

# Clubs feud with Centre over space

by Trevor Burnett

The top floors of the newly-completed Student Centre are about to become a battleground as student clubs compete for tightly-controlled office space.

Many clubs continue to be unhappy with the space they have received among the Centre's 42 club offices.

The Italian Canadian Association, a large and active club, only received a tiny 60 square foot office. And Alwyn Fredricks, president of the Caribbean Students Association, says he is not pleased with the CSA's 70 square foot office. Fredricks is also upset with York for ordering the CSA to vacate its larger space in the basement of the Ross Building.

"The small space is a hindrance to the group's long-term development," said Fredricks. "The new office will not even have a telephone which will make it more difficult for many community groups to get in contact with us."

According to Student Centre Chair Chia-Yi Chua, most club spaces were selected by the Clubs Coalition, a subcommittee of the York Federation of Students.

Also, three groups—the Croatian Students Association, the Jewish Student Federation and the York Catholic Community—were given 50-year leases after they paid a collective \$164,333 for extra-large office spaces.

Some clubs, including the Italian Canadian Association, feel these three clubs had been given preferential treatment by the Student Centre Corporation, which advertised the large spaces last fall.

As well, the Faculty of Education Student Association was denied space after the Student Centre Corporation board deemed them ineligible.

"A deadline for clubs to apply for space in the centre had been set," said Chua. "The deadline passed and there were still spaces left. We decided then to open it up to quasi-clubs of which there were four applicants"

These included FESA, the *Lexicon* (a Bethune College newspaper), Bacchus (an organization which promotes safe drinking) and the Student Senate Caucus (a coalition of student members of the Senate).

"Of those four, two [Bacchus and the Senate Caucus] did not have any space on campus. Therefore we decided to grant them over FESA because it already had an office in the Ross building," Chua added.

Gerard Wykes, president of FESA, says he believes FESA was denied space for other reasons as well.

"Most people see FESA as a professional rather than a student body. That perception tends to distance us from the rest of the student groups. Therefore occupancy in the student centre would have been ideal."

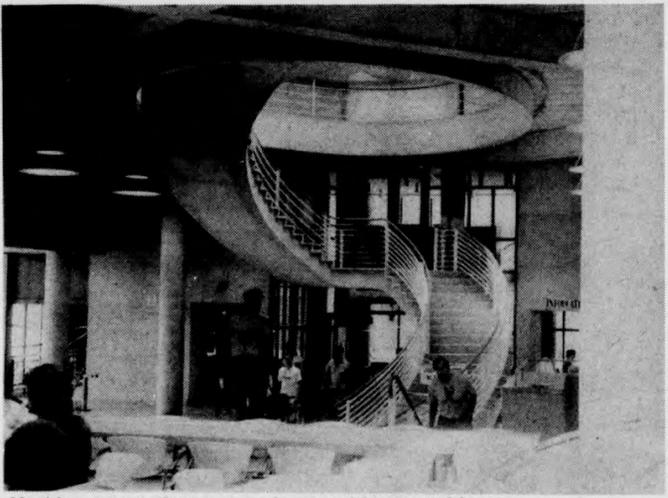
Most club spaces were selected by lottery, after the Student Centre Corporation told the Clubs Coalition to divide the upstairs space last year.

"[The Student Centre Corporation] suggested to the Clubs Coalition four options for space allocation, including a lottery system for all 42 spaces and also allocation determined by club size and level of activity. Ultimately, they chose the lottery system," said Chua.

The lottery was held last November by Ziad Hafez, then Chair of the Clubs Coalition, who pulled the names of York clubs out of a construction helmet. The first 9 clubs received 100 square foot offices; the next 19 received 70 square foot offices and the remaining 14 received 60 square foot spaces.

Hafez admitted that the lottery was not fair in all cases. He said the lottery system was chosen because the Coalition was interested in level of club activity rather than club size.

In response to club complaints, Chua said there were several large rooms available for clubs to use with prior booking.



York's new student centre is not without problems.

## Centre angers unions by hiring outside firm

by Trevor Burnett and Doug Saunders

York is trying to use the new Student Centre to break a union, says the president of the York's Canadian Union of Public Employees local.

Over a hundred CUPE members have sole responsibility for cleaning York buildings. But the Student Centre Corporation, which is independent from university administration, hired a non-union cleaning contractor.

In a May 27 press release, CUPE President Ilpo Lehto criticized the move.

Lehto asked: "Is this an attempt by the university to use

the Student Centre to break our union . . . by finding out the limits to which our Union affiliation will deal with contracting out?"

Rob Castle, general manager of the student-operated Student Centre Corporation, says he hired a non-union cleaning company because it cost less. The university gave the Centre permission to do this in a 1988 contract.

"When push came to shove, there was a significant dollar figure difference, we're talking \$100,000 a year," Castle said. "We all had to be very concerned about how delicate the financial arrangements are for the Student Centre."

