

Excalibur

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OMB ok's track, long wait ended

By JAMES BRENNAN

The Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) has approved plans to build a \$2.5 million indoor-outdoor track and field complex at York University. The OMB's approval came last Thursday after a public hearing in which the three 'objectors' to the scheme failed to appear.

Following testimony by Metro Parks Commissioner Thomas Thompson and former York physical education and athletics director Bryce Taylor, the two members OMB panel approved the plans but "held issue of the order" (conditional approval) until they are in possession of the Metro-York University agreement.

York president Ian Macdonald said he was delighted with the decision. "It's been a difficult process of political negotiations."

The yet to be signed agreement between York and Metro calls for a six-lane 200 meter indoor track including shot put, pole vault and long-jump areas, and a eight-lane 400 meter outdoor track with a throwing paddock to accommodate javelin, shot-hammer and discus events. The facility is to be shared by York students and Metro amateur athletes. City athletes will have access to the complex 65 per cent of the time and students the remainder.

The university has tentatively been granted access to the facilities between 9:00 am and 3:00 pm week-

days during the academic year plus 3 additional Saturday. They will also be able to negotiate for additional access time for special events. The OTFA will have access to the facilities during the other times.

No capital investment for the complex will be required by York, though the university and Metro will share the estimated \$140,000 annual operating costs, and York will provide ten acres of land considered to be worth about \$900,000.

President Macdonald told Excalibur York's share of the operating costs will probably come from the budget of the Physical Education department, the Financial Campaign Fund and indirect revenue coming from summer meets (i.e. residence charges, parking etc). The university is also presently seeking funds from federal and provincial governments to supplement the capital and operating costs. "There is also the expectation that this long overdue addition to the Physical Education department will equip us to handle more students".

Signing of the Metro-York agreement is now considered a formality since previously the only obstacle preventing the signing had been OMB approval. Likewise, OMB approval is conditional upon the signing of the Metro-York agreement.

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Danny Lam photo

Several bundles of the OFS publication, Ontario Student, and the NUS newspaper, Student Advocate, were seen last Monday collecting dust in the CYSF offices. The papers had been setting there for more than two weeks. The next day, however, the papers were distributed following an enquiry made by a York member.

Profs give support but won't walk out on October 14, five other unions still undecided over day of protest

By ALICE KLEIN

The executive of York's Faculty Association (YUFA) decided Monday to endorse the upcoming National Day of Protest against wage controls though they won't be urging professors to stay out of the classrooms that day.

According to Jack Granatstein, president of YUFA, "there was a unanimous feeling (in the executive) of opposition to the Anti-Inflation Board (AIB) and all its words but walking out was not considered appropriate."

Instead, faculty members are being asked to attend the October 7 meeting, featuring Grace Hartman head of the Canadian Union of Public Employees of (CUPE) speaking against the wage controls. In addition, a newsletter will be distributed among the faculty which will contain a tear-off petition to be sent to Prime Minister Trudeau voicing opposition to the wage controls.

No vote of the general membership of YUFA will take place since the present constitution of YUFA contains no provision for a strike vote. "We were caught with our constitutional pants down", Granatstein explained.

The YUFA executive considers their decision a representative one though there are many different feelings among the faculty. Philosophy professor John Yolten, one of the few faculty members who has refused to join YUFA, reacted to the executive's position saying, "it doesn't seem to me to be what we, as academics, should be doing. We're here to teach and learn, we

shouldn't be involved in politics. But at least they aren't calling for strike action."

Professor Stephen Levine of the Social Science department wouldn't comment on the union position since he had not seen it in writing. But he said, "I personally support the Day of Protest and will not work. I will recommend that my colleagues join me in participating fully in the Day of Protest."

Bill Small, York's Administrative Vice President was asked what the administration's response to the participation of sectors of the York community in the October 14 Day of Protest. He said should the teaching staff decide not to work, "it would have a much greater adverse effect on students" than would CUPE.

"CUPE, not to belittle them, have little effect," he said.

Commenting on the YUFA decision not to walk-out but to endorse the Day of Protest, he said, "it seems left-handed to endorse it and yet not do anything. The university has been adversely affected by rampant inflation. While nobody thinks the controls are really working, nobody seems to be raising any positive alternatives."

Small explained there are seven unions on campus, "The university isn't going to respond to the individual unit, it was the total community we would have to respond to. We are taking the view that people have obligations and we expect them to respect them. There

is a no strike clause in the CUPE contract."

Small also denied CUPE had decided not to work on October 14. He said information in last week's Excalibur was inaccurate and that CUPE's vote would be held later this week.

Norm Noddle, vice president of the York CUPE local, 1356,

however, explained "the decision of the September 14 membership meeting (to participate in the Day of Protest by not working) stands and is on the rolls. There will be a meeting between now and the Day of Protest where those who didn't attend the meeting will be given the opportunity to voice their opinions, though the meeting has not been

called for that specific purpose."

The Graduate Assistants Association (GAA) is also in the process of discussing October 14 on the departmental level. They will be voting on their participation on Tuesday, October 5 at noon, the same day the York University Staff Association will consider their action.

BOG publishes synopsis for the public, meetings still held behind closed doors

By KIM LLEWELLYN

The York Board of Governors has, for the first time, softened their policy of secrecy maintained since York's origins and asked Communications Director Stan Fisher to write a synopsis of their meetings.

The York Board of Governors, except for that at Queen's, is the only board in Ontario that still holds meetings closed to the public and the press. The board also keeps the minutes of each meeting secret.

The change of policy came about after the question of closed meetings was raised by student board representatives, Jay Bell and Shelley Rabinovitch.

Fisher was invited by Board chairman, Bernard Gerstein, to sit in on the Board's monthly meetings for the purpose of providing a synopsis for the Gazette, the York administration's newsletter.

Although the Board of Governors is comprised of his employers, Fisher doesn't feel he will face any pressure or censorship with regard to the publications. He does, however, discuss the content of the synopsis with President Ian Macdonald before it is printed.

The Board of Governors, responsible for the management of York University, is the most powerful body on campus. It has the power, upon recommendation of the president, to appoint, promote, and remove all members of the teaching administrative staff. In consultation with the Senate it is also responsible for selecting the university president.

The Board also approves the university's budget and financing.

"It should be possible to establish an open format which will provide the access to information that is essential in a free society without

interfering with those areas which must remain confidential," says Jay Bell.

According to board members it is important some matters discussed by the Board be confidential. These include matters of personnel, collective bargaining negotiations, and donations to the university which donors wish to announce themselves. The board also prefers not to make public projects such as the new York tennis facility until affairs are finalized.

When asked to comment, Bernard Gerstein said open meetings "would inhibit the personal opinions of members of the board."

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