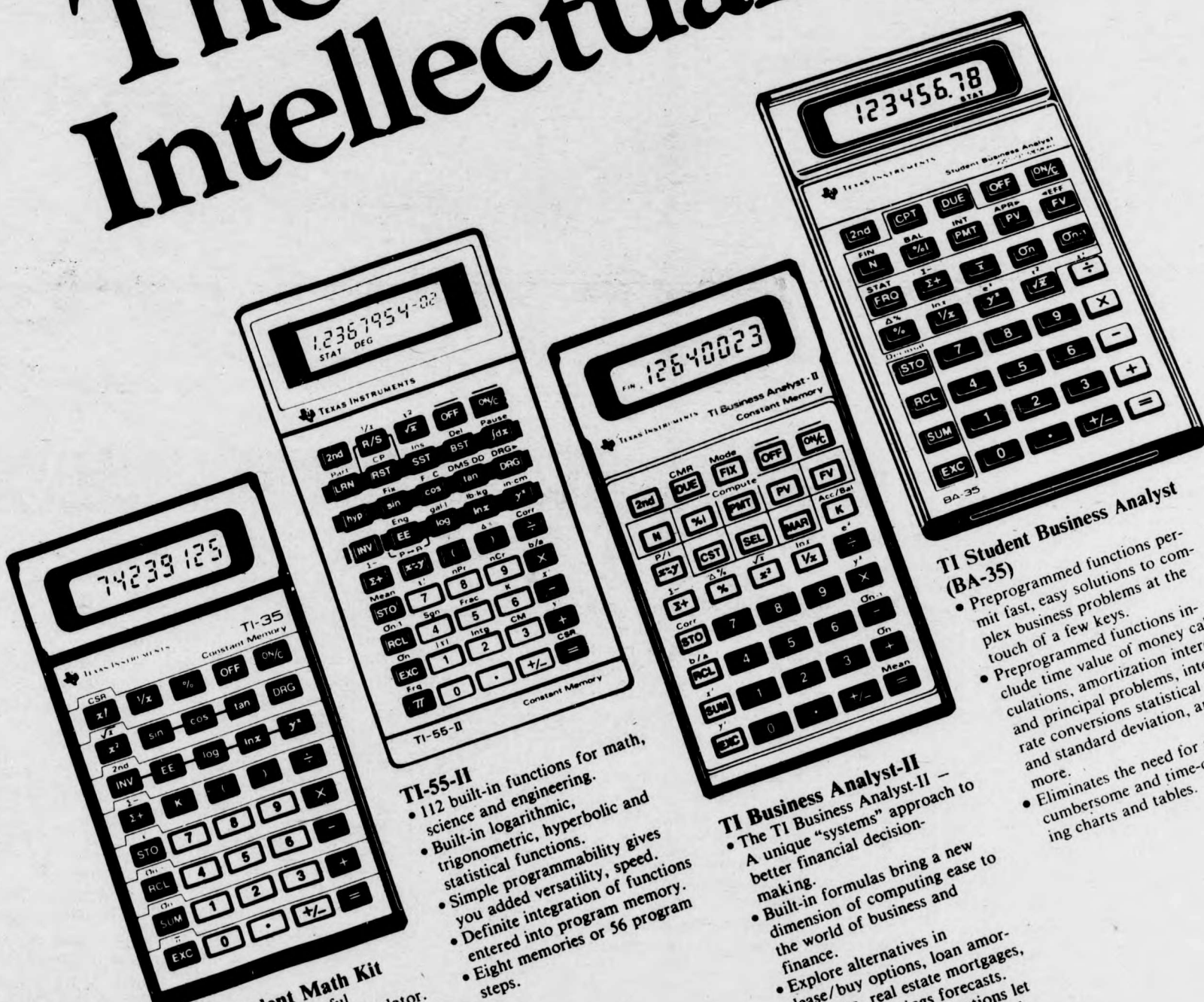
Latchana said FIS did not get CYSF funding because another Indian organization at York, ISAY, already receives CYSF funding. But Latchana says FIS is oriented towards Indian students from around the world rather than from India, and thus is not duplicating the function of ISAY.

CYSF Director of Social and Cultural Affairs Reya Ali said it is a criteria for council funding that "there should not be two groups who carry on the same function."

"The other group also has members from around the world," Ali said.

The funding issue goes back to last school year, Ali said, when both Indian clubs were one, until an internal election dispute split the group into two camps.

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