

Reassess student center

Editor:

I would like to use this space to voice my opposition to the student centre referendum and to point out the underlying implications of which the casual observer might not be aware. The single most important aspect of this referendum is that a yes vote will commit full-time students to a \$50 surcharge on their tuition fee.

Yes, this referendum does allow the committee to charge up to \$50 above our normal tuition fee! It is certainly not clear in the wording of the referendum that this is the nature of the mandate they seek. The basis of my objection to the current proposal lies in this hidden agenda and its implications.

Furthermore, I cannot endorse a

charge on tuition of up to \$50 annually for an ill-defined project in the environment of fiscal restraint. Such an endorsement would only weaken the university students' already weak position in opposition to the spirit of the Bovey Commission. It would be difficult to launch a credible campaign against higher tuition fees after voting to raise them by such a significant sum as \$50, for our own purposes.

It is important to note, also, that no other avenues of funding have been explored. As it is currently envisaged, the student centre would be totally student financed. This is not to deny that the committee intends to explore other funding possibilities, but committing students to paying the full cost initially, weakens our chances in tapping private and public funding sources.

No other student centre has relied on student funding to this extent. I

am not prepared to pay an unprecedented amount of money for a building which might be used to house services for which the university is currently responsible, such as the Daycare Centre, Legal aid, the Career Centre and Health Services. The students must be careful not to subsidize the administration's expenses in this manner.

My objections to this referendum are many (such as lack of consultation with student governments and the students, the extremely short period from notification of the referendum to voting days, and, unlimited campaign expenses for the yes-side). But I wish to emphasize this single point that this referendum will enable "the powers that be" to charge an extra \$50 on a full-time student's tuition fee, at any time in the future. Students entering the university under such a system of levies would put \$200 into a structure they might not see completed during their four years at York.

Be advised that this is the nature of the commitment implied in this referendum. Voting no does not constitute opposition to a student centre (who could oppose a student centre?) Voting no means taking a stand against placing an unprecedented burden on individual students in the financing of such a structure.

-Gay Harley
V.P. Arts

Graduate Student Association

STUDENT CENTRE REFERENDUM

Are you prepared to voluntarily increase your tuition fees by \$50.00 per year on the basis of an incomplete and premature proposal for the construction of a Student Centre? We are not!

VOTE NO

because

- The size of the fee increase cannot be justified, especially in view of other pending increases in tuition fees.
- No other sources of funding for the Centre, aside from student tuition fee increases, have been pursued.
- No guarantees regarding existing student space have been given.
- There is no agreement, with students, colleges, the administration, nor anyone else, on the contents of the building.
- There will not be, if this referendum passes, any future referendum on the question when the facts are known. The only thing that you will decide is to increase your tuition fees.
- There has not been sufficient consultation with students on this project. As it stands, it is impossible to know what a "yes" vote means and what commitment it entails for students.

We applaud the effort and commitment of the Student Centre Steering Committee. We are not opposed in principle to the construction of a Student Centre at York when we know what is involved. However, the terms of the referendum question (or lack thereof) do not warrant the support of York students. We fail to see the need for, or desirability of, a referendum at this point in the process. Given the fact that we are confronted with one we urge you to vote NO. The cost is too high and too much is unknown and unresolved. We are

THE GRADUATE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

On March 11 and 12 you can vote no between 11 am and 7 pm in Central Square, Bethune College, Vanier College, Winters/McLaughlin and Osgoode Hall.

CITYSPHERE: A STUDENT ENVIRONMENT?

Speakers:

- **Joseph Bogdan**
Architect
- **H. Thomas Wilson**
Faculty of Administrative Studies, York University
- **Alex Murray**
Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University
- **Gerda Wekerle**
Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University
- **Zoran Samac**
Law student at Osgoode Hall Law School

Moderator:

- **George Victor Doxey**
Professor Economics and Master of McLaughlin College

Junior Common Room, McLaughlin College
March 12, 1985
3:00 - 5:00 pm

Jointly sponsored by McLaughlin College and the
Centre for Research on Environmental Quality, York University

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excal-types!

the screening of candidates for the position of editor (85/86) will take place **thursday, Mar. 14** excal offices 2:00 p.m. **only those staffers who attend or listen to a recording of the screening will be allowed to vote.**

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