

by Karen Sugar

The York Council on the Prevention of AIDS (YCPA) will host AIDS Awareness Week from October 16 to 22.

The theme of this year's AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) Awareness Week is "AIDS: Our Challenge." It reflects the change in attitude in AIDS education, in that we are moving away from the area of hard science into social policy, said YCPA founder Ron Kelly.

Kelly says, "People don't want to hear what the virus is and how it works in the body...what they want to hear about is safe sex or safer sex and how to negotiate that with their partners." He also wants to relay the message that "AIDS is a disease of risk behaviour, not a behaviour of risk groups."

The programmes available on campus will be primarily for heterosexuals.

Here are some of the scheduled activities. Today from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. in Curtis Lecture Hall E, Theresa Dobho from the AIDS Committee of Toronto will be speaking on "What women need to know — a forum on AIDS." Ron Kelly will be speaking on "Safer sex awareness" on October 17 in Curtis F at 7 p.m. Starting on October 23 there will be videos presented on a variety of topics, including "Exploring human sexuality and safer sex in the face of AIDS," which will be held on October 26 from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. in Curtis L.

For more information on these or other scheduled events contact the YCPA at 736-5688.

# STONG

## "The way to grow is not just through academics"

This is the second article in an intermittent series on York's colleges. This week Excal reporter Barbara Kaczor examines Stong College.

by Barbara Kaczor

The greatest concern for Karen Baker, chair of Stong College, is to have the involvement of all Stong students. The perennial apathy of commuter students and the new problem of underage freshmen are the main concerns for Stong College this year.

The student government immediately began to achieve its goals during Orientation week by encouraging both residence students and commuters to include themselves in the Stong community. Although not perfect, it is a step in the right direction.

"It is difficult to run a totally dry Orientation, especially when you have a pub affiliated with your college," said Baker.

"There will always be a pub event — either run by the Orientation committee or the pub itself," she added. "We talked to the beer reps and they also realized there is an underage problem." She said there were events such as a talent night where there was no alcohol involved. The breweries were willing to give prizes for these nights, "Instead of only giving prizes at events where alcohol is con-

sumed." The sponsors went on a broader base by recognizing the problem of excluding underage students and helping by sponsoring non-alcoholic events, Baker added.

With 33 per cent of first year students underage, many alternative orientation events were offered by Stong. They included: free Argo tickets at the Skydome (sponsored by Carling and offered first to Stong's underage frosh); mini golf; Midnight Madness Bowling; brunches; Yeomen football game; pizza dinners, chicken dinners, and more dinners; an Alumni games night; a slave auction and movie nights.

Dry events planned for the year are ski trips, sports events and attending various sites in Toronto. Stong is also planning a series of lectures, including an alcohol awareness week.

This year, at Stong, as well as at other residences, there has been an increase in the number of rooms allotted to new students. The reason behind this move is to give a first year student "a safe place to live," said Baker. "I think the system works a little bit better in that these first year students do not have the problem of finding a place to stay, and they are also closer and more aware of the resources available on campus. However, there is still no guarantee of a room for a first year student."

"One of the main problems the Stong government is trying to alleviate is the lack of commuter

involvement," Baker said, adding that "The majority of the students (90 per cent) are commuters."

"Each student pays \$27.50 out of their tuition to go towards their college, so their college can do things for them," said Baker, "and there is no reason why a residence student should benefit more from this than a commuter student. The big concern every year is how to get the commuters to come out."

"This year we started mailing out pamphlets regarding a community group," said Baker. "At academic orientation, I gave a speech and introduced Mike Holt as a commuter chairperson."

"During orientation week we set up a table and Mike phoned commuters who showed an interest. We are concentrating on the first year commuters because if we show them a system that works, the more likely they are to become involved."

"The main push is social and athletic involvement and doing it as a whole, so that new students have a group of people to identify with," said Baker. "I think there is security in masses, and it helped here in this big institution." She said she tried to emphasize to academic orientation "that the way to grow is not just through academics. There has to be a balance."

She added, "We are trying to publish a newsletter for commuters telling them about events and people to contact about various problems. I don't want them to think that the student government

just does social and athletic events. It is a big system and some people may not know where to turn to. Dropping courses, housing problems, overnight facilities (bunkrooms), or where to purchase a parking permit are some of the things we can direct people to," Baker added. "We are also trying to set up a commuter hot-line, so that they can phone in to find out what is going on."

"Allen Koretsky, our college master is very keen on getting involved and meeting students," said Baker. "It is important to start involving commuters right away, because some people have already settled into a schedule."

If you are not a commuter or a frosh, do not feel excluded. There are many things offered at Stong for all of its students. There is the Writing Workshop, the newspaper *The Flyer*, The Samuel Beckett Theatre, a darkroom, a sauna, and the Samuel J. Zacks Gallery.

Stong is working with other colleges this year to get college institutions recognized by the administration (presently the CYSF constitution is the only one recognized by York), installing a health plan for students and awaiting the opening of the Student Centre.

Baker said she cannot stress enough the need for students to become involved. Whether it be getting involved in athletics, attending commuter meetings or coming to the general meetings, each student's contribution is important.

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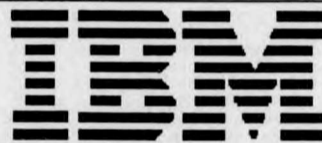
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