

## Administration and CYSF come to terms over Student Centre

By JEFF SHINDER

As agreement on the proposed Student Centre was reached between the University Administration and the Council of the York Student Federation (CYSF), a number of York students formed a NO campaign against the initiative.

York President Harry Arthurs announced Tuesday that the Administration has agreed to recommend to the Board of Governors, pending a successful referendum March 10 and 11, four arrangements the student centre co-ordinators were seeking:

□ York will make an upfront capital commitment of three million dollars and provide the appropriate land, valued at one million dollars.

□ students will receive majority control of the Student Centre's management board.

□ the University will not attempt to collect the levy (seven dollars per full course) until an agreement that is satisfactory to both student representatives and the Administration.

□ the levy will not be collected until the year the Centre is operational.

The referendum will ask York students to establish the levy to pay for the Centre and if they are in favour of creating a student controlled management board.

The agreement reflects the Administration's enthusiastic appraisal of the proposed Student Centre. "I have been extremely positive about this idea from day one," Arthurs said. "Students are entitled to the facilities they need to make their non-academic social life on campus as comfortable and enjoyable as possible."

President Arthurs sentiments were echoed by York Provost Tom Meining. "I am a very strong proponent of a student centre given the nature and size of York. It is perhaps our greatest need to contribute to healthy student interaction on campus," Meining said.

The Administration's positive outlook is shared by the majority of the college councils. "The colleges particularly those with residences, should be very excited about the Student Centre initiative," said Vanier College Council President Tammy Hasselfeldt. "Not only will it provide new and better facilities, it will help to create the night atmos-

phere York is presently lacking."

Mourad Mardikian, President of Founders College Council is also a strong supporter of the project. Mardikian described the centre as "something all York students can use, whether they are active college participants or not, due to the extent of the facilities available."

A loose coalition has formed to fight the project. According to Les Garant, spokesman for PISS OFF CYSF (People Interested in Stopping Student Offensive Fiscal Foulups in CYSF) his organization is concerned about the ambiguity of the proposed referendum question. "We don't know what we're voting yes for—which model, where it is to be located, who's going to be running the management board," Garant said.

According to PISS OFF CYSF member Dougall Grange, "all we're being asked now is if we are willing to pay for it, with so many outstanding issues left, I find the question impossible. I refuse to leave the final decision up to unidentified student representatives without further recourse to a second ratifying referendum."

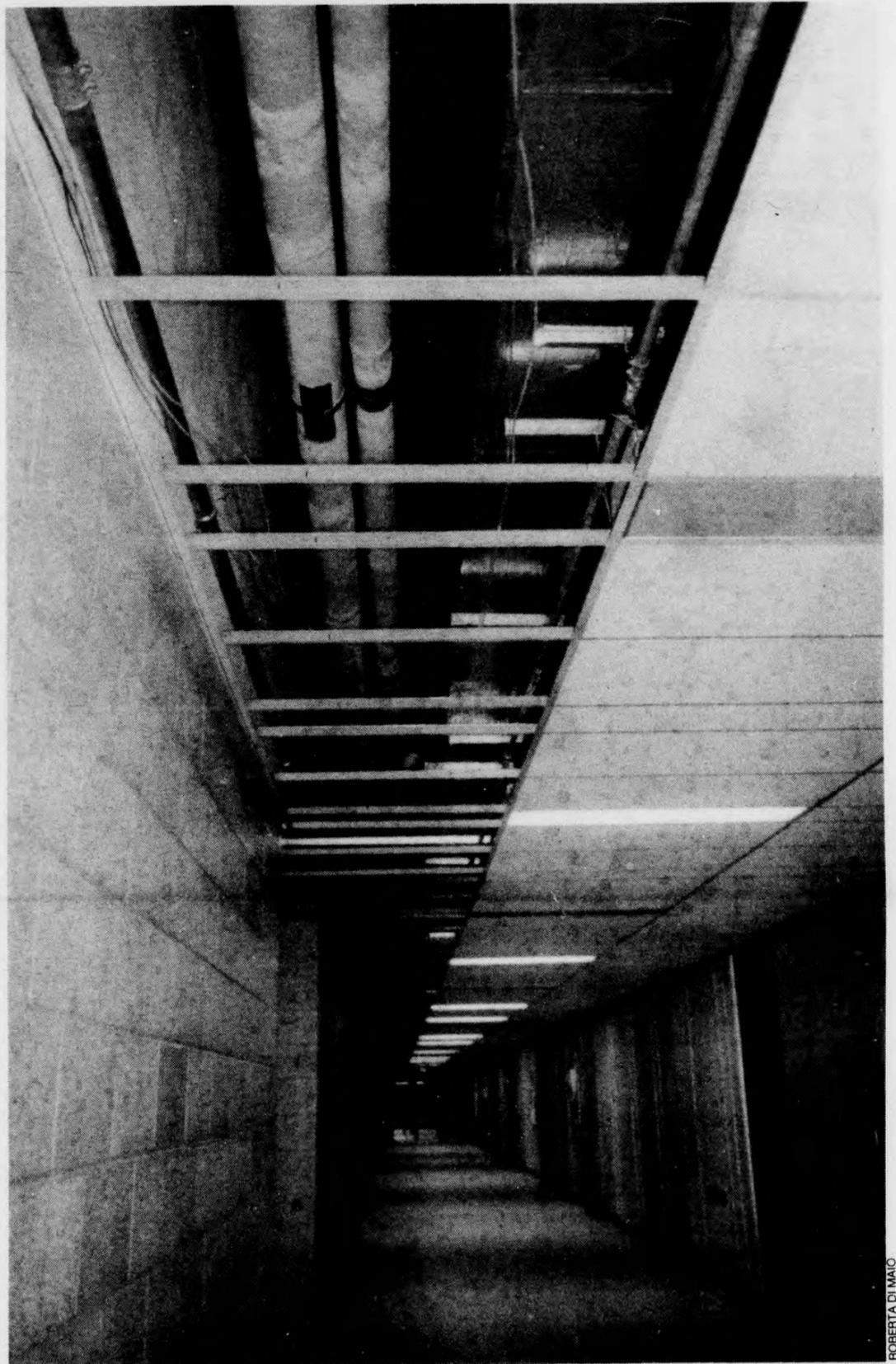
The question of Administration input on the Centre management board is a major point of contention. Garant insisted that his organization "would like 100 percent student control over a building we're in fact paying for."

