

Free school

Students would organize courses

By SHELLEY COOPERSMITH

Some York students are taking the first steps towards initiating a free educational community this autumn. The idea has been tossed around and discussed casually for a couple of months and this Tuesday at noon there will be a meeting in Room 291 Behavioural Sciences Building for anyone interested.

The basic idea is to establish a community in which students get together and hire people from various backgrounds to give lectures, seminars or more experience-oriented demonstrations on topics which interest them.

The students initiate and organize the courses according to their interests and seek resource people in the community.

At present the framework is loose and flexible. Ron Freedman, one of the organizers, says, "We feel it is feasible, practical and

economically viable. A minimum of 10 people committed to the project is all we require to get it off the ground."

In many respects the project is an application of the ideas presented by York professor David Bakan in his Plan for a College.

According to Jay Fukakusa, another organizer, accreditation will consist of "a descriptive summary of the student's involvement in the course, written and signed by the resource person. This record could be kept in a central registry for the student's future use (e.g. in applying for jobs) or personal reference."

Since the number of participants in each course will probably be small, facilities should be easy to find. The groups could get together at any mutually agreeable place.

How much would such a personalized, unstructured education cost? Surprisingly, it should work out to be less expensive than university.

Freedman figures that "a student could take five courses for \$500, at \$100 for each course. And that's the maximum cost, assuming a minimum number of 10

participants per course. Fees would diminish proportionately with increasing numbers of students.

"In addition, there are all kinds of financial resources which we have not begun to tap."

The ideas for this community sprang to life two weeks ago when Fukakusa and Freedman attended the lecture at Osgoode Hall by noted educational philosopher Ivan Illick, who advocates the abolition of institutionalized education.

"Ron and I were deeply impressed with Illick's talk," Fukakusa said, "but we felt the major drawback was that the audience and most people attending university would be unwilling to leave the institution and get an education elsewhere."

"Our idea is to leave and use the resources of Metropolitan Toronto creatively. It's about time we got out of these boxes and opened the cubby-holes of our minds."

Anyone interested in this ongoing learning and growing experience can find out where it's at in Room 249 in the Behavioural Science Building.

RYFM initiates inter-college radio network

Radio York's new broadcasting facilities could boast the centre for a College University Broadcasting System in about 18 months.

Initiated by Radio York, the idea involves the setting up of a microwave communications network between college radio stations.

CUBS would enable live voice news reports from any station hooked into it.

Jamieson criticizes industry on pollution

Federal Transport Minister Donald Jamieson criticized the Canadian transport industry last Friday for being "quite irresponsible regarding pollution" and he said he planned to invite the industry to help him cope with the problem.

Jamieson told a conference at York he wants to form within a month a joint government-business study group to advise him directly on pollution caused by the transportation industry.

"I would not have moved so

quickly except for the pollution disaster caused when about one million gallons of oil spilled from the tanker Arrow off the Nova Scotia coast last month," he said.

He said Imperial Oil Ltd., which leased the tanker, should have developed emergency procedures to handle such emergencies.

"Anyone engaged in the business of transporting large quantities of oil just off-shore should have asked himself a long time ago what are we going to do if a disaster occurs," he said.

Jamieson said he will ask the study group to determine what can be done to combat pollution disasters and to examine the whole impact of the transportation industry on environmental pollution.

Girls' sick leave same as men's

WASHINGTON (LNS) — The U.S. Labor Department has released a report which shows that women lose no more time from their jobs than men — including time lost for pregnancy and childbirth.

Where men and women are in similar levels of employment, the report says, they have similar rates of absenteeism, job tenure and mobility.

ISLE OF DOGS QUILTS EMPIRE

ISLE OF DOGS (LNS) — The Isle of Dogs, a peninsula community that juts out from London into the River Thames, has seceded from the British empire. It is believed that the noisy hounds of Greenwich Palace were imprisoned on the isle during the 16th and 17th centuries, to give respite to the beleaguered ears of the king. Life apparently isn't much better for the people who inhabit the isle these days, beset by deteriorating schools and housing facilities. The rebels have already designed their standard: two spaniels rampant on a sea of civil servants.

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