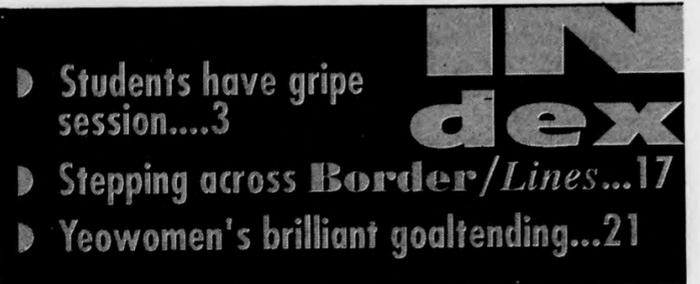
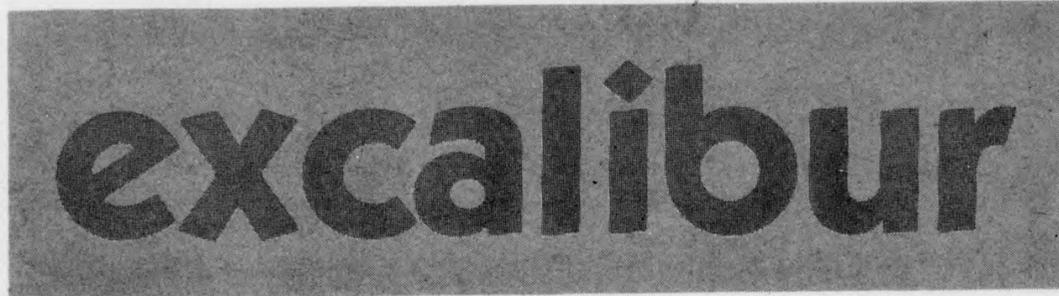


The Indian Act is Canada's apartheid law

How race hatred was incorporated into Canada's laws • Feature, page 10



York students to decide on fate of health care plan

by Christine F. de Leon

The undergraduate health care plan will be going to an emergency referendum next week. When students pick up their benefit cards and refunds from the York Federation of Students, they will be asked if they want to continue paying for the plan next year.

The referendum is necessary because the cost of the plan would increase next year to \$132.97 from the current \$60.

The York Federation of Students originally planned the referendum for late October. But the YFS executive cancelled the vote after the university's Board of Referendum Commis-

sioners (BORC) placed unprecedented restrictions on the campaign.

BORC — a subcommittee of the university Board of Governors — demanded a minimum voter turnout of 20 per cent of the student population, a three-day polling period and a spending limit of \$1000 for the health care referendum.

The YFS executive decided the high quorum would be impossible to meet and cancelled the original referendum.

"We told them (BORC) they've jeopardized the health care plan 15,000 students are depending on," said Gershbain.

According to Gershbain, the YFS decided to hold the emergency referendum last Friday after talking to Blue Cross representatives.

Blue Cross was forced to increase the fees after losing more than \$900,000 last year.

The increase would make up for the surprisingly high level of claims made on the plan last year. Over 45 per cent of enrolled students made claims, almost all of them for prescription drugs. Blue Cross paid out \$400,000 more than they received in premiums.

As well, Blue Cross lost over \$500,000 last year after the York administration failed to collect health plan fees from approximately 7000 students.

According to David Taylor, health administrator for the York Federation of Students, Blue Cross asked YFS to hold the referendum.

"If we didn't run a referendum Blue Cross would be left in the cold," said Taylor. "It became clear to us that we had an obligation to Blue Cross to run a referendum."

Gershbain said she expects the 20 per cent quorum to be met in this vote because the students will pass the ballots as they pick up their membership cards and refunds.

The YFS plans to advertise the referendum through blanket posting, banners, ads and announcements in the food court, Gershbain said.

Nothing typical about York students, new study finds

by Jeannine Amber

There is no "typical York student" says Environmental Studies Professor William Found, author of a new study which details the ethnic, linguistic, social and economic backgrounds of York undergraduates.

The study, the first of its kind in Canada, reveals that students at York come from 54 different ethnic backgrounds. Nineteen percent of students consider themselves visible minorities and one third of students said English was not their first language.

According to Sheldon Levy, vice president of institutional affairs at the university, figures showing the diversity of the student body indicate that the university has been successful in "achieving social justice."

"However, the big challenge is not just having a university that is accessible but to have one that's good for these students," added Levy.

Rob Centa, external vice president for the York Federation of Students, says some of the most useful information in the survey will be about the financial support students receive.

The study reveals seventeen per cent of all students have parents with a combined income of \$20,000 or less but only six per cent of all undergraduate students receive OSAP grants.

Centa said the survey "confirms our belief that students who need assistance from OSAP aren't receiving it."

The results of the study will aid faculty and student groups in lobbying the provincial government for OSAP reform, Centa added.

"For the first time we will be able to throw numbers at them."

Laurie Kingston, chair of the Ontario Federation of Students, said the information contained in the survey would be useful.

"We can say that the vast majority of students live below the poverty line but to be able to have numbers helps us build our case, (when lobbying the provincial government)."

Nikki Gershbain, YFS vice president of Internal Affairs, said the information will also be useful for lobbying administration at York.

Gershbain said statistics about the number of students driving to campus coupled with the financial background of those students makes a strong case for lower parking fees.

"When Bill Farr (York vice president of finance and administration) justifies our high parking fees (\$160 for an unreserved pass) by saying that students at Western pay \$150 more, we can now respond with figures that prove York students come from a generally lower socio-economic group," Gershbain said.

