



Essay Prize Winners: Four students from the faculty of arts received \$450 cheques for writing the best essays last year. The students are Sean Fraser, Jane Manley, Robert Abrahams and Mark Silverberg.

Participation in MESA improves York's reputation

by Theresa Vaz

York University co-hosted the 1989 annual meeting of the Middle East Studies Association of North America (MESA) November 15 to 17, along with the University of Toronto's department of Middle East and Islamic Studies and the Royal Ontario Museum.

MESA, an international association, estimated that over 2,000 experts on the Middle East from Europe, North America and the Middle East attended.

The two-and-a-half day event consisted of book exhibits, film festivals and panel discussions. A major topic of discussion was the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Other topics discussed were: the Palestinian uprising and the baggage of ideology, Middle East peace prospects and obstacles, continuity and change in Israeli thinking about the Israeli-

Palestinian conflict, Palestinian politics and protest, and Israel and her neighbours.

Those involved with the committees and panel discussions from York included political science professor David Goldberg, film and video librarian Kathy Elder, anthropology professor Malcolm Blincow and chair of the anthropology department Gustav Thais. Thais initiated York's role as co-host and brought it before the dean of the faculty of arts for approval and financial backing.

As co-host, York gave partial financial support and took part in the details of organization. Thais said acknowledgement of York as a co-host will improve its reputation in front of an international organization. He said, "Toronto is a great place for a conference, and hopefully York will be considered as a choice for other organizations."

Students can renew books by phone

by Karen Sugar

York students can now renew books over the phone.

A new telephone renewal system implemented on November 10 allows students to renew books from the five York Libraries: Scott, Frost, Steacie and Government Documents/Administrative Studies.

The renewal system is available for items that have not been

requested by another borrower, items being renewed within 48 hours of the due date or upon receipt of an alert notice, items that are not overdue, and items that have not been renewed more than three times. For extended loans there is only a one time renewal.

Toni Olshen, associate director of York University libraries, said the service was implemented, "to cut down the lines at the user desk."

There is only one phone line available to students in order to avoid back-up. As well, there is a 10 item limit per student per day.

The \$40,000 cost of the service, including staffing and telephone equipment, was provided by York's Strategic Priorities Development Fund.

There will be 16 people trained to handle the telephone service, said Olshen. If and when more money becomes available, more

staff members will be trained.

In the first week of operation there were over 100 callers a day. Olshen said the callers were pleased with the service.

"We should see less congestion at the circulation desk very soon," said Olshen.

The number to call, seven days a week is 736-5760. Hours of operation are Monday to Friday from 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Saturday 11 a.m.-3 p.m. and Sunday from 1-5 p.m.

Correction

Excalibur incorrectly identified the dean of fine arts in the article, "No \$ for new furniture," in last week's issue. Joy Cohnstadt is the dean of fine arts.

Also, the artwork for the article "A real class clown" was done by Ann Barry.

RISK

New Trojan-Enz[®] with Spermicide helps reduce it.

Now you can reduce the risk of sexually transmitted diseases with new Trojan-Enz[®] Condoms with Spermicidal Lubricant. We've added Nonoxynol-9 spermicide to our quality condoms, so you can be confident about protection.

Use new Trojan-Enz[®] with Spermicide. And don't take risks with love.

While no contraceptive provides 100% protection, Trojan[®] brand condoms when used properly are highly effective against pregnancy. When properly used, Trojan[®] brand condoms can also aid in reducing the risk of spreading sexually transmitted diseases (STD).

® Registered Trademark

