

# U of T opts out of OFS - maybe

TORONTO (CUP)—Canada's largest university has pulled out of Canada's largest provincial student organization—or has it?

That wasn't clear after a convoluted and fractious four hours of debate at the University of Toronto's Students' Administrative Council (SAC) Sept. 15.

The problem began in October 1980 when student associations at member institutions of the Ontario Federation of Students (OFS), held referenda asking students to approve a fee increase of \$1.50 making it \$3.00 per student.

Most students approved the increase, but not those at the U of T. A dispute has since arisen over whether the two-to-one defeat of the fee increase referendum meant the U of T SAC had pulled out of OFS.

The preamble to the referendum question said that if the increase was rejected at the U of T but passed at least by two-thirds of other OFS members, the U of T's membership in OFS might lapse.

Some SAC members contend that U of T students rejected the fee increase, but not OFS. This summer, OFS made a deal: they could remain in OFS for the old \$150 per student fee and receive the full range of OFS lobbying, research and information services, and they would only lose their vote at OFS plenaries.

This deal was presented to SAC at its Sept. 15 board meeting by external commissioner, Kent Darling.

"It's a bargain," he said. But Tony Clement, a student representative on the U of T Governing council said that the 1980 referendum meant U of T

had voted to withdraw from OFS. Darling said the preamble only allowed for the possibility of lapsed membership.

"If OFS was ready to keep SAC on, then SAC had every right to accept that invitation," he said.

## Women's Centre getting stronger

After a shaky but positive start last year, the U of A's Women's Centre is better than ever now that they have a year's experience behind them.

LISA Walter, one of the group's organizers, describes the centre's actions as "Trying to learn about women's issues ourselves and hoping that other people will join in."

An informational film festival concerning women's

But Darling's motion to accept SAC's limited half-price membership in OFS was defeated 18 to 17.

The opposing sides then introduced a motion to freeze the transfer of \$42,000 in fees until a referendum is held asking students issues is scheduled between Oc-

tober 7 and March 5. The films will be shown in room 2115 in the education building from 7:00-10:00 p.m. on the first Thursday of every month and will include a speaker and a question and answer period.

The Centre's films come from *Women In Focus*, a Vancouver based group; *Marlin Films* in Winnipeg; and the *National*

if they want full membership in OFS's successor organization, the Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario, (CFS-O).

The freeze motion did not clarify whether SAC considers itself an OFS member in the meantime. It passed 19 to 15.

Last year the Centre's membership peaked at approximately fifty people, both full and part time. This year is expected to bring together both the old and new members, forming a larger, more involved, membership.

If you have any questions about the operation of the Centre, feel free to drop by or give them a call at 432-2245.

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