

Pass policy statements

## Student council wants open board meetings

The Council of the York Student Federation passed a set of sweeping policy statements Tuesday which included a call for open board of governors meetings, a request for a university commission to examine and alter York's governing structure and an end to course content that serves "to perpetuate the present colonial status" of Canada.

CYSF also voted to place a member on the university court while at the same time expressing disagreement with the philosophy of the Laskin discipline report which was released last year and included as one of its recommendations the formation of such a court.

On open board meetings the statement said, "York cannot possibly hope to foster a sense of community and respect among all

of its members without first committing itself to the basic concept of openness in its decision-making bodies."

The board is "the only university decision-making organization at York which insists on meeting in closed session and keeping private its minutes and records," the statement said.

The council called for a commission on university government in response to the Laskin report which emphasized methods of discipline but did not deal with root causes of university problems.

CYSF requested that York examine "the university's governing structure, its academic programmes, its classroom environment, its place in Canadian society, indeed, that York set as its major goal, the search for solutions to the problem of

alienation in the university.

"Our major purpose at this time should not be the legitimization of a university court that would serve mainly to preserve the values and structures of the present system," the statement said.

The council specifically suggested that York "rather than being dominated by attitudes, research studies and course content that serve to perpetuate the present colonial status of this country to the United States, must develop into a socially responsive community which nourishes a critical but positive understanding of the unique problems and issues pertaining to the creation of an independent socially just Canada."

When deciding to place a member on the university court the council voiced disapproval of the fact that York support staff had not been included on such a body.

They also demanded, contrary to the Laskin report's recommendations, that students, faculty and staff be treated equally by the court.

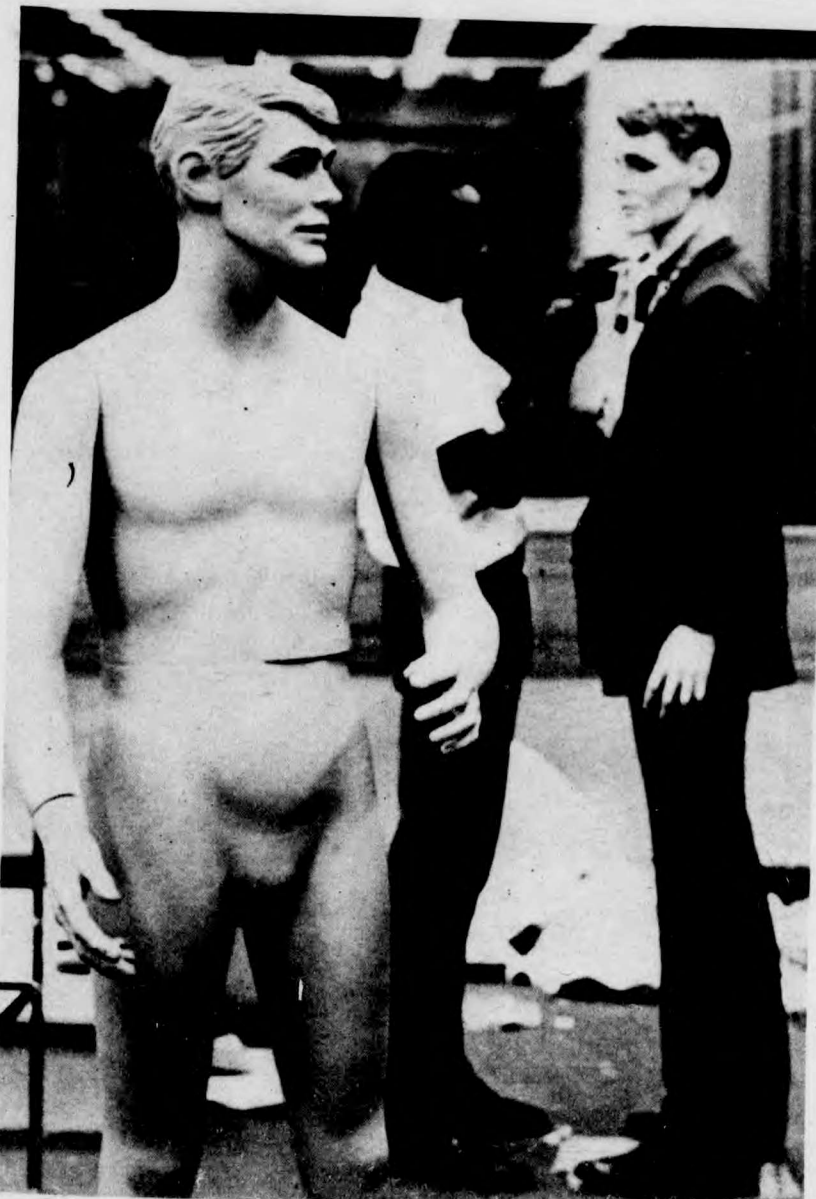
The CYSF statement said York should "recognize the fact that it is a community of many parts, not just faculty and students and therefore, encourage participation from all members of the York community at the decision-making levels those members feel are important."

CYSF charged that presently York is "dominated by a powerful economic and social elite who represent only a small segment of society and wield such important influence and power both inside and outside the educational institution."

"Through the composition of its lay membership, York should attempt to become more representative and responsive to the needs of the majority of people in the lay community."

The council also suggested that York "commit itself to transforming the learning environment from one which allows the professor to dominate the student, to one which fosters equality instead of authoritarianism."

Classroom relationships should be based on "respect instead of intimidation, co-operation instead of competition, involvement and participation instead of cynicism and alienation."



