

NEWS DIGEST

Volunteer Centre recruits students

By PETER MERRICK

"Volunteer work is viewed by employers as an indication of an applicant's community spirit," reads the slogan that the Volunteer Centre has posted up all over York's main campus.

In September, 1986 the Centre opened its doors to recruit both York students and faculty members alike. The main function of this organization is to help fulfill Metro Toronto's 500 centres that need volunteers to make them more efficient.

The Volunteer Centre has access to a variety of positions such as reading to a child, editing a newsletter, serving as a board member, teaching your favourite hobby and much more. Volunteers can choose where they wish to help, says Angela Goodwin, a coordinator of the Centre.

Funding for this organization comes from Student Affairs, CYSF, the United Way and various colleges on campus. The Centre currently has 250 volunteers at various organizations throughout Metro.

The Centre also offers volunteer positions both off and on campus. If you are interested in volunteering your time and expertise, the Volunteer Centre is located at 112 Central Square.

Bill promises housing help

By LIDIA CABRAL

Need a place to live? If the Ontario Federation of Students (OFS) is successful in pressuring the government to pass Bill C-94, you and your friends will find it easier to live in a house together.

Under the present exclusionary by-laws in North York, no more than three unrelated people are allowed to live together in a single family dwelling. Sheena Weir, President of OFS, says that if Bill C-94 is passed, it will eliminate exclusionary

housing by-laws throughout the province. Weir believes that this would help the housing shortage at York, by allowing a greater number of students to share accommodation.

However, according to Cora Dusk, Director of Students Affairs, eliminating exclusionary housing by-laws is not the definitive solution to the housing problems at York. An increase in the number of student residence buildings along with the issuance of interest free loans for housing is seen by Dusk as part of the long-term solution to the problem.

Although OFS is optimistic that Bill C-94 will be passed, Weir states that the upcoming negotiations with the government are a critical point in determining the future of the bill and ultimately the future of student housing in Ontario.

Women attack Free Trade deal

By JAMES FLAGAL

With a focus on racism, sexism and economic inequality, women across Metropolitan Toronto will be coming together this Saturday to celebrate International Women's Day.

The day actually takes place on Tuesday March 8, but usually the main events are held on the Saturday of that week in order to allow women of all walks of life to participate.

According to Susan Prentice, a member of the CUEW women caucus (the Canadian Union of Educational Workers is the union of TA's and part-time faculty) and Women Against Free Trade, the economic inequality dimension of the day's activities will focus on two issues. First of all, the barriers which women currently face in the workplace, and second how free trade will adversely affect women.

Prentice says that without such things as universal childcare in Canada, many women are prevented from leaving the home and going out to get jobs. Also, the need for more retraining programmes and standards of equal work for equal value in the workplace will also be addressed.

"The free trade deal is a lousy deal for Canadians and especially for women," says Prentice. Government reports show that over half a million jobs will be re-allocated as a result of the deal. According to Prentice, most of the job sectors that will suffer employ primarily women. She uses the garment industry as an example, and points out that a recent provincial study says that over 100,000 women will lose their jobs as a result of free trade.

"The free trade deal is about bringing in Reaganomics in the back door of Canada," explains Prentice. The deal will affect a variety of social services, she says. For instance, while Canada is "light years ahead of the US in establishing a universal day-care system, this kind of programme could be eliminated as a result of the deal," she says. Few are aware of the fact that US government officials have already said that they think Canada's Unemployment Insurance Programme is an unfair business practice.

Prentice also says that the deal could result in a lot of anti-labour legislation in Canada. In Canada, about 40% of our workforce is unionized while in the US that figure is only 18%. The government will never tolerate these unions who fight for concessions out of business and better working conditions, says Prentice.

Racism, Prentice explains, is a theme which feminism simply ignored for too long. "It's a legitimate criticism of the movement," she says, "that feminism was never attentive to women of colour." Through this racial awareness, the movement is attempting to broaden its base, Prentice says.

