## York profs protest donation

by John Andrews

ork's acceptance of \$1 million U.S. from Japanese businessman Ryoichi Sasakawa has some professors protesting as the money was raised through "gambling."

Professors Bob Wakabyashi and Toyomasi Fuse have openly protested this donation. Wakabyashi has stepped down as the coordinator of East Asian Studies. Fuse told *The Toronto Star*, "There's enough shady background that I am very uncomfortable about this. I want to know the whole story . . . its the political connections that bother me."

Fuse declined comment to Excalibur until the end of January. Wakabyashi declined comment as well except to say, "It is still being worked out between a few of us and the administration."

York's president Harry Arthurs will be having a meeting with all those concerned with the donation to clear up any misconceptions.

The money will be used for five masters and five doctoral scholarships in the social sciences.

Sasakawa is a wealthy philanthropist who has dedicated the past 50 years of his life to improving society. The money which York received is from the Sasakawa Young Leaders Fellowship Fund of the Japanese Shipbuilding Industry Foundation (JSIF), which Sasakawa founded in 1962

The JSIF is a non-profit organization which gets its money from



Japanese executive Ryoichi Sasakawa.

legal speedboat racing. This can be likened, said Vice-president of academic affairs Ken Davey, to the lottery Wintario in that it puts money back into local communities.

The Sasakawa Young Leaders Fellowship Fund is in the process of donating \$50 million U.S. to 50 universities through out the world. York is the 19th overall and first Canadian university to receive the donation and is in the company of such universities as Michigan, Princeton, Sussex (England), Oslo (Norway), Uppsala (Sweden), Yale and the University of California Berkeley, McMaster University in Hamilton is presently petitioning for a donation as well.

The reasons for Fuse and Wakabyashi's unrest is due primarily to Saskawa's past, reports the Star

According to the JSIF, he was imprisoned as a suspected war criminal following World War II. Sasakawa did serve in the Imperial Army Air Corps, but only long enough to get seriously injured in training and he was subsequently discharged. He then entered politics and was elected to Japan's House of Representatives in 1942 where he served until 1945. Sasakawa was not indicted or tried as a war criminal and was released after three years in prison.

Since his release, Sasakawa has devoted his life to world peace and betterment. Davey said Sasakawa's work "seems to be an act of expiation. He recognizes his past openly and wants to contribute to society."

Sasakawa, through the JSIF, has donated \$3 billion U.S. to developed and developing countries and such United Nations organizations as UNICEF and UNESCO, according to his foundation. Sasakawa has also donated millions of dollars to stop or reduce diseases such as smallpox and leprosy in remote parts of the world where these diseases are still common.

Davey said the money is for graduate students in areas specified by the university and not Sasakawa. Davey went on to say that he has received letters of support from some staff members and that "the donation may have offended some people and that's too bad, it's money for our students."

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### Women's Centre gets service status

by Heather Sangster

ork's student council granted service status to the Women's Centre December 6 after over two years of animosity between the two groups.

"We were ecstatic," said Women's Centre spokesperson Kathleen Hall. "There will be very positive relations with the CYSF now."

Service status will guarantee CYSF funding for the Centre and increase its exposure to the York community. In the last two years, the Centre was funded solely by token grants contributed by various campus groups, stated CYSF equality commissioner Brian Archdekin in his 1989 Report on the Women's Centre.

The CYSF stopped club funding to the Centre, at the request of the Centre, after a 1987 Report on the Women's Centre by Rob Castle

angered members.

"But, it's a new beginning with the Women's Centre this year," said CYSF president Peter Donato. "We made service status a number one priority in order to increase the awareness of the Women's Centre to the CYSF and the York community."

The CYSF is revising the Centre's budget, which Donato wants to present at the January 31 council meeting. Although he couldn't name a figure, Donato hopes to give the Centre "a few thousand dollars"

Hall said the Centre will use the money to update its library and archives, host seminars on 'unlearning' racism, sexism and homophobia and run film and speaker series to educate the York community.

The impression made by several Women's Centre spokespersons at the December 6 meeting

was that the change from club to service status was necessary as the Centre has functions that go "far beyond" a club.

As stated in Archdekin's report, the Centre offers a variety of services including telephone referral on gender-related issues, sexual harassment and unplanned pregnancies, library facilities offering educational material and a drop-in room where women can "relax and enjoy coffee, reading or good conversation" relating to each other on a one-to-one basis.

Although the Centre will receive its money from the CYSF, Hall said it will maintain its autonomy

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and be able to put through its projects and not be held subject to CYSF approval.

The CYSF, however, is planning to set up a management board for the Women's Centre similar to the boards Donato has for two other service groups, the Peer Support Centre and the Volunteer Centre.

"We don't like to play the role of the babysitter with any of our organizations," said Donato, but he suggests that monthly meetings with the Centre to discuss administration and finances will be considered.

Donato added, "I'm happy to see the Women's Centre happy."

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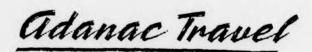
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