

# Founders: CYSF move is illegal

**Slater says he'll wait for referendum before ruling on conflict**

The Nov. 30 constitutional referendum is illegal and Council of the York Student Federation has no right to hold it, said Founders' president Bob Thompson yesterday.

He said that because CYSF was formed by the colleges, they must approve any referendum. According to Founders' vice-president Bob Ashton, all residual powers belong to the colleges and only they can amend CYSF's constitution.

But he said there was no way of enforcing the colleges' objections except by fighting out whose "paper is stronger or more fire-proof" in a showdown with CYSF. The board of governors or York president David Slater would decide that.

Slater said it's too early for comment. "My position is that I'm trying to get briefed on what this is all about," he said.

He felt the constitution had legal aspects but that a referendum had "more than a legal position."

Referendums in our society he said, have "mixed bag status which is never easy to interpret." Slater said he wasn't going to resolve the legal question until after the referendum.

Student and college liaison affairs vice-president John Becker said he's not about to rule on the legality of the referendum until after it's been held. He said he had enough respect for a referendum when clear and unadulterated, and he didn't want to color it by any statement.

"The only position we're taking is to try and sponsor a series of teach-ins which will attempt to bring people together," Becker said.

He felt some sort of compromise was feasible but said it won't happen without more face-to-face chatter between the colleges and CYSF. "We need to discuss the fundamental question of what student government should be," he said.

He said he wanted to prevent any situation where Slater had to choose between one side or another. But if it does happen, "then I'll have to give him some idea where I stand."

The other college councils have been slow to react. A spokeswoman for Calumet said the college has yet to set a general policy on the matter.

Stong's president Steve Dranitsaris said he wouldn't back Founders' claim that it's illegal. "I can't see where he has any grounds for his claim," he said.

Atkinson president Syd Kymel said his association had no position on the matter. College G president John Meving said his council had no position yet but was meeting today or Friday. Vanier's social affairs commissioner Tom Ray said Founders' objections were a minor point. At press time, McLaughlin had no comment to make.

## York students to join march over abortions

Students from York will join women from across Canada in a mass assembly in Ottawa on Saturday to demand repeal of Canada's abortion laws.

The demonstration will feature a mock trial of the government on charges of causing gross physical and emotional harm to the women of Canada by retaining abortion in the criminal code. The assembly will present a verdict after hearing the testimonies of women who have had abortions.

Speakers include member of parliament Grace MacInnis, Laura Sabia, chairwoman of the National Ad Hoc Committee on the Status of Women and Harriet Christie of the United Church of Canada.

Buses leave for Ottawa from 96 Gerrard St. E. at 7 a.m. Saturday and arrive in Ottawa at noon. The march begins at 2 p.m. at the Supreme Court and continues through the Sparks Street Mall to Parliament Hill. At 3 p.m. a brief will be presented to a government representative. The buses will leave Ottawa at 7 p.m. and return to Toronto by midnight.

Tickets are available today at the Women's Liberation table in the Central Square and at the Women's Liberation office in Ross N105. Tickets are \$9 for students and \$11 for non-students.

Women who require child care can contact the Women's Liberation office at York, 635-3545.



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## Pinball politics

CYSF president Mike Fletcher plays a free game he won on the CYSF's new pinball machine. The hard-working president needs these games to help unwind from a heavy day of campaigning and meeting the people. To his left are commissioners Dave Johnson (external affairs) and Neil Sinclair (communications) who help the president make his moves.

## Social critic Vance Packard:

# 'Cities are messing up our heads'

By HARRY STINSON

North American society, particularly in the United States, is fast becoming fragmented to a degree that is undermining and grotesquely disrupting the psychological, political and cultural health of its members.

This was the message that Vance Packard, the controversial social critic and author, brought last week. Over the past three years, he has been conducting research for another expose (to be released in 1972), which focuses on the increasingly nomadic nature of modern man and the basic undesirability of his bloated cities.

People are shifting about more and more these days and this transience is setting in motion a vicious cycle of destructive side effects. Fundamentally, the causes are economic, but the results are reaching deep into every facet of our life.

The rash of couples newly married after the war reacted to being forced (by the housing shortage) to, initially live with their parents but later settling far from their families. Corporations routinely transfer personnel about the continent. Urban pressures force growing numbers into high-rise living, where they develop few roots.

As a result, Packard said, the vital, interpersonal relationships so necessary for a sane society have crumbled. It is a crucial human need to know other people well enough for them to respect you, to be able to confide in them and to be able to depend on them in a pinch (the role formerly fulfilled by relations and family friends). But now a person can live for years in the same place yet be considered a nomad, as everything around him has changed. The summer cottage becomes more of a home, as people can return to it annually, while their jobs keep them on the go throughout the rest of the year.

Packard also relates increased mobility to the deterioration and standardization of taste. Fearful of having to move, consumers choose home furnishings that will fit in anywhere and that can be easily removed. They shy away from unusual or personalized houses, because they want to be able to sell

More subtle, he warns, is the impact of mobility on community leadership. As it is the more talented segment of society that tends to be the most mobile, the running of local government and direction of the community

falls upon the people of second and third-rate ability.

Commuting and globe-trotting husbands have left whole towns as effectively Women Towns. Another, more dangerous manifestation of this one-level community is the spreading phenomenon of pensioners' towns. Although planned on the lines of self-contained havens, with community facilities, they are serving as ghettos for the aged, preventing valuable communication of knowledge and experience and the development of socially healthier relationships between the generations.

But underlying our problems are two fundamental and interrelated issues. First to Vance Packard, any city over 1,000,000 people is too big. Crime rates increase geometrically with city size; the anonymity of big urban areas removes personal inhibitions; in small towns, people are less willing to hurt someone they know. In a study on Aggression and Anonymity, a car was parked in New York and in smaller Sao Paulo; whereas in the latter it remained untouched, in New York, 23

separate attacks rendered it a wreck after a week. Big cities encourage high-rises and high-rises encourage mobility and decrease the sense of community to a startling degree.

Packard's answer is the encouragement of the smaller, independent community within cities. Conceding the economic impracticality of breaking down our cities that are already too large (and Toronto is one), he points to the development in New York of the local community as a formal, political structure.

By next year 62 different areas, each with its own board to direct it, will come into their own. Hopefully, they will do much to alleviate the basic frustration of urbanites, depressed by a feeling of powerlessness to control their own destiny and perplexed as to where to take their problems.

In the future, he advises we follow the pattern of Columbia, Maryland. There, they built the neighbourhoods first, then linked them to form a town and linked several towns to form a city of over 100,000. Thus, all schools were within walking distance, with no highways to cross and neighbourhood spirit began its comeback.

## COSSU does what?

# Oh, bureaucracy!

York University president David Slater's recommendation that the chairman and vice-chairman of the senate of York University sit on the president's Budget Advisory Committee, was rejected by the senate's Committee on Organization and Structure on the Senate and the University on Tuesday.

Saying that "the nature of these offices means they should be excluded from university policy formation," COSSU wants a six-member committee to advise the senate's Academic Policy and Planning Committee's Budget Sub-Committee.

APPC members should form the committee as was decided by senate last year, COSSU said.

Furthermore, COSSU stipulated that no APPC members who are also deans serve on the Budget Advisory Committee. This would avoid embarrassing situations of deans cutting into one another's departmental budgets, COSSU said.

In the spring of 1971, the senate authorized the APPC Budget Sub-Committee "to be the body which formulates the budget to ensure that the academic priorities established by senate are reflected in the budget decisions of the university."

The senate makes its academic priorities known in its annual report to the provincial government's Committee on University Affairs.