

NEWS

Ban smoking before asbestos says Cavoukain

by Jessica Goldman

Although asbestos can be harmful, it does not warrant the hysteria which surrounds it, said York director of occupational health and safety, Kim Cavoukian.

Cavoukian feels that there are other health issues at York which are more important.

"Asbestos can be harmful, but smoke and second-hand smoke will kill many more people at York than asbestos ever will," Cavoukian said. "If I had a magic wand I

would make York a smoke free environment before I would remove its asbestos."

Starting this week, all main campus buildings will be inspected for asbestos.

The inspection will be in compliance with the asbestos regulations under the Ontario Health and Safety Act.

The room-by-room inventory will be conducted by the air quality science firm of Trow, Dames and Moore.

The inspection, which is expected to take up to four

months to complete, will consist of a visual inspection followed by laboratory analysis of all materials suspected to contain asbestos.

The audit will be followed up by yearly checks of problem areas discovered by this year's inspection.

While Cavoukian is glad to see that York is complying with the asbestos regulations, she is worried about the cost of the project.

"All Universities have asbestos and have to deal with it," Cavoukian said. "Yet the government will not fund the removal of it."

Without financial assistance from the government, repair and removal costs must be footed solely by the university.

York's Glendon Campus underwent an asbestos inventory this past summer.

Cavoukian said she is not at liberty to discuss the actual figures, but she did admit that, "the cost to

clean up Glendon Campus is extensive."

Acting on demands from staff and students, Osgoode recently had a asbestos audit.

James McPherson, Dean of Osgoode, last year estimated the removal cost to be anywhere from \$4-million to \$4.5-million.

Asbestos, which was used mostly as a fire retardant in the late 1960s has been linked to lung cancer, asbestosis and mesothelioma (cancer of the lining of the lung and intestinal tract) when inhaled and has a latency period of 20-40 years.

According to the Ontario Public Research Group (OPIRG), asbestos becomes hazardous when it decays and disintegrates, causing particles to enter the air as dust.

Mike Dewit, air quality scientist at Trow, Dames and Moore, says that materials which are known to

contain asbestos, such as insulation surrounding pipes, spray on insulation and stucco finishes, will be the main focus of the inventory.

Both Trow, Dames and Moore and York's Department of Occupational Health and Safety assure staff and students that the inspection will pose no danger to the university.

"The inspectors are professionally trained and will be using protective clothing and equipment," Cavoukian said.

Once the inventory is finished, a detailed report will be sent to the department of occupational health and safety which will decide what action to take, she said.

The report will detail which areas pose a threat and how immediate the threat is. It will then be up to the department of physical plant to repair or remove the dangerous sites.

CBC's Mansbridge first in speaker series

by Cheryl Carson

CBC's Peter Mansbridge will be the first guest speaker at this year's John White Society's speaker series.

The series will run from October 10-28.

Mansbridge became chief correspondent for the CBC and anchor of the *National* in 1988.

During his years as a national correspondent and anchor of news specials, Mansbridge has provided comprehensive coverage of some of the most significant news stories in Canada and around the world.

He has reported for the *National* from more than a dozen countries on subjects as varied as the Iran/Contra scandal in the United States to the last days of Mao Tsetung in China.

Late last year, Mansbridge reported for and anchored the *National* from Red Square as

CBC News followed the Prime Minister to Moscow for his historic visit with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

Prior to this, Manbridge anchored the *National* from West Germany as the Berlin Wall came down and the borders opened up between east and west.

Mansbridge began his career with the CBC in 1968, where he helped develop CBC service to the north.

In 1971, he moved to Winnipeg as a reporter for CBC Radio. The following year, he joined the local CBC television news as a reporter.

He became the *National's* Saskatchewan reporter in 1975 and was assigned to the Parliamentary Bureau in Ottawa in 1976, where he remained for four years.

Mansbridge will be speaking at Osgoode in the Moot Court Room at 12:00 pm on October 10.

OFS membership controversy over

by Daniel Wolgeleenter

York's membership in the Ontario Federation of Students (OFS) will finally be decided in a referendum to be held later this month.

The board of referenda has announced that the referendum will take place on October 23 and 24.

Undergraduate, education, and Osgoode students on the Keele campus will be asked whether they want to continue as members of the OFS and whether they wish to join the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS).

Atkinson and Glendon students will be excluded from the

referendum, since they traditionally work out their own membership agreements with the two organizations.

York students are currently members of the OFS but not of the CFS. The question of York's membership in OFS goes back to the 1987-1988 school year when council pulled out of OFS.

OFS maintained that council could only withdraw its membership by holding a referendum.

Over the last two years, the York Federation of Students' (YFS) predecessor, CYSF, had refused to pay its \$30,000 yearly membership fees and refused to

send delegates to OFS conferences.

The cost of belonging to OFS will be 60 cents per full course, per year. The cost of belonging to CFS will be 80 cents per course, per year.

For the referendum to be valid, the board of referenda has required that at least 2500 students cast ballots.

"I think it's fabulous," said York Federation of Students (YFS) president Jean Ghomeshi. "I think its long overdue for York students to make a choice."

The cost of the referendum will be split equally between YFS and continued on page 6

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* The draw will be held at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, October 17 at 3:30 p.m.
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