PISS OFF CYSF member Mark Alter asserted that Administration input on the Centre's board of governors would amount to a conflict of interest. In Alter's view "it is the Administration's job to secure space at the lowest possible rates, and the management board's job to secure the highest possible revenue; it is a direct conflict of interest."

Alter's allegations are based on the belief that York's firm commitment to on-campus union support staff may compromise the centre's ability to be cost effective. "All support staff are provided by the university with no ability to opt out, and obtain cheaper contracts elsewhere," Alter said.

According to Student Centre executive assistant Robert Castle, a number of studies have demonstrated the financial feasibility of the

cont'd on p. 3



ROBERTA DI MAIO

**THE INNER WORKINGS OF YORK:** While Physical Plant was doing some sort of work on these ducts, York students were afforded a rare chance to see the guts of the institution.

## OSAP receives significant budget boost

By PAULETTE PEIROL

The Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) will receive an additional \$25.2-million in funding from the provincial government for the 1987-88 academic year.

The object of the 17 percent hike is "to increase accessibility of post-secondary education," said Gregory Sorbara, Minister of Colleges and Universities, during a telephone conference call to six Ontario universities last Thursday. The funding increase will bring the OSAP budget to \$171-million.

This budget increase follows months of concentrated lobbying by the Ontario Federation of Students (OFS). In January, the OFS issued two reports—"Students Look at Student Aid" and "Stereo Assistance is a Stereotype"—to Sorbara. The reports were based on "a substantial review of the OSAP situation," culled

from post-secondary institutions across the province, according to Matt Certosimo, chair of the OFS.

"We're very pleased with (Sorbara's) announcement," Certosimo said, noting that two-thirds of the federation's recommendations were implemented by the government. The OSAP increase is "a great example of students working together to help themselves," he added.

Most of the new funding will be in the form of grants aimed for students of low-income families. The OSAP increase "will give greater financial assistance to those in the greatest need," Sorbara said. In the past, about 78 percent of the loans to single students went to those whose parents earned gross annual incomes of less than \$20,000.

Besides the budget increases, two unique changes are being introduced

to the OSAP formula: an interest relief fund for graduating students; and funding for students studying at approved post-secondary institutions outside of the province of Ontario.

The provincial interest relief fund will be similar to that already offered by the Federal Student Loan Program. Designed to aid graduating students who are not yet employed, or are earning low incomes, the relief program will likely be retroactive, Sorbara said. This means that students who graduate before the program is officially implemented may still be eligible for interest relief.

OSAP funding changes (in order of greatest increases) are also slated for the following categories: Students working under the Ontario Work-Study Program; those attending approved, private post-secondary institutions; sole-support parents;

single, independent students; students from farm families; and personal living allowances for students studying away from home.

An increase of \$700,000 will be allotted to the Ontario Work-Study Program, which provides on-campus jobs for students in need of financial assistance. The 87 percent hike will create about 800 new jobs for students, Sorbara estimated.

Students registered in private post-secondary institutions such as the Ontario Bible College and Montreal's National Theatre School, will receive 50 percent more funding, up to \$1,500 a term.

Sole-support parents will now be eligible for up to \$3,500 a term to help pay child care costs. This marks an increase of 40 percent, or \$1,000. On the other hand, single, independent students—those who are not

cont'd on p. 3

## INSIDE

### FEATURES

**YORK WRITER IS DOUBLE WINNER:** Excal is proud to announce that Michael Redhill is the winner of both the prose and poetry awards for the Black Crick Poetry and Prose Movement. Redhill also stole second place for poetry. . . . . Page 7

### SPORTS

**HOCKEY NIGHT AT BLOORVIEW:** York student Corinne Kagan is unable to participate in sports to the extent most people can. But nothing will keep her from playing hockey, her favourite sport. So instead of skates she uses a wheelchair while competing in the Canadian Electric Wheelchair Hockey Association. . . . . Pages 10-11