

## Council votes in favor of OFS withdrawal

By BRADY HASKELL

The Council of the York Student Federation (CYSF) voted 11 to 7 in favor of withdrawing from the Ontario Federation of Students (OFS) in a special meeting held last Thursday.

Under the compromised plan by CYSF President Reya Ali, a campus wide referendum will be held at a later date asking students if they are willing to pay three dollars to be directly represented in OFS.

Opposition to the vote came primarily from Graduate Student's Association (GSA) President Terry Conlin, and Leanne MacMillan, the OFS fieldworker for York.

Conlin was concerned about the possibility that the withdrawal would be illegal. Ali said the council would request a second opinion from a lawyer to settle this matter.

Conlin also said that if CYSF had budgetary problems (which Ali had attributed as one of the reasons for the withdrawal), then they should approach the university's Administration about the allocation of funds for student governments. He said the operating grant funding method in use at York gave students a "raw deal" as opposed to the activity fee method used by other universities. Under the operating grant funding method, each student pays a total of \$46.00 towards student governments, in which \$27.50 is allocated to the respective college council, and \$18.50 goes to the CYSF.

In her argument, MacMillan questioned CYSF's authority to conduct a campus-wide referendum. She also asserted that OFS had a legal right to receive the \$30,000 OFS membership fee from CYSF.

There is some ambiguity over whether CYSF was ever actually a

member of OFS. The wording of the motion voted in council implies that CYSF feels it is not a member. However, in a lawyer's letter to the council, circulated at the meeting by Conlin, there is reference to CYSF being a member, along with the statement, "There is no contract between CYSF and OFS."

The absence of a contract is acknowledged by another letter, also circulated by Conlin at the meeting, from an OFS lawyer to Bernard Drainville, OFS chairman. The letter states "There is no doubt that the liability for fees comes from the by-laws of OFS, not this contract."

Arguments in support of withdrawal were presented mainly by Director of External Affairs Sandra Antoniani. She stressed that any investment in OFS was a poor one, and that CYSF could spend the \$30,000 in more beneficial ways.

In reaction to the outcome of the 20-member attended meeting, Conlin said he was "disgusted" and referred to the outcome as "sleazy beyond belief." Drainville reiterated his position that "this is completely illegal," and "there are a number of precedents to show that clearly."

According to Don Miller, Information Officer for OFS, the CYSF vote was discussed at a weekend meeting of the OFS executive. He said they were "concerned about the lack of legal procedures being followed," by the council, referring to the requirement that members must have a student referendum to withdraw membership. He said OFS would now consider "various forms of action" that would be geared towards altering CYSF's stance, but that would not encourage "acrimony."



DENTISTRY PRACTICE: A mere pumpkin can bridge the generation gap, recent studies have shown.

## Forum seeks right "mix" for funding

By KEVIN O'NEILL

Funding for Ontario's universities and colleges should not be the responsibility of just the government, a forum held during National Universities Week heard last Wednesday (23rd).

The forum, conducted at Ryerson Polytechnical Institute and moderated by CBC Anchorperson Susan Harada, discussed the money crunch Ontario universities are going through. The panel consisted of, Gregory Sorbara, Ontario Minister of Colleges and Universities; Dr. George Connell, President, University of Toronto; Dr. Brian Segal, President, Ryerson; Dr. Bernard Shapiro, Director, Ontario Institute for Studies and Education; Betty Smith of the Ontario College of Art; and Dr. Kenneth Davey, Dean of Science, York University.

Dr. Segal said the issue is not where the funds should come from

but the mix. "Yes, we can go to the private sector. Yes, we can ask students to pay more, and yes, we can go to the government for more money," he said. "But the issue is to find the mix."

Part of the mix comes in the form of a proposed \$50 million grant from the Ontario government, announced two weeks ago by Mr. Sorbara. The grant will be broken into three major funding areas: faculty renewal, research and leadership, and library enhancement and instructional equipment and will be made available for the fiscal year of 1986-87.

While Sorbara emphasized that his government is not "in the era of getting the private sector to fund our universities" private sector funding

is becoming more and more viable, especially at York.

Dr. Davey said that "industries coming onto the campus (are) aiding professors and students" but he also pointed out that the private sector is not determining curriculum.

"Ryerson goes to industry, not vice-versa," said Dr. Segal. "There are safeguards on academic freedom and curriculum decisions."

The panel also generally agreed that an increase in tuition is a welcome way of increasing a school's revenue. "Students should shoulder some of the burden," said Dr. Shapiro.

Students now pay about 17 per cent of the cost of an education through tuition but Dr. Segal would like to see that percentage eased up to 25 per cent "but only if Ontario Student Assistance Plan is improved," he said.

## Mayoral candidates press for cheaper student fares

By GARY SCHOLICH

Student discount Metro passes have become an issue in the race for Metro mayoral leadership.

On Friday, October 25, the University of Toronto's Faculty of Law held a debate between candidates Art Eggleton and alderperson Anne Johnston in the Flavelle House Moot Court. During the debate both candidates stressed their support for a student pass.

"Students deserve a break," Eggleton said. "It's unfair for students to pay the adult fare. We have a new government at Queen's Park and a new opportunity. I'd like to get students, Queen's Park, and the TTC all together and talk about this."

Johnston said she would like to sit down with representatives of the TTC and discuss the concept of a student pass. She said that Toronto could have a system of reduced fares for post-secondary students because there is already one in Kingston for Queen's University students.

According to Alfred Apps, a Johnston campaign representative, "the arrangement at Queen's is levied on the students through their tuition fees." In addition, "Western has its own student transit program, 'Western Wheels'."

Both Eggleton and Johnston have approached student governments. The day before the debate, Eggleton had a 40-minute meeting with representatives of U of T's Student Administrative Council (SAC). "We met with the mayor and discussed our proposals," said Dennis Powell, and External Commission Researcher for SAC. "Our main goal was to have a four-month pass offered at a three-month rate, but we also had other ideas, too."

Johnston arranged a meeting for October 29 with Al Savage, Chief General Manager of the TTC. Her letter, addressed to U of T, York, Ryerson, and Seneca, George Brown, and Humber College student councils, invited one representative from each body to attend the meeting.

The idea of a student-discount Metropass is not a new proposal brought to the TTC. At the November 27, 1984 Commission meeting, the Half-Price Metropass Coalition had been seeking a half-price Metropass for various disadvantaged groups. Post-secondary students were included in these sub-groups.

The problem is who will fund the program. An independent firm, Currie, Coopers and Lybrand, studied the proposal and tabled a report. The report concluded that "there is an extensive social welfare network with established funding responsibility, and that the coalition should have approached these agencies more directly rather than the TTC in order to establish the need for the proposal."

The report goes on to state that "given the disparate nature and financial needs of the various sub-groups (and individuals within each group), and the costs associated with a half-price reduction in fares (in excess of \$20-million annually), a blanket program funded by a single source, especially the TTC, is not considered feasible."

The report goes on to state that post-secondary students can apply for assistance through OSAP. However, whether a student qualifies or not is determined through a means test.

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