

# York plans to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle

by Marina DeLuca

Once upon a time the world was relatively safe from unpronounceably named toxins, people were encouraged to consume and children were taught the Three Rs. Today, one is likely to be reproached by a six year old child spouting the catch-phrase of the '90s: reduce, reuse, recycle.

These words are also the goals of the York University Waste Recycling Committee, which sprang up in response to student pressure, mainly applied by York

U Can Recycle. The administration asked Kursh Irani, director of operations for physical plant, to study how to handle waste on campus. He formed an 18-member committee in July, 1989.

The Committee's mandate is to devise a waste management programme for the entire university.

Its first project is to be launched at the end of January. Cara Clairman, a graduate student, will be implementing it.

Twelve bins will be placed in the Administrative Studies Building, with the hope that those who

study and work there will put their used fine paper in them. (Fine paper includes photocopier paper and computer paper.) The bins will hold 200 pounds of paper each. Clairman said there will be a \$60 to \$100 deposit for the bins, which will be returned to York when the bins are returned. Irani did not want to reveal the name of the company supplying the bins.

Irani said the Committee is looking for alternative funding from the Ministry of the Environment and other sources. Clair-

man and Irani both said this is not a money-making enterprise. The priority of the Committee is waste management, not profit.

There are also numerous other recycling efforts on campus, such as those in the faculty of environmental studies, Osgoode Hall Law School and the graduate residences on Assiniboine Road, said Irani. He said these programmes have expanded to the point where physical plant is often called in to help move waste.

Physical plant also collects

corrugated cardboard from the larger cafeterias on campus for recycling.

Irani said the Committee will also implement an education programme to teach people what exactly is and is not recyclable. Entire loads can be discarded when non-recyclable material is mixed in.

Louise Grenier, a member of both the Committee and York U Can Recycle, said the latter will hold a display in Central Square January 25. Students will be able to deposit recyclable material in bins.

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She said the OFS lacked "grass-roots support" making its government lobbying ineffectual.

"They spend way too much time at their conferences playing around with themselves rather than spending time on issues," Hasselfeldt added. "Their conferences should be more focused on their campaigns for the year rather than wasting time on internal bickering."

The ongoing OFS-CYSF dispute dates back to 1987 when former CYSF president Drew McCreadie pulled the CYSF out of the OFS by a vote of council.

The CYSF maintained that it was allowed to do this despite OFS by-laws requiring a referendum for constituent schools to secede. The CYSF claimed it had a special arrangement with the OFS whereby it would join on behalf of students and pay the membership fees. Neither the CYSF nor the OFS has a copy of this agreement.

The usual arrangement the OFS makes with its constituent schools requires students to pay a direct levy to the OFS in. The CYSF last year paid the remainder of its dues from McCreadie's year but refused to pay for last year, saying it was no longer a member.

Donato said he decided to pursue a settlement after talking to university counsel Harriet Lewis. She recommended he pursue an out-of-court settlement to save the CYSF from an expensive court case.

Lewis told *Excalibur* that even with a good case, the CYSF could lose more than \$40,000 if the case were to go to court because legal fees would cost "at least that much." She said that "by settling they will save the students money almost inevitably," despite having a good arguable case.

Vice-president (finance) Franco LoFranco, who was present with Merrick and Donato at the November 29 meeting where the agreement was reached, is against the deal.

He said the OFS is in danger of collapsing from internal pressures and that the CYSF has a strong case. He does not believe, however, that the matter will go to court because neither side can afford legal action.

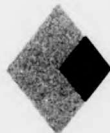
LoFranco said he favoured an earlier proposal by the CYSF in which it would have given the OFS a \$30,000 payment if students voted to join the OFS in the upcoming October referendum. He said he was outvoted by Merrick and Donato at the November meeting with the OFS and the \$40,000 settlement was adopted by the executive.

He said OFS officials raised concerns about the original proposal, saying it would give CYSF financial incentive to run an anti-OFS campaign in the referendum.

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