Male statue looks at shoppers paying exorbitant prices in the bookstore and wonders who the real dummies are.

## Transportation to York discussed at citiforum

By PAUL THOMSON

York University's lack of transportation facilities have been termed a disgrace by Colin Vaughan, the Toronto architect who was prominent on the Stop Spadina Committee.

Vaughan was speaking during the session on Urban transportation at Glendon's Citiforum, Saturday.

This lack of good public transport, he said, forces students, a segment of society least able to afford it, into "a car use pattern".

Planners should have foreseen the need for a public transport line from the centre of the city to service Yorkdale, York, Humber College and the airport.

But instead he said, the way we look at things results in Sam Cass, Metro's Commissioner of Roads, looking at all the traffic going to the north-west end of the city and declaring: "We need another road".

The basic problem, Vaughan felt, is that there is no attempt made to relate transportation to lifestyles or to what human beings want.

Instead, interests like GM and the oil companies manipulate and dictate the sort of solution we will get. "Nobody asked us how we really want to live," he declared.

Fred Schindeler, a North York alderman and professor at York, said he found himself in a dilemma as an academic trying to take the long view and a politician listening to the interests of his constituents.

The Spadina expressway controversy was one of conflicting interests between uptowners and downtowners, both of whom he felt were wrong.

He proposed a "Mackenzie King solution" to the problem. The expressway should be completed to St. Clair or "some other logical terminus," but the rapid transit system should be opened first to try to break the car use pattern.

Further, he said, a thorough study should be made of transportation needs in the city.

Schindeler said his solution "won't get me headlines, but won't lose me any votes either".

He called the TTC completely

irresponsible because the politicians and people have little opportunity to talk to the commissioners. There is "crisis planning" in Toronto he said, in response to pressures from elsewhere.

Martin O'Connell, an MP and parliamentary secretary to the Minister of Regional and Economic Expansion, dealt with the framework for decision making on urban problems. The inputs of the three levels of government must be co-ordinated to devise regional plans.

This cannot be done, he said, without the participation of citizens while the federal government should insist on a regional and multi-purpose approach to urban problems.

O'Connell advocated the public acquisition of large blocks of land for the development of housing and transport so the planning function can be effective. New transportation methods should be financed by the federal government he said.

These experiments should be co-ordinated with such innovations in the U.S., he added.

## Osgoode seeks pass/fail

First year students at Osgoode are challenging the traditional competitive ideology that the law school rests on.

A petition is making the rounds this week that requests the administrative authorities abolish the grade system of marking and replace it with a pass/fail system in first year. Classroom discussions of the idea have indicated that as many as 90 per cent of the students will probably support the idea.

The major reason given for the suggested change is the high degree of destructive competitiveness that has manifested itself in the school.

Particularly in recent weeks students have found that reference books needed for projects many students are working on have a habit of disappearing for days and even weeks.

In some cases important sections are even found to have been cut out of the texts.

Discussing the proposal with his class, John Olah, pointed out that by the time students reach Osgoode they should no longer need competitiveness with others to make them work.

Others in the class talked about the dilemma of having to decide whether or not to share a good article or other piece of research with people who you have to do better than to pass.

Olah's class, section 2, approved the idea by about 90 per cent in a show of hands after the discussion and another group, section 4, was unanimous in a similar show of hands after hearing the idea.

When the written petition has been signed it will be presented to the dean of the school, Gerald LeDain.

## Student effort

### Free legal services being given at York

By JOHN LIVINGSTON

York's Student Defender Programme is now offering free legal aid to members of the York community under what is known as the CYSF programme.

On Wednesdays and Thursdays from 12 to 2 in the Council of the York Student Federation office, there will be representatives of the SDP on hand to give advice and accept cases handled under the programme.

The only qualification is that those soliciting legal aid be members of the York community — faculty, staff or student.

The CYSF programme is only a subdivision of the SDP in that it is limited to members of the York community. The SDP itself, however, is open to anyone who has not been able to obtain a legal aid certificate from the Ontario Legal Aid Office.

Paul Shapiro, director of York's Student Defender Programme explained legal aid and its relationship to the SDP.

At the downtown office, the legal aid applicant is interviewed first by a lawyer who determines, by the nature of the case, the need for legal aid. Usually all criminal cases are accepted as well as many civil disputes.

Once the applicant has met the legal qualification for aid, he is then interviewed by a welfare officer who determines his financial need.

If the applicant is under 21 and is not self-supporting, he is evaluated according to the financial situation of his parents.

If the applicant is considered in

need of legal aid by both the lawyer and welfare officer, he is issued a legal aid certificate with which he can approach any lawyer in the province.

The lawyer can either accept or reject the case, (most accept), and the fee is paid by the Legal Aid Office.

A partial certificate can also be issued stating that the client is capable of paying a predetermined percentage of the lawyer's fee.

Once an applicant for legal aid has been unsuccessful downtown, he can then approach a representative of the Student Defender Programme and have his case looked into.

Student defender cases usually involve minor offenses that are concerned with small amounts of money.

Once the case has been accepted under the SDP it is then given to a law student who acts as counsel.

York's Student Defender Office has handled 155 cases since September 14, and usually receives six or seven new cases each day.

The Student Defender Office is located in Room 116, Osgoode and is open from 12 to 4, five days a week. The telephone number is 635-3141 or 3142.

## Student council

The Council of the York Student Federation voted Tuesday to support psychology student Howard Halpern in his attempt to take his six courses on a credit/non credit basis as opposed to letter grades.

CYSF urged the faculty of arts Committee on Applications and Memorials to reconsider their rejection of Halpern's request.