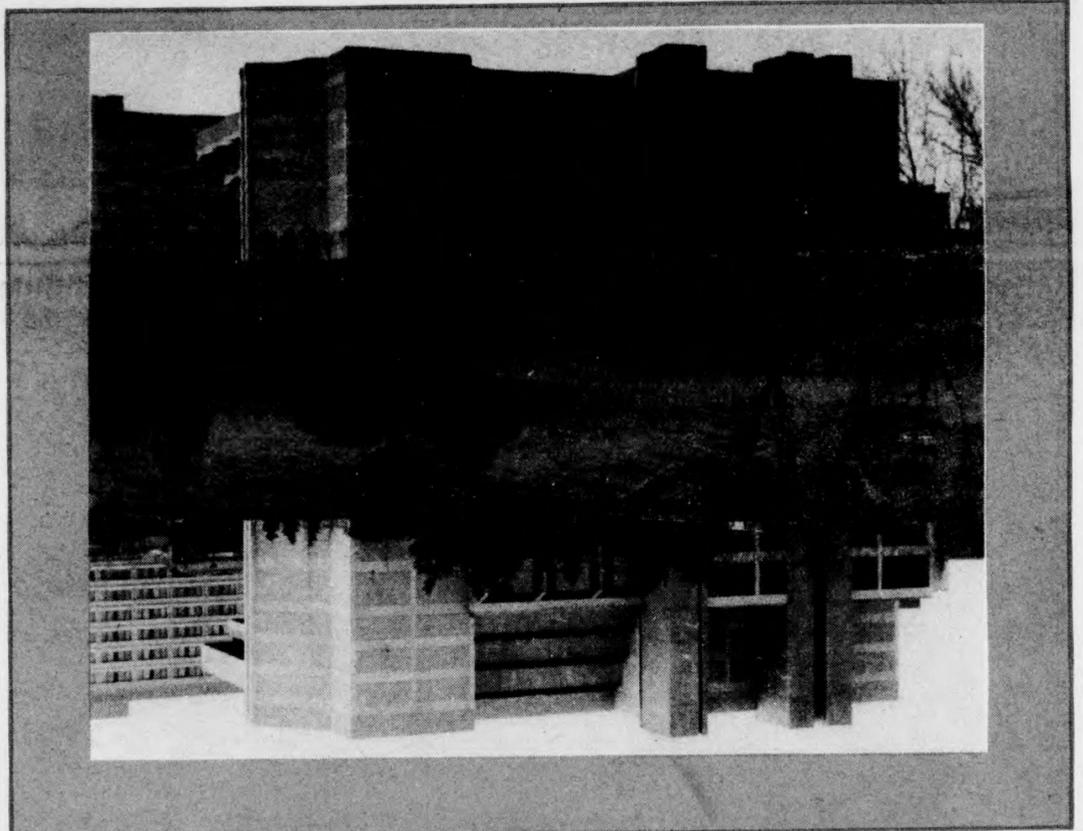
Students were asked to respond to 67 key questions on issues ranging from family history to employment. The survey had a response rate of 70 per cent, making the results accurate 19 times out of 20.

Levy says the survey is a good way to see "what our students have to go through to get an education at York."

According to Levy, York is trying to secure funding from the provincial government to help pay for further analysis of the data collected. The survey cost the university \$10,000.

Other information included in the survey:

- Sixty nine per cent of undergraduates have jobs during the school year, and they work an average of 26 hours per week.
- Twenty per cent of full-time students have fathers whose highest level of formal education was elementary school or less.
- Twenty-two per cent of all undergraduates have children.
- Sixty per cent of York undergraduates drive to school in a car.
- Fifty nine per cent of students in Fine Arts and 54 per cent of students in administrative studies receive financial assistance from their parents.
- Sixty nine per cent of York students were born in Canada



Arab students charge lecturer with racism

by Maggie Borch

A lecture on the Middle East by an Israeli Professor last week has angered members of the York Arab Students Association.

Jihad Yousef, president of YASA said professor Dan Scheuftan "made generalizations about Arabs and said that Arabs are violent."

Menahem Neuer, program director of the Jewish Student Federation who hosted the speaker, said Scheuftan clarified the point during question period.

According to Neuer, Scheuftan said: "I have no yardstick to measure people's hatred or tendency towards violence however I can analyze people's behaviour."

According to Yousef, Scheuftan also said that Palestinians deserved to be "transferred."

"When I asked him why he said they deserved to be transferred and

what they did to deserve it, he said it was because they [Arabs] wanted to slaughter everyone and also they wanted to poison baby Jews."

"I think the speaker was very flamboyant and wanted to elicit a response but he was careful to mention that he was not saying that all people of X origin are of X behaviour" said Neuer.

At a recent YASA meeting, members concluded Scheuftan's remarks were racist remarks. YASA wrote a letter to the JSF expressing their outrage and demanding an apology, claiming the lecture by Professor Scheuftan "was slanderous and Arab bashing."

According to Neuer, the JSF sent a letter to YASA expressing regret for any offence taken.

The letter also states that the opinions expressed by Scheuftan were his own and not the official JSF position.

But Yousef said that because Schenftan was sponsored by the JSF and they should take responsibility "They knew it wasn't appropriate and it was inaccurate."

"Everyone should be proud of who he is, that's normal, but to put it in the same lecture while you're putting others down, is no doubt degrading," said Yousef.

"This is an unfortunate incident in terms of our relationship between the two groups and we look forward to overcoming the momentary problems and picking up our on-going dialogue," said Neuer.

"We are very sensitive to the York Arab students and we want to make sure we do have a peaceful, respectful dialogue with them," added Neuer.

YASA did not accept the response by the JSF and have now sent copies of their complaints to The Race and Ethnic Office and Student Affairs.