



# Federal cutbacks to York-based women's magazine

by Ira Nayman

Imagine a magazine that deals with a variety of women's issues, including women and literacy, women and the media, women working for peace and violence against women. It would have a mixture of scholarly articles and first person accounts from non-academics, especially marginalized women like natives or Russians.

While we're dreaming, let's make the publication bilingual. Each issue would have a theme, and would have guest editors knowledgeable on the subject; decisions would be made on a collective basis. It should be a handsome publication, well illustrated, written for both academic and general readers.

As it happens, such a magazine already exists. *The Canadian Woman Studies Journal/Les Cahiers de la Femme* has published

for nine years, most of them out of York University.

Now, imagine that this publication no longer exists, because, owing to federal cutbacks to the Women's Programme of the Secretary of State, that may soon be the case.

"We have enough money left from sales and subscriptions to keep us going, probably, to the end of August . . . after that, we don't know," said Jane Springer, current Managing Editor of the *CWS/CF*. "Unless we get new funding, [we may be] out of business."

In February, the federal government announced cuts of \$1.6 million to the Women's Programme, including \$194,000 cut from the budgets of three publications (the *CWS/CF*, *Healthsharing* and *Resources for Feminist Research*). Under pressure from feminist groups across the country, funding for women's centres

was reinstated for a year, but money for the magazines was not.

Thus, 45 per cent of the *CWS/CF*'s budget (\$90,000 out of \$200,000) has disappeared.

According to Springer, the federal government advised members of the magazine's editorial board to seek alternate sources of funding to make up the shortfall. "We have sales and subscriptions — it's not like that's our only source of revenue," she said. (*CWS/CF* has a circulation of 9,000, 500 of which was gained in the past year.)

"We also fundraise for particular issues," Springer added. For the latest issue, for instance, on women and housing, *CWS/CF* approached the Ontario Ministry of Housing for additional money. But, Springer did not believe this was the answer: "We really need those operating funds to have a sustained life."

On April 26, York President

Harry Arthurs wrote Secretary of State Gary Weiner asking that funding be made available for *CWS/CF* until it could find enough money to ensure its survival. "*Canadian Woman Studies/Les Cahiers de la Femme* is a unique and high-quality publication with a worldwide reputation," Arthurs wrote. "It operates in a thro-

roughly professional manner on what are, after all, very limited resources. Surely the government would not wish to see this publication disappear without giving it a chance to become self-sustaining . . ."

The government cut back funding to the women's groups pleading fiscal restraint, but Springer does not believe it. "The money they took from us was \$1.6 million . . . it's such a piddling amount of money in their overall budget," she remarked. "They are political cuts. Definitely. There's no doubt in my mind."

Representatives of the affected publications have been trying to meet with Weiner, with no success; a meeting scheduled for last week was cancelled. "We've been trying to meet with him for two months — he obviously doesn't want to talk to us," Springer said.

A national day of protest will be held on June 12.



graphic from Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres

*You're under cardiac arrest:*

## The smoke's on you

by Sophie Robov

A new smoking policy for York University is in the works for the fall which could leave smokers on campus fuming. Among the options under discussion is handing out tickets to smokers who light up in non-smoking areas.

As a result of the Smoking in the Workplace Act which came into effect earlier this year, York has been obligated to revise its present smoking policy in order to meet the requirements of this new government legislation. The Act provides a concrete outline for what can be designated as a smoking zone. Consequently, current smoking areas will have to be checked again, and those that do not meet the new criteria for space and ventilation will have to be altered or become non-smoking zones.

According to CYSF Vice-President (Internal) Caroline Winship, York's present smoking policy is "half-hearted," as it presents the community with regulations but doesn't back them up with effective methods of enforcement. She revealed that many students are in favour of a revised policy. They are aware of the dangers of second-hand smoke and feel it necessary to reduce the risk of exposure. Conversely, she feels that suggested options, such as the banning of tobacco products on campus, are "too rigid" and will make smokers feel victimized.

emphasized that, although there has been discussion of "written or verbal cautions," including notifying the offender's superiors, nothing has yet been finalized. He

Pond said that the Presidential Committee on Smoking is examining smoking policies from other post-secondary institutions, including Brock and George



graphic by Brett Lamb

pointed out that enforcing any smoking policy is "a community function," not just the responsibility of one group.

Brown. Although some aspects of these policies may not necessarily represent viable alternatives for York itself, they will still be used as a check-list and to assist with wording York's own policy.

Winship, who is also a member of the Publicity and Education Sub-Committee, stressed that implementing the new policy must not be handled in a confrontational or vigilante-like manner. The Sub-Committee is looking for promotional ideas on how to present a new policy to the students. Winship added that "students are people too," and that they must be presented with "an intelligent game plan."

### York security may be handing out tickets to offenders

One possible method of action being considered for York's revised smoking policy is the handing out of tickets to offenders.

There is, however, some opposition to this idea. Eric Pond, Assistant Director of Security,

Union members are also reluctant to confront offenders with written warnings, in case they react violently. According to Pond, advertising the policy in the months before its implementation would increase awareness and prevent any such incidents.



York Provost Liz Hopkins led a spirited 15-minute romp around Stong Pond on May 30, finishing at Tait-McKenzie. More than 200 walkers were rejoicing in their physically healthy lifestyles as part of Participation Day.

photo by Peter Stathis

## More bread for the butter

by Peter Stathis

CHRY, North York's community radio station, has received a \$30,000 donation from the Canadian Secretary of State.

The federal grant was the first of its kind to an alternative radio station. It was especially prominent considering the Secretary of State has quite recently cut funding to women's groups and native media.

The large cheque was given to CHRY to fund current affairs programming, specifically a new programme called *Bread and Butter*, which airs at 12:15 pm Monday to Friday.

CHRY station manager Dani Zaretsky said *Bread and Butter* is a community access programme which should "generate attention on issues and groups that are underrepresented in the mainstream media." The show involves

people from the campus and Toronto community at large discussing subjects of interest. Zaretsky mentioned programme concepts that included the disabled, foreign students, racial discrimination, sexual harassment, and the role of student journalism.

Current affairs co-ordinator Levinia Lanza remains the key figure in obtaining CHRY's grant and instituting the *Bread and Butter* programme. She first approached the State office during the summer of 1989 and had a final proposal ready by December of the same year. The grant cheque arrived at the end of March 1990. Lanza is ultimately responsible for ensuring the programme gets on air. She manages the staff who volunteer as producers; recruits speakers for the discussions; and acts as the CHRY contact for people's ideas and critical input for future shows.