

York to launch TV programme

By SHARON AIKEN

York University expects to launch its first television program, produced by York students, early next year.

A preliminary proposal for video broadcasting has already been approved by the film department.

A detailed proposal for a campus television system by and for York students is currently being prepared by two fourth-year film students, Ray Dumas and Andrew Currie.

Campus television is being developed through the Faculty of Fine Arts, and it could translate into academic credit for students who get involved. However, Dumas noted, "Our first priority is to provide a service for all York students."

"We're planning a 20-minute, soap-like satirical drama about students on campus, reflecting current issues," said Dumas. "At first we'll be limited, maybe a show a week."

The TV programs will be seen on the closed-circuit television system already in place on campus. Campus television will schedule its programming in conjunction with this information network, run by the Department of Instructional Aid Resources (DIAR).

Currie and Dumas expect that as it grows, the system could be extended, and may even develop into an independent station of its own.

"York is so large, and it doesn't have as much communication (within the University) as it could," said Currie.

Dumas added that York already has a newspaper, a radio station, and various college papers, so the next logical step is a television station.

Both Currie and Dumas expect that campus television will generate spirit and a closer sense of community, since the broadcasts will bring together the various faculties within Fine Arts.

"We want a lot of cross-over, to



YORK TV: Video programs produced by students will air on closed-circuit sets around campus this fall.

make it an interdisciplinary course also. We want the broadcasts to be something people can watch together—in residence or in the common rooms. We're also going to try to get an agreement with the pubs on campus so that when our shows come on, the music will go down," said Dumas.

Currie and Dumas promise that the broadcasts will not require an increase in students' fees. The programme will run through the film department, and costs will be supported by tuition fees for the course, as well as lab and materials fees that film students have to pay for their courses.

"We will definitely not be lobbying for any money," said Currie. "The required equipment already exists, and a lot of money has already been budgeted for film production

within the faculty."

The problem of adequate space for the project has already been solved, since the film department will move to the Fine Arts Phase III building.

The film department has been supportive of efforts to establish a broadcasting system. Currie and Dumas say the faculty has been waiting for students to take the initiative and pursue the idea of television on campus.

Currie said that student organization for this project would ensure continued student involvement in further development for the course.

"Professors will act as advisors for the course, but it will be a student-run operation. We want to establish an advisory committee, with equal participation from faculty and students."

Group says smoking by-law is ineffective

By HOWARD KAMAN

"There's a fine line between trying to meet the needs of smokers and providing a smoke-free environment," says Steven Strople, chair of the Presidential Committee on the No Smoking Policy in reference to York's No-Smoking policy, implemented in two phases over the past 18 months.

Phase I of the policy came into effect on February 2, 1988, banning all smoking in all public areas of the university where No Smoking signs are posted. Phase II, instituted last September eliminated smoking in virtually all other areas on campus, public or private.

However, as many students are soon discovering, the enforcement of the policy is a difficult matter. Bill Abrahams is one such student.

Abrahams, a second year Visual Arts Major, is creating the Students Clean Air Movement (SCAM), and unofficial club dedicated to repairing what he refers to as "procedures that don't work."

The policy, as it now stands, makes no provisions for York's Security Department to enforce it; it relies on the students' compliance with it. If one student sees another smoking where he shouldn't, he should first ask the person to stop. If this doesn't work, a complaint should be registered with either Occupational Health and Safety of the Student Complaint Centre. Abrahams believes the policy is wrong.

"Smoking needs to be recognized as a form of assault," says Abra-

hams. He would like to see Security personnel being able to lay charges when they witness the policy being violated, in the same fashion as they would handle parking offenses. He doesn't believe that it's up to the students to enforce the law.

"It creates tension between students," he explained.

Abrahams also believes that, if the rules surrounding the policy were stiffer, smokers would soon learn to respect it. As well, he pointed out that non-smokers don't yet realize what they can do to help the problem. "It's going to take a few charges," he explained, "to show the non-smokers the power they have."

As Steven Strople explained though, "The energy has got to come from the students." He realizes the problem being a lack of an "enforcement mechanism," but does not look at the current situation as one of leaving the law in the hands of the students. While there may be no "authority model," says Strople. "[York] is not a kindergarten. It's not a high school. It's a community of scholars."

"If the community doesn't support the policy, very little can be done," he explained.

However, Strople did point out that if sufficient interest was shown a change in the policy would be looked into. In fact, according to the policy, a regular review by a Presidential Committee must take place. "It's a very complicated and difficult question," said Strople. "I hope in time we will be able to come up with a better arrangement."

Meeting Today
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