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YORK UNIVERSITY'S COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

Referendum controversy still smoldering at York

by Salman A. Nensi

A group of students are trying to nullify the results of the OFS/CFS referendum that was held last month.

On October 23, 24 and 25, a referendum was held at York to decide whether or not York students would be part of the Ontario Federation of Students (OFS) and the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS).

The results of the referendum were 2218 (76%) in favour of joining OFS and 2148 (74%) for joining CFS.

On October 31 a petition was submitted to the Board of Referenda outlining serious infractions of the rules governing referenda made by the BOR.

On Tuesday November 6 the referenda board, which governs how a referendum is to be held, met and countered each allegation made in the petition.

Feeling confident that they had adequately responded to each concern, the BOR voted to accept the results of the referendum.

The petition submitted by students Andrea Shettleworth and Melita Vidovic is in five parts.

Part one (A) alleges that it was illegal for the BOR to extend the referendum an extra day without giving students two weeks notice.

The BOR's official response, relayed by chair Brad Abrams, is that, "we had a responsibility to inform the student body to the best of our ability and I believe we did that."

Part one (B) alleges that an issue of *Excalibur* published on the last day of the referendum, promoted activism and consolidation. Therefore, says the petition, *Excalibur*, "biases voters towards voting yes."

The BOR feels that they, "... cannot be held responsible for the articles printed in Campus newspapers."

Part two of the petition declares that because the request for an extra day of voting came from the YFS, and that since the YFS supported the YES Coalition, the extra day would only benefit the YES Coalition.

"Who else is supposed to make the request?" asked Abrams. "The YFS sponsored the referendum!"

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Women's self-defense programme offered to York University students

by Linda Kingston

A self-defense programme for women is offering its services to York students.

Simply Defense a program designed especially for women has already been selected by various high schools, McMaster University and the University of Montreal to teach its students the art of self defense.

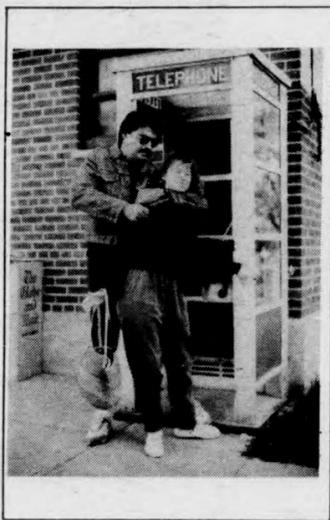
Robert Pelletier, owner and operator of the business is a former Olympic boxing competitor and martial artist expert. He has developed the program for women who have never taken part in a martial arts class.

"The programme deals with the psychological inhibitions that women have, and their fear of fighting back," Pelletier said.

"When they truly convince themselves that yes they can fight back, they will."

Pelletier ran a martial arts club in Edmonton at a time when several sexual assaults took place, especially to nurses working late night hospital shifts.

"Some of the nurses had sons that took martial arts classes, and they asked me if I could teach them some self defense techni-



ques," said Pelletier.

According to Pelletier, he has spent the last 12 years of his life researching and studying ways to combat violence against women.

At York, there were 126 reports of sexual harassment and related incidents (including sexual assaults) have been received from May 1 1989 to April 30 1990. According to the Sexual Harassment Education and Complaint

beat somebody up," Day said.

However, Simply Defense considers the mental preparation Centre's 1989-90 report, in 75 per cent of the cases, both parties were members of the university.

"My friend was mugged this week in Montreal," comments York student Michelle Day.

"We always tried not to worry about that kind of thing. She felt she was attacked because she's a woman and therefore defenceless. However I don't think I'd take a course in self defense though. My friend and I are 5'2", I doubt we'd have the strength and attitude as being more important than just technique.

"It's more than teaching a couple of karate moves," said Pelletier, "women often see themselves as victims very early on, and it continues through life. It has to take its toll somewhere."

Simply Defense costs \$40 per person and is offered one night a week for four consecutive weeks. Training equipment is supplied. All that is required is space for the class. February, SHEAC along with York's Security and Parking department, will partially fund a self-defense course on campus.



Clive Cohen

York Lanes: the administration-owned mall will be competing with the Student Centre for students' money when both buildings are completed.

Student Centre and admin set to discuss compensation

by Faisal Kutty

The Student Centre Corporation (SCC) and the administration have set aside November 15 to discuss a workable solution to compensate the SCC for expected losses due to competition from the York Lanes mall.

The two centres are part of a massive construction project on the York Main campus.

York Lanes, which will contain retail facilities, offices and a new bookstore, will be run by the administration.

The student centre, located west of York Lanes, will be run by SCC, independently of the university. The centre will provide badly needed space for students, as well as a food court.

According to Rob Castle, general manager of the SCC, the food sales in York Lanes will substantially reduce revenue for the student centre.

"The food court revenue will be significant for the SCC," said Castle, "but there will be a lot of overlapping in terms of food services between the two centres."

The meeting comes after a number of counter proposals from the SCC, following vice president Bill Farr's proposal last February.

Castle maintains that Farr's original proposal contained many acceptable points but that it needed some fine tuning.

The changes were outlined in two SCC counter proposals which have not been addressed by the administration.

Castle speculated that this was due to the fact that the administration was busy dealing with the university budget at the time.

Castle said that two weeks ago, "another letter was sent to the administration requesting a meeting." This resulted in the meeting scheduled for Nov. 15.

No one from Farr's office was available for comment on the negotiation's progress.

Asked to comment on last year's CYSF president Peter Donato's remarks about students boycotting York Lanes, current

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Weather Swami's four-day forecast

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			
Sunny high 8 low 1	Sunny high 15 low 6	Clouds and Sunshine high 13 low 6	Clouds and Sunshine high 9 low 2

