

Working on constitutional rewrite

CYSF seeks greater strength

By TRISH HARDMAN

The executive of Council of the York Students' Federation is rewriting its constitution to give the Council a stronger financial and political position in University affairs.

The CYSF executive feels they

should have greater control of their budget, President Michael Fletcher said. "I would prefer that the ratification of the budget be accomplished by a general vote of the student body. Although I realize that our constitution allows any such amendments to be made by the

college councils on their own, I feel it very important that all students at this university state their opinion of it, uncolored by biased perspectives of either 'colleges above all' or 'no college system at all'."

Similarly, the rewritten constitution would consider a new political relationship between the college councils and the CYSF, like the student administrative system at the University of Toronto.

Of the \$27 student fee, \$17 is allocated to the college councils and \$10 to CYSF. However, the CYSF's budget must be approved by

six of the 12 college councils to be effective.

Other revisions in the constitution would clarify the roles and responsibilities of CYSF executive members, would provide for the hiring of a full-time business advisor, would re-examine the CYSF's relationship with York administration and would encourage a greater continuity between successive CYSF administration. The CYSF plans to confer with all concerned groups before presenting a final draft of the new constitution. They are considering several alternative methods, including a referendum, for its ratification.

Laura Sabia says women must push Status report

The Ad Hoc chairwoman of the Ontario Committee on the Status of Women Laura Sabia told a public meeting last Tuesday that "The women of Canada will no longer be satisfied to be patted on the head and told that they're very nice."

With the \$2 million Royal Commission Report on the Status of Women ready to be shelved, she said women must mobilize to push through the report's recommendations.

Liberal candidate Gary Taylor said the government was losing out on very competent people. New Democrat Bernard Eastman felt "the party in practise is a fair test of the party in government." Five women, he stated, sit on the NDP's 12-member board. Eight women are

running for office and 18 manage campaigns.

Both parties favor equal employment status for women, also maternity leave. Present anti-discrimination laws, charged Sabia, "are full of loopholes that anyone with a smart lawyer can get through." Esther Greenglass said that the Liberals will "go all the way to put teeth into the laws" so that a woman can get legal action without risking her job. Eastman called employment ads discriminatory and suggested paying women for "non-work — housework".

Both parties favor specifying sex in the Human Rights Code. Although invited, no Conservative representatives attended the meeting.

Gov't may provide funds for tenants organizations

By YVONNE HELWIG

The federal government is prepared to provide \$225,000 for the organization and operation of tenants organizations in Ontario, David Weatherhead, MP for Scarborough West and recently appointed Secretary to the Minister of Urban Affairs, told a group of about 200 people at a tenants forum held at the Town Hall of the St. Lawrence Center last Wednesday.

Weatherhead said the fiscal responsibility in the proposal would follow the usual federal-provincial split, with Ontario government giving \$75,000. Negotiations with the Ontario Housing Corporation and the Ontario government have already begun but due to an absence of provincial policy on tenants

organizations, the two have not yet committed themselves.

Peter Harrington president of Ontario Housing Tenants Association, stressed the indifference the OHC demonstrates towards tenants organizations. In view of the fact that tenants represent 40 per cent of Toronto's population, Harrington said not enough voice is given to this large social and economic caucus. The OHC refused to appear on the panel at the tenants' forum.

One of OHC's plans, called Home Ownership Made Easy, was attacked by several tenants. The plan involves federal capital, managed by the OHC, in the construction of dwellings which, after a five year leasing period, dwellers have an option to buy or continue leasing.

Eastman sees negative income tax for students

New Democratic candidate in York East Bernard Eastman told a small York audience last Wednesday, Ontario needed free university tuition in the form of a negative income tax.

But he warned that free tuition for everyone would be "a handout to the wealthy" with wage earners bearing the brunt of the costs. Calling universities a "class system of higher education", ex NDP leadership contender Jim Laxer said a recent study done by the now defunct Canadian Union of Students showed that the main barrier is not financial but social.

One of the biggest problems he said was "to get a student to a point where he can conceive of going to university. NDP candidate Helen Roedde said that in her Bellwoods riding the school system discriminates against many immigrants by streaming a student into the technical courses and ruling out university at a point where the student and his parents do not know what he wants to do due to language and cultural barriers.

In addition to attracting more working class people to attend university Laxer said it was also necessary to provide jobs for graduates. "A branch plant economy" he said "means there is little research and development going on in Canada and thus little

opportunity for people with creative skills."

Money for such a program could be provided by increasing corporate taxes by 1 per cent by reducing \$65 million in corporate welfare and increasing taxes on the mining and transportation industries. Eastman said "mining pays only one tenth in taxes compared to what other industrial sectors pay."



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