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Purple Paper protest suffers low turnout

by Michele Greene

Few people turned out for a February 5 open forum on the quality of student life at York. The forum was part of the mandate of *The Purple Paper*, which is being prepared by Vanier College Council president Kate Collins.

The aim of *The Purple Paper* is to assemble all the small protests on campus into one, which would have a greater impact when presented to the administration, said Collins. The paper addresses concerns ranging from safety and security to food and housing to student representation on committees.

"The York administration has no idea how students feel," said Collins. The forum was planned to find that out and to discover if the main problems boil down to underfunding or if something else is being overlooked. She had also hoped to get others' ideas on what approach to take and suggestions on what should be included.

A shortage of advertising may have been responsible for the poor turnout. Besides advertising in *Excalibur*, Collins was only able to advertise with posters during the day of the forum, a Monday. Posted earlier, they would have been victims of the "Sunday rip-down" of posters, explained Collins.

No other college council presidents were at the forum, but Collins was neither surprised nor disappointed. The presidents, she said, were aware of the paper in November when the mandate was prepared, so it is "old news" for

them. They have been helpful, Collins said, in committing people to prepare the document that will be presented to the administration.

Collins wants this to be an "apolitical" movement by students-at-large with little intervention of student politicians. Otherwise, she is afraid the document will be regarded as "student government up to its antics," and taken less seriously by the administration.

Collins said she has received positive response to the paper from most of the colleges. However, Atkinson and Osgoode, she said, are apprehensive about participating in central student government initiatives since they are only associate members of the CYSF. No college presidents were available for comment.

Collins hopes the document will be ready for presentation to the administration by the March CYSF elections, although she realizes this may be impossible. She fears it may be delayed over the summer but wants it to continue next year if this happens. She is planning to hold forum soon in Central Square to make people more aware of *The Purple Paper*.

Also, she acknowledges that this is a bad time of the year for such a project, as opposed to the fall. Now, she believes, CYSF candidates, more concerned with improving their public images before the elections than the paper itself, will volunteer.

Collins herself indicated she is considering to run for CYSF president and will decide after Reading Week.



Jason Schwartz

Oh yeah? Well, pump this up, pal: One of Osgoode's finest participates in the Mock Trial held last week.

CYSF to be partner in used bookstore

by Heather Ratteray

The CYSF has formed a partnership with Discount Textbook Stores (DTS) after plans by the CYSF to operate a used book store in the Student Centre on its own were rejected by the Student Centre Corporation (SCC).

The CYSF's proposal for a solo business venture was dismissed because of a lack of experience, according to the SCC.

SCC business manager Lee Wiggins said, "It was decided that the best way to minimize risk would be a joint venture between the CYSF and the DTS, a small used bookstore company. It was felt the DTS had the specific experience for this endeavour. Because the CYSF was so eager to develop its business expertise, it was decided that the best solu-

tion would be a partnership."

The CYSF-DTS company will be in direct competition with York's bookstore in Central Square. Profits will be evenly split between both parties as will financing — approximately \$14,000 of which the CYSF will have to pay. Rental costs for the bookstore's home for the next five years will be \$15,000 plus 8 per cent of gross revenue. At the end of the five years, the CYSF will be given the option to continue working alone.

"We'll be selling both new and used books," said CYSF President Peter Donato, "and they'll be five to 10 per cent cheaper than those sold in the bookstore already on campus. We'll be buying them from book suppliers as well as students."

It is because of their intended sales practices that some CYSF

members feel their proposal was rejected, said Donato. CYSF business manager Jennifer Smith said, "The SCC liked the DTS's bookstore inventory idea. It was more service oriented. But we just didn't have the \$100,000 or so necessary to buy books in bulk."

"We decided to follow the Western University student model of a used bookstore," said last year's CYSF president Tammy Hasselheldt, under whose office the proposal began. "Students would bring in books and charge the store however much they felt they should get. The CYSF would add on overhead and, two or three times during the year, we were to write cheques to those students whose books we had managed to sell."

"We also thought the bookstore itself could buy books. This would mean money going back into

York. The council was very supportive and set aside \$20,000 for that purpose. However, the SCC didn't like us giving out money only two or three times a year."

Said Hasselheldt, "It personally hurts. We worked a long time but the SCC liked the other presentation better. With a joint venture, we'll be forced to use the other guy's methods and contacts. We'd only provide a legitimizing factor for his being on campus and it would probably end with CYSF not being allowed to get involved enough to take over. It's particularly upsetting because the CYSF was instrumental in the coming about of the Student Centre."

The CYSF is willing to give the business a try. Said Smith, "It's either we work and gain experience through the partnership or we don't work at all. We plan to be involved indefinitely."

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