

Who foots the bill?

# Radio York postpones FM referendum

By WARREN CLEMENTS

Radio York has decided to postpone a university-wide referendum on their proposed application for an FM broadcast licence.

The station explained that "many members of the CYSF have requested more time to consider documents relative to our licence application."

The referendum question, which was to have been circulated Jan 31, will probably be placed on the ballots in the CYSF elections in February.

Students will be asked to agree or disagree with possible funding of \$25,000 a year to Radio York for the next three years, in addition to "such financial assistance as may be necessary to prepare (an FM) licence application".

The station must have such a guarantee if it is to apply for a licence to the Canadian Radio and Television Commission.

Radio York station manager Claude Vickery said the money would probably come from CYSF and the individual college councils, who receive roughly \$80,000 and \$25,000 respectively each year.

"The most I can see us taking from CYSF would be less than a third of the \$25,000," said Vickery, "which has

been our average grant over the last five years."

Five years ago, the station received \$15,000 from CYSF. This year it received \$5,000.

"The college councils will take the bulk of the cost," said Vickery, "Founders has more than they know what to do with."

The CYSF is generally in favour of the FM application, but feels information provided thus far by the station has been "sketchy". Radio York has agreed to supply them with further documents.

One controversial issue is Radio York's appeal to the Board of Governors for allocation of the money, over the heads of CYSF and the colleges.

"We want our money from the top, and we're not in a position to fight about it for the next three years," said Vickery. "The CRTC would just laugh at us if we said we managed to scrape together \$25,000, and that the CYSF promised we might have some next year."

**OPPOSITION**

But CYSF president Michael Mouritsen disagrees. "All members of the council agreed that the Board of

Governors should not be asked to re-allocate student money," he said.

"Decisions on student programme options belong properly to the student councils, not to the university. If this went through, the precedent would be a dangerous one."

"Any group frustrated by the council could then ask the Board of Governors to interfere."

He suggested Radio York apply to outside companies or the university for funding, but Vickery rejected this option. "How do you expect the station to be student-run if you don't get student financing?" he said.

Radio York's current closed-circuit system is being leased at \$200 a month, based on a nine-month broadcasting year, with a purchase option at the end of their six-year lease. They tried to buy the system outright, but nobody would lend them the \$9,000 necessary.

They also considered a "carrier current" system, which would enable a listener to plug his radio into any socket on campus and hear Radio York. However, not only would the system cost \$30,000 to build, but the signal would be repeatedly interrupted by the pulse of the omnipresent IBM clocks.

The switch to FM broadcasting will require a capital expenditure of \$31,000 for a transmitter and antenna, as well as \$3,190 for the application.

**WHERE IT GOES**

"The biggest part of that, \$2,000, is for a technical brief," explained Vickery. "A professional engineer looks at the frequency we're applying for, and the antenna location, and makes sure we won't interfere with anybody else's operation."

The subsequent annual \$25,000 grants would cover \$12,000 in salaries (the station would broadcast 24 hours a day), and include such costs as maintenance and promotion.

Currently the station's operating



Claude Vickery

costs \$8,000 a year, with no paid personnel. However, 50 "paid" members pay club membership dues of \$5 each, which entitles them to a vote at meetings.

To apply for the licence, Radio York must incorporate (roughly a \$500 cost), and has already drawn up a constitution. This paper has been ratified by the CYSF, and will be voted on by the Board of Governors on Jan. 22.

Vickery feels that such an endorsement will in effect endorse the CRTC application.

"We want the university's spon-

sorship to use in the incorporation," said Vickery, "and we want to incorporate to assure the CRTC that we are autonomous from the university and free of political pressure."

**MONTHLY BOARD**

The constitution sets up a board of directors, including two faculty representatives, two administration representatives, the CYSF president and communications commissioner, three non-partisan York students, two Radio York staff choices, two Glendon radio choices, and "two residents from the vicinity of Toronto".

The board would meet every four weeks, with a quorum of nine.

Vickery stresses that wherever the money comes from, it must be guaranteed to Radio York with no strings attached if the station is to go FM.

"The application is a very delicate process, not a rubber stamp," he said.

"We have to prove to the CRTC that we can make distinctive, neat programming. They're a greater watchdog than the York community."

"It comes to the point after five years when we've got to sink or swim."


## Profs to unionize

OTTAWA (CUP)The Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) has started an organizing drive at St. Mary's University in Nova Scotia to win collective bargaining rights for its 170 faculty members.

CUPE, the largest Canadian union, already represents over 6,000 university employees at 20 universities in Canada.


Fred Tabachnick, a CUPE representative, said the union had just finished organizing 70 professors at Bathurst College in New Brunswick and hoped to have the organizing drive solidly under way at St. Mary's by the end of January.

CUPE is also organizing 500 faculty members at the trade and technical schools in Newfoundland.



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### The York Student Federation invites applications from York University students for the position of

## CHIEF RETURNING OFFICER

The Chief Returning Officer is responsible to the Council for the administration of the Annual Election of the Federation, to be held this year in February. The C.R.O. is governed by the Council's Elections By-law, and will supervise the advertising of the election, the printing and distribution of ballots, the operation of polling stations on election day, and the conduct of Deputy Returning Officers and Poll Clerks. This is a paid position which will terminate with the installation of the 1974-75 Council.

Interested students should apply in writing, stating qualifications, to the Business Administrator, York Student Federation, Room N111 Ross Building, York University, Downsview M3J 1P3, no later than 5 p.m., January 24, 1974.