

# Excalibur

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## Proposed poll to pack double punch

# Radio referendum could decide fate of OFS

By ANNA VAITIEKUNAS  
CYSF may hold a campus-wide referendum in March to determine how many students want to financially support Radio York in its bid for a FM licence and a choice of two methods of financing the station, said CYSF president Barry Edson Tuesday.

The referendum, scheduled for

the week of the annual CYSF spring general elections will ask York students two questions:

• Are you in favour of establishing a FM radio station at York?

• If you answered yes, how would you choose to fund the radio station? A) by increasing present student activity fees by \$2.50 B) by

transferring existing student membership fees of \$2.50 from the Ontario Federation of Students (OFS) and the National Union of Students (NUS) to the radio station.

Edson said the referendum will be held providing that the York administration commits itself to some financial support of the radio

station and if "Radio York's chances for a FM look good".

If the administration decides not to allocate any money for Radio York, Edson said, no referendum will be called "because there is no way CYSF could give out of its general operating budget the \$50,000 Radio York needs."

As an afterthought, he said he thought the university would probably be willing to contribute to Radio York's operating budget.

If the OFS and NUS fees are transferred or if the activity fees are increased by \$2.50, this will mean an extra \$23,000 for CYSF's operating budget, which will be earmarked for Radio York, according to Edson.

Radio York is in the process of applying for a low frequency FM licence from the Canadian Radio-Television Commission (CRTC) and plans to submit its final application to the CRTC this May. Before the radio station is granted a licence, it must first guarantee the commission that it will receive sufficient operating funds for each year of operation.

According to station manager Richard Gould, at least \$50,000 will be needed for technical equipment, salaries, accrued debts and other expenses for its first year of operation.

The revenue sources for the station still have not been determined, but Gould said he is hopeful the university administration will foot some of the operating costs for its first licenced year starting in September.

Assistant vice-president of Student Affairs John Becker, who also sits on Radio York's recently-formed Board of Directors, hasn't said yet what the administration's financial position is on Radio York. It is expected, however, the administration's stance will crystallize on Monday when Becker will present the university's funding of Radio York report to the station's Board of Directors.

Even if the referendum is held and a clear majority of students decide to increase their student

activity fees to support Radio York, the results are not considered binding by the administration.

Traditionally, the York Board of Governors accepts the results of a student referendum as an 'indication of what the students would like'.

Becker said that the BOG would accept the recommendation to increase student fees through the voting results even though it can't consider the referendum binding.

The BOG is the only administrative body than can authorize any increase in student activity fees.

If students, however, decided to support Radio York by transferring their membership fees from OFS and NUS to Radio York, there would be no interference from BOG because the matter would be considered an internal rearrangement of CYSF's budget, said Becker.

In the meantime, OFS and NUS representatives have expressed their concern over the possibility that York students may vote to transfer their membership fees and thus jeopardise their membership status with the student lobbying organizations.

OFS president Murray Miskin said "The referendum is unfair because it implies that students, if they don't want to pay more money, have to get out of OFS".

"They (CYSF) want to raise the question of OFS and NUS membership by asking them if they want a radio station," said Miskin.

He said that there will be much confusion if students vote to transfer OFS and NUS fees to the radio station because the withdrawal of funds from the two organizations will be left wide open to interpretation.

If a university decides to withdraw its membership funds from OFS by holding a referendum, he commented then the question of membership must be asked directly of the students.

"The referendum will confuse and falsify three entirely different

continued on page 3



SNOW, and lots of it, plagued York this week as a devastating storm hit Toronto and forced the university to shut-down on Monday.

Holly Nightingale photo

## Age and marital status will count if new housing policy implemented

By GORD GRAHAM

All students who have lived four or more years in graduate residences will be evicted next fall if proposed changes to the residences' admission policies are implemented.

Other proposals would disqualify any applicants who in any way owed over \$50 to York or who were undergraduates younger than 23 years old.

A tentative package of these changes was drawn up at a January 6 meeting by an administration-heavy committee that has been meeting since last May to formulate new admissions policies for the buildings.

The only students at the recent meeting were Dave Fleet and Bill McMaster, chairperson and treasurer of the York University Tenants' Association (YUTA) respectively. The two apparently forced a number of concessions on the most restrictive suggestions including original proposals to limit tenancy to a three year maximum and disqualify from residency anyone who owed a penny to the university.

Administrative figures attending the meeting included: John Becker, assistant vice-president of student affairs; residence manager, Jane Corbett; Osgoode assistant dean, R. J. Gray; Atkinson dean, Margaret Knittl and D. A. Nesbitt, director of ancillary services.

Other proposals from the meeting would establish a new set

of priorities for evaluating applicants that would favour formally married students over a student-worker couple or two cohabitating students. Preferential treatment would also be ensured for foreign students on scholarships and for physically handicapped students.

Under the proposals, tenants of the same sex would be able to share any type of graduate accommodation without any discrimination beyond being considered as cohabitants rather than formally married applicants.

The committee may call a final meeting to approve the wording of its proposals, which are then subject to the president's assent.

Jane Corbett, residence manager, was "reluctant to be explicit right now" about the changes, which she said were not finalized. They would be approved and publicized around the beginning of February, she said.

Corbett said the purposes of the proposals were to "make the system administratively more efficient and fairer to all students."

"The waiting list is ridiculously long and doesn't reflect the bonafide number of students ready and willing to move in," she said.

YUTA's Dave Fleet said, "I'm not satisfied with the four year thing — that was a wholly arbitrary number they picked out of their heads that didn't reflect the length of any programmes of study or anything — they didn't know why they picked three years originally, and when we

asked how many people it would affect they said 'we guess about 30 per cent'".

Based on information for five sample floors gathered by Corbett, the four year tenancy maximum will probably force around 15 per cent of the current tenants in the graduate residences out.

"I don't like the debt thing in principle," added Fleet, "There is no landlord-tenant relationship between paying your rent and paying your library fines."

Corbett said "York University is the landlord so if students are owing in other areas like past tuition or residence fees to the same landlord, we don't want them in residence fees to the same landlord, we don't want them in residence to build up more debts."

"The age limitation will exclude the vast majority of undergrads from applying," said Fleet. "Undergrads are going to scream but one possible consequence is that maybe there will be more pressure put on the university to do something to improve the undergrad residences."

## Posters now okay

By DAVID LANG

Posters will once again be permitted on the walls of Central Square and the Ross Building following the reversal of a previous policy banning them.

The new policy was outlined in a January 3 letter from J.A. Armour, director of York's Physical Plant, following a meeting with CYSF President Barry Edson over the holidays.

Notices relating directly to university activities, such as those issued by college councils and campus clubs, will now be allowed on the concrete walls in Central Square and the Ross Building. Special notice boards have also been assigned to various campus

groups such as the CYSF, the Art Gallery, and the Religious Centre.

The letter states that notices shall not be permitted on any metal or wood, such as door and window frames. The department of Physical Plant will continue to clear away any notice which does not conform to these new rules.

In a letter, Armour calls on CYSF to 'take all necessary steps' to encourage their sponsored and constituent groups to keep the number of identical notices to a minimum, limit the sizes of notices, affix them neatly and remove them after the event has taken place.

The new policies are a reversal of the one previously announced by John Becker, Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs, banning any posters on Central Square and Ross walls.

Barry Edson said that the new policies are 'fair enough' and he thinks they will work.

Armour said there was no problem for the Physical Plant staff in implementing the new policy and he is 'satisfied' with it.

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