

Student Center clears first hurdle, next step is student referendum

By LAURA LUSH

The Student Center Steering Committee (SCSC) cleared the first major hurdle in their path when York's Board of Governors (BOG) approved their proposal for a new student center. Their next step is to win a student referendum in March.

A joint meeting between the Student Relations Committee and the Property and Building Committee met to discuss SCSC's proposal, which was presented in the form of a draft brochure.

"We got a very positive response from the BOG meeting," SCSC Chairman Chris Costello said. The thrust of the proposal aimed at con-



SCSC Chairperson Chris Costello

tinuing to build a community at York by providing a "centrally-located structure devoted to student use," the brochure reads.

The BOG offered a few recommendations, saying that the estimated 75,000 square foot building would be too small. "They want to see the best student center in Canada," Costello said. Architectural drawings were composed according to estimated student services and facilities that would add to existing services, and provide more of a centralized area for students. "Student services are simply not provided at York University," the brochure reads.

"For example, there is no large centrally-located multi-purpose hall." The architectural drawings include a multi-purpose room which could accommodate up to 2,000 people.

Based on the most conservative estimates, Costello said, students would be able to put together an eight million dollar package that would give them the "bargaining power." The SCSC derived a system by which students would pay for the total costs of the center over an estimated seven year period from a special levy fee.

The fees, which Costello estimated to be between \$4.00 and \$10.00 per six credit course, will be levied according to the phase of construction of the center. Each year, until the building is finished, the student levy fee will be based on the particular costs at that time.

Costello foresees good opportunities of securing government and corporate grants, if it is realized that the students already have provided their own funding for the center. These grants would provide extra revenue for the center, Costello said.

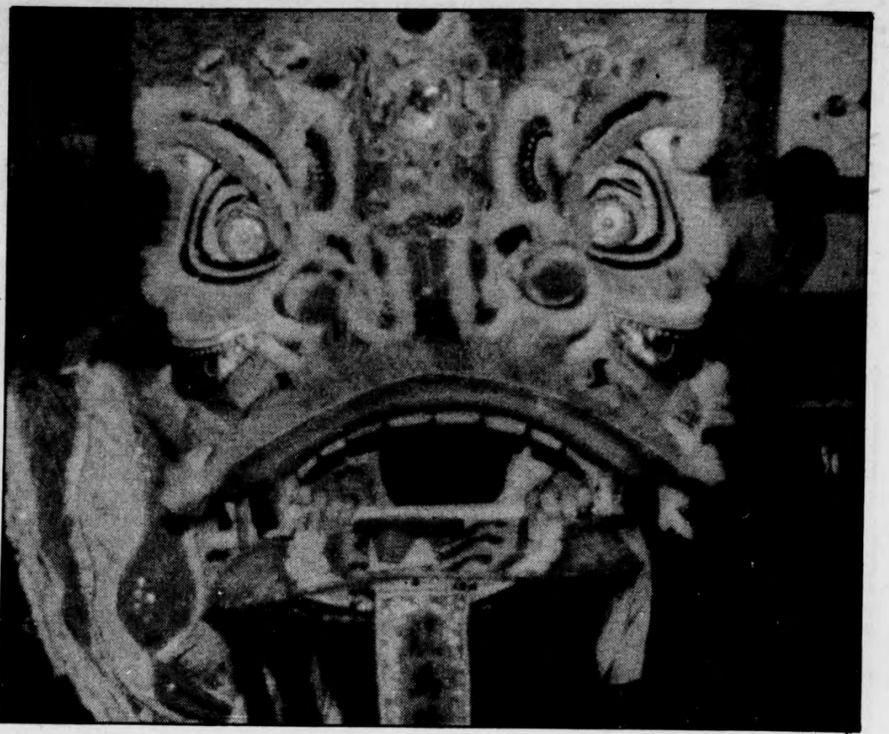
A Management Board consisting mainly of students would control the operations of the center, and ensure that student interests are maintained, the proposal reads.

"A student center would change the atmosphere and the quality of life at York," Costello said. "It would be a student center, but also a community center."

Costello said the SCSC's next step will be to "formalize the final quirks in the proposal," while taking into consideration the BOG's recommendations.

The SCSC will take three or four weeks after reading week to educate students about the new center, and a student referendum is hoped to be held in March, Costello said. A win would give the SCSC approval in principal for the center, and allow the formation of a Board of Trustees.

Costello estimated the new center could be completed in about 18 months from the time of a winning vote on the referendum.



GREG GAUDET

A York Chinese student group celebrates their new year in Central Square's bearpith.

CYSF finance director apologizes for accusations against Summerhayes

By GARY SYMONS

CYSF Director of Finance Vallance Ellies has certainly had a lot to chew on lately; last week he put his foot in his mouth, and this week he's eating crow.

Ellies said on Monday that he plans to write a letter of apology to President Chris Summerhayes because of comments he made in an article printed last week in *Excalibur*. The article, which covered the recent controversy over the status of the Constituent Council of York, quoted Ellies saying, "CYSF is in a rough time right now. It has a leader who for the last two years has done absolutely nothing."

Saying he "did not mean it to come out that way," Ellies said what he really meant to say was that Summerhayes "has made no progress in getting the other colleges to join council (CYSF), not that he's done nothing as a leader, because I think he has."

"He's added financial stability and general stability, so it's not as if he's an absolute nothing. I apologize to him and to council for it coming out like that."

Summerhayes said he felt Ellies is "being very unfair to council by coming to the paper and openly criticizing council."

"He may have some legitimate complaints, but he can speak about them to me. I'm not in the habit of refusing to speak to people."

Summerhayes said that, contrary to Ellies' opinion, he has made progress on bringing the colleges into CYSF. "We've got a meeting set up with Calumet on March 9, and Osgoode is very interested," he said. Summerhayes said he and CYSF Speaker Marshall Golden have been speaking informally with the Chairperson of Osgoode's council for some time.

Ellies said on Friday that he planned to offer Summerhayes his resignation, but told *Excalibur* on Monday he had changed his mind about offering his resignation. "I'll just take the criticism (from council)," he said.

Ellies added, however, that if Summerhayes asked him to, he would consider resigning.

Summerhayes said he doesn't plan to ask for Ellies' resignation. "After all, there's only a month left," he said.

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