Activities for Saturday begin at 10:00 am at UofT's Convocation Hall where a rally will take place. The rally will then turn into a march to Ryerson's Jorgenson's Hall at 12:30 pm. At 2:00, a fair will begin at the hall with a number of groups which will have displays and tables set up with representatives. CUEW's women's caucus will also have a table. "It's the most stimulating activity of the day, involving a lot of entertainment and an exchanges of ideas," says Prentice.

The day will end with a women's dance at 9:00 pm at the Concert Hall.

Tickets can be obtained at SCM Books, Glad Books and other locations. For details, call the UofT Women's Centre at 978-8201 or visit the York Women's Centre

Does student exist after laundry mishap?

By ELIZABETH CROTHERS

Doing laundry is pretty much like going to the bookstore zoo during the first three weeks of classes; we all hate it but sooner or later it must be done.

Like many people, I find myself venturing forth to the laundry room with such alarming disinterest that I am too bored to check my pockets for valuable (or invaluable) articles. The way I see it, if it can't survive a wet spin in the washing machine, it's not meant to remain in my possession. I am a firm believer in fate. While I was doing my laundry this weekend, I unknowingly performed an extremely scientific experiment and learned two interesting lessons.

After tossing my dark load into a cold wash cycle, I resumed reading Northrop Frye's *The Secular Scripture* with the same disinterest I displayed towards doing my laundry. When I returned precisely 33 minutes later, I discovered a single dollar bill and a million tiny pieces of shredded paper among the wet items in the washer. I assumed these pieces were the remains of laundered Kleenex.

As I was transferring my clothes to the dryer, I came across a library bar code sticker and immediately realized that since I had not washed a library book, I had just wiped out my entire existence at this university.

Lesson 1: A York University Sessional Validation Card does not hold up in the wash quite as well as Canadian currency, an ironic statement in itself, considering the value of our dollar and the incomparable cost of tuition.

Lesson 2: Liquid Tide, although it can remove ground-in dirt and grime, and destroy student cards, cannot even make a scratch in a York library bar code sticker—a sticker which has proven itself to be much like Rambo—adaptable to any environment and virtually indestructible.

This is not to say, however, that Rambo the bar code would have survived the hot water cycle—it may have melted. The same goes for the

dryer. Maybe I will perform those experiments next, as soon as I have sufficiently resolved the questions I still have about this first experiment.

Question 1: Is there a law in the Scott Library Charter which states that the bar code sticker must be attached to the student card? Can I present my sticker to the staff at the circulation desk if I want to borrow some books, or will I need a new sticker after I have used the soggy dollar bill from the washing machine to purchase a new sessional validation card?

Question 2: If what I think, I am, and I am not what I think I am; and if I think, therefore I am; and if I have a sessional validation card, therefore I am; and if I do not have a sessional validation card, therefore I am not; if I do have Rambo, the bar code sticker, am I or am I not?

Let me explain. Without a sessional validation card, I do not exist, regardless of my ability (or lack thereof) to think. *But*, since one needs a valid student card in order to obtain a library bar code sticker, and since I have that sticker in my possession, the sticker is proof that I did exist at one time. But do I exist now? Maybe I exist in library facilities, and nowhere else on campus.

Now I know how Ollie North must have felt after the infamous shredding party. I have destroyed all concrete evidence of my involvement (in this university) but there are still tiny pieces of documentation to suggest that I am somehow still involved.

Since I lie somewhere between existence and non-existence I cannot resolve this problem of mine; I will leave that to those pub philosophers among you who *do* have sessional validation cards and who, therefore, have no doubt as to their existence.

In the meantime, as I wait for my student card, I have my bar code sticker safely tucked away in my wallet. I don't know why I cannot seem to throw it away. I guess fate is telling me to keep it as some kind of empirical evidence of my time in limbo.

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