

# York asked to change new disciplinary rules

by Sara Singer

A final version of controversial regulations governing student conduct is being completed and will be available to students by late September.

The regulations were amended in January of last year by outgoing York president Harry Arthurs in order to deal with what was termed an emergency situation. The changes outline procedure for dealing with student misconduct.

The January amendment was declared unreasonable by many students last year because they gave Vice-President of Student Affairs Beth Hopkins the power to suspend students without a hearing.

But some members of the York community say this regulation is necessary to deal with students who are a threat to others.

The emergency regulations were put into place to deal with situations where women were fearing for their

safety, Dale Hall, York's sexual harassment officer said this month.

"When the emergency regulations came out, the background of their existence was not given. Had students known that they couldn't be used on a whim and that due process for students had to be in place, then they may not have reacted as strongly against it," said Hall.

Before the amendment, a student accused of breaking the code of conduct would go through a hearing. The

change allows Hopkins to suspend a student immediately but requires the university's discipline tribunal to review the case afterwards.

"There is a need for that kind of power to deal with someone who is a threat to others. Many women feel good about it. But you still have to be sure that the person being removed has a right to a [hearing]" added Hall.

The emergency regulations gave Hopkins the power to remove "highly disruptive, potentially or actually vio-

lent" students from campus and residence, prevent them from speaking to certain people, and force them to seek medical or psychiatric treatment.

Many students saw the amendment as a way to stifle political activists on campus.

"The regulations have a silencing effect. As long as they're there they can be used in an arbitrary nature against student protest and can be used against anyone," said Joma Nkombe, a fourth year law student who protested last year against the regulations.

A task force created to review York's discipline policies presented a list of recommended changes in April. Suggested changes included:

- sexual or racial harassment considered as a major infraction,
- special training for mediators who deal with such cases
- information about complaints and appeals which is more accessible to the university community
- a distinction between "peaceful protest and free speech" and "disruptive behavior".

Elissa Horscroft, a task force member last year, said there are a lot of problems with the regulations, and the recommendations are only a first step.

"[Presidential Regulation Number 2] was such a fucking mess it was ridiculous. We knew it was a mess but we didn't know how bad it was until we started working on it."

The task force is waiting for the revised regulations to come out.

## National guide will help lesbians and gays cope

by Frances Limfat

The first-ever lesbian and gay guide to Canadian colleges and universities will be available next fall.

Working on a national basis, this guide will cover a wide range of subjects, including lesbian and gay coming out groups, sexual harassment codes, and same sex spousal benefits.

The guide will also include listings of gay and lesbian service groups.

New students "coming out", and coping with new people or new situations will find the resources in the guide dealing with harassment and homophobia helpful.

The guide is aimed towards transfer students and graduates, but more specifically towards those entering university for the first time.

"Frosh week," said Lori Reinsilber, a fourth year women's studies student, "is a time when people can get together and meet their peers

and form friendships, but for lesbians and gay men it is more difficult to meet others."

"There is no sense of community, no reflection of ourselves, and no validation because events and programs are exclusive to heterosexuals," she added.

"Orientation is harder on gays and lesbians whether they are out or not,

because of added pressure to be heterosexual and promiscuous," said Michelle Marie, a fourth year York student.

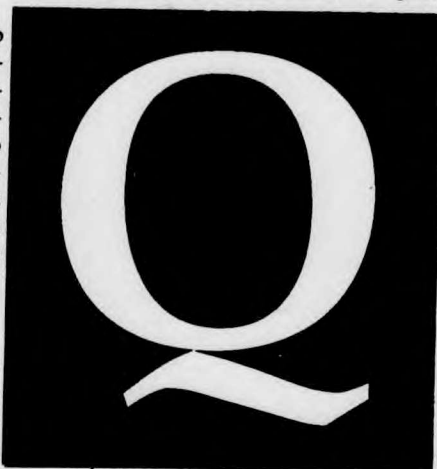
Marie recalled posters in the main floor of her Vanier College residence

her first year, that said, "What's the matter Vanier girls, don't you like guys?"

"This is a blatant way of saying that if you don't party with those men, then you must be a lesbian," she said.

Organizers are collecting information for the guide by sending out questionnaires to admission offices,

women's centres, and sexual harassment centres, said Andrea Calver a collective member of Queer Press who is helping put the guide together.



## Carleton wants faculty, staff to help pay debt

by Margaret McGee  
Canadian University Press

OTTAWA—Carleton University's administration and major unions are working together to fight the university deficit, but not without some fighting among themselves.

The largest union on campus joined forces with the administration to appeal to faculty and support staff for donations to help dig the university out from under a budget deficit that could reach \$3.8 million this year.

The "Renewal Fund" campaign has raised more than \$200,000 since university staff received letters from President Robin Farquhar asking for donations over the summer.

But representatives from faculty and support staff unions said they were "upset" and "angry" about the contents of a "Renewal Fund Newsletter," sent to staff without union approval.

The administration newsletter stated "all Carleton employees are being asked to voluntarily give back half of the salary increase they are receiving this year in the form of a charitable donation" and mentions the necessity of "100 per cent participation" in the campaign.

"Many people interpreted it as negative and as coercion and were concerned about the links the newsletter made between the campaign and job security," said Michele Sutherland, president of the support staff union.

Sutherland said that after the newsletter came out, the union told administration it only supported "voluntary and confidential donations." The union immediately sent out a letter stating this position and reassuring members that administration had pledged to avoid layoffs, if possible.

Kenzie Thompson, assistant director of development and alumni services, admitted the newsletter "disrupted things."

"We should have went to the unions first," she said. "We didn't write it to tie gifts to jobs, but unfortunately this was a concern caused by the newsletter."

Thompson said a steering committee with union and administrative representatives will be appointed by Carleton's president to oversee the year-long fundraiser.

Spruce Riordan, a Carleton vice-president, said this is the first stage of a major campaign. He said after the university has done all it can to solve the financial crisis itself, the "Renewal Fund" will ask private individuals, corporations, and alumni to contribute.

Thompson said about 240 people have donated to the fund so far, about 10 per cent of those canvassed. But she said she expects donations to pick up when school starts and all the staff are back from holidays.

She added the university has received negative phone calls and letters, but most people call for information about the campaign.

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