Since the Student Centre is not controlled by the York adminis-

tration, it is allowed to negotiate its own cleaning contracts.

But Lehto says he considers the Centre part of the university, and believes York is trying to set limits on CUPE's jurisdiction.

"We're ticked off about it because [the centre] is right smack dab in the middle of the campus. We feel that it's part of the university. If the university weren't here you wouldn't have a student centre."

According to Lehto, the university did not give CUPE a chance to make a competitive bid for the cleaning contract.

"CUPE hasn't negotiated with the student centre," Lehto said. Instead, "we were contacted by the university at a time when both

myself and our national representative were out of town . . . [The university] never did talk to us. I have no knowledge of what the proposal for the student centre contained at all."

CUPE has already filed a grievance with the university, Lehto said.

Private contractors are likely to be a key issue in collective negotiations, which begin next month and involve all York staff and faculty unions.

According to Lehto, "the settlement of the grievance for this issue might set a precedent for other grievances in other parts of the university."

## York gets funds to improve safety

by Jennifer Lim

York may become a safer campus for women.

The ministry of colleges and universities will provide \$3 million for campus safety initiatives during the next two years.

According to Pamela MacDonald, head of security, York is eligible to receive up to \$50,000 per year.

"\$50,000 is not a lot of money, but due to university budget cuts, this legitimizes the department to enhance current services on campus," said MacDonald.

A survey conducted a few years ago predicted \$1 million was needed to improve lighting alone across campus.

"York is doing more than other universities with regard to women's safety on campus, but relative to our size and layout, a lot still needs to be done," said Nikki Gershain, vice president of internal affairs for York's student federation.

According to Elissa Horscroft, the federation's vice president of equality, York is presently facing many safety problems such as the lack of easy access to emergency

phones, parking lots with inadequate lighting and escort services unavailable after 2 a.m.

Horscroft also stressed the necessity of training residence dons to deal with sexual harassment and abuse.

"There is a need for educating dons who can be used as a liaison between students and the sexual harassment centre," said Sher McNulty, a collective member of the Women's Centre. "It would also make our campus more welcoming."

According to advisor Dale Hall of the sexual harassment centre the money should be put into activating and expanding current programs that have limited resources.

York administrator Billie Mulkick said the initiatives are still in their preliminary stages. The ministry will provide detailed guidelines before any decisions can be made.

In a letter to York President Harry Arthurs from Richard Allen the minister of colleges and universities, this year's \$1.5 million allocation aims at "the development of a positive learning and working environment for women students and employees."

What's happenin'?

### The BRAND NEW FINALLY OPENED York University Student Centre

is pleased to present the following summertime events

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE SCC INFORMATION 736-5101

July 5th, 8 p.m. Unnamed Restaurant Club

#### THE HAPPY END

A Big Band From England  
18 members visiting Canada's Jazz Festivals

TICKETS: \$8 advance \$10 at the door

July 24th, 8 p.m. Unnamed Restaurant Club

#### SOUND REVOLUTION

The #1 Soca Band from Trinidad

TICKETS: \$8 advance \$10 at the door

July 27th, 8 p.m. Unnamed Restaurant Club

United Indian Student Association

#### MIDSUMMER DANCE

featuring Bhangra Dance Competition

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE SCC INFO



Sunday, July 28th

11 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Stong Pond

### MARIPOSA

comes to York University for a one day FREE FESTIVAL

Bring the whole family, a picnic and a blanket

2 Stages • 20 Acts • 30 Artisans  
Mariposa Folk Merchandise  
Children's Performers & Activities

7 p.m. to 11 p.m. SCC Restaurant Club

#### AN EVENING SHOWCASE

For more information call Mariposa 778-9063 or SCC Info 736-5101

#### LUNCHTIME BUSKERS FEATURE

11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Talented University Students attempting to cover Tuition Costs

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

- July 31-Aug 1: SOUL VIBES (a black world beat group from Nicaragua)
- Aug 7-8: TROUT FISHING IN AMERICA (a comedy duo from Dallas)
- Aug 14: BILL MILLER (a native American singer songwriter)

PLEASE DROP BY THE SCC INFO CENTRE FOR MORE DETAILS

NEXT ISSUE!

drop everything

Announce your event • meeting • lecture • speaker • protest • forum • feast • dance • seminar • game • sit-in • love-in • be-in • die-in • debate • debauch • deflowering • defrosting • demonstration • dissertation • revelation • happening • awakening • convergence • conference • milestone • phenomenon • crisis • confrontation • reunion • roast • tourney • party • orgy • fiesta • slesta • soiree • tea party • second coming • odd appearance • broad-based coalition • shindig • hoedown • mixdown • jamdown •

DropEverything for your campus announcements. Leave your droppings at Excal, 111 Central Square.

Or phone Jeannine and Doug at 736-5239.

Deadline for the Wednesday, July 24th issue is Monday, July 15.

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