

Referendum to determine if CYSF stays with CFS

By ELLIOTT SHIFF

Sometime next year York students will vote in a campus referendum to decide whether York will remain in the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS).

In October 1981 the National Union of Students (NUS) amalgamated with the Association of Student Councils to form the CFS. York, as a founding member of the NUS, was offered a "prospective" membership in the newly-formed CFS for a membership fee of \$1 per student, or a total of \$10,000, which would remain unchanged for four years. After student referendum would be held to decide whether CYSF would become full members or drop out of the CFS.

York President Chris Summerhayes said at CYSF's October 11 meeting that he will propose that York leave the NUS to which it is still officially connected. Summerhayes also questioned the usefulness of the CFS, saying, "students have to be more aware of what is happening to their money."

York has been paying the \$10,000 fee annually since 1981, according to CYSF budget reports. Had a referendum been called earlier, York could have withdrawn from the CFS, thereby halting payment of the \$10,000 membership. Having pulled out of the CFS, York would have had to wait two years to vote whether to rejoin the CFS as full members, thus saving \$20,000.

CFS Executive Office Diane Flaherty says the upcoming referendum on CFS membership is crucial. If York maintains its ties with the CFS, the \$1 per student charge will be raised to \$7.50.

York may vote not to join the CFS, but still retain membership in the Ontario Federation of Students. The cost of this would be \$3.50 per student.

Money is not the only issue. Summerhayes said he would support the CFS if "the organization does more lobbying at the national level." Flaherty said "it is essential that students belong to the CFS," emphasizing students' need for a strong voice in Ottawa. The CFS provides that voice, she says.

Flaherty explained the CFS has developed a strong political base in Ottawa including close links with the new Secretary of State.

At the end of the year, when the current federal-provincial funding agreement expires, the CFS will be channelling all its efforts into lobbying for more money. "The CFS is well known in Ottawa and we need all the support we can get," said Flaherty.

With the Bovey Commission suggesting universities cut their budgets and the federal government indicating their unwillingness to maintain their current support (which is 60 percent of university funding) the universities could be heading for a severe financial crisis.

The CFS is the only group that speaks for the students on a national level, and, according to Flaherty, "students will be selling themselves short" if they vote not to remain part of the CFS.



FERNANDO VIOLANTE

On his way to cover York's Soccer Yeomen, *Excalibur's* photographer Fernando Violante spotted this herd of ducks swimming on Stong Pond.

TA group opposes CUEW strike

By LAURA LUSH
and GARY SYMONS

A group of three York teaching assistants (TAs) concerned about the potential loss of wages if their union, the Canadian Union of Educational Workers (CUEW), goes on strike launched a poster campaign against the CUEW executive committee in the first two weeks of September.

Anti-strike posters were put up around campus beginning the first week of classes, asking the 500 union TAs, "Can you afford to strike?"

The TAs requested that they remain anonymous because of "the possible ramifications," of having their names published.

The group of TAs distributing the posters has abandoned its campaign because the course of negotiations "has been pretty well determined," said the group's leader on Tuesday.

The first batch of posters were torn down as soon as they were put up, the TAs told *Excalibur*. "Some guy followed us around tearing down our posters," one of the TAs said. "They were all down within about five minutes."

After the first posters were torn down, the group made up a second poster and distributed it a week later.

One of the TAs said their main concern was that CUEW was not considering the financial difficulties a strike could cause its members.

"Many students are depending on this money to live on," he said. "So what will they live on if they go on strike?"

"There is no security from a strike and financial support (for the TAs) is nonexistent during its duration," the poster reads.

The posters say that teaching assistants at York already receive generous remuneration. "A five percent increase would give teaching assistants \$5,512.50 for 270 hours of work. This represents an effective wage of \$20.42 per hour!" the posters read.

CUEW is asking for a 30 percent wage increase for both teaching assistants and part-time faculty members.

"I think their (CUEW's) demands are a little outlandish," said one of the TAs in early September. "It is impossible to negotiate when one side (CUEW) is at 30 percent and the other (the administration) is at five percent," he added.

A no-board decision was since issued on Sep-

tember 18th after negotiations between CUEW and the administration broke down.

One of the TAs said, "It's almost a privilege getting a teaching assistantship. We get more support than undergraduates. We get support for our graduate studies."

"For ten hours of work a week, we are making about \$18.00 an hour. What kind of person, student or otherwise, makes \$18.00 an hour?" added another TA.

The same TA challenged the logic of a CUEW strike, asking, if many teaching assistants are hired on a one year contractual basis, then "who's going to profit by a strike when we won't even be here?"

One of the group felt a strike would only benefit the part-time faculty staff. "It's slanted towards the lecturers rather than the TAs because of the incorrect facts that CUEW is using on their brochure," said one TA. The CUEW brochure said, using Stats Canada figures, that 55 percent of TAs were living below the poverty line.

The posters said that the poverty line used by CUEW in its brochure is "subject to much interpretation and should be viewed with skepticism." As one of the TAs said, "The figures are misleading because we are students; we are not in the labor market."

The posters also said CUEW's figures for student expenses over the two semester period are inaccurate. "It draws a biased comparison between expenses for 12 months and income for eight months. By adjusting their figures to reflect an eight month period and a five percent wage increase, we find that an average Canadian student enjoys a surplus of \$1,000 a year." The TA also criticized CUEW figures that said expenses like rent would "skyrocket." The only expense that went up drastically was books, said the same TA.

CUEW Chairperson Charles Doyon would not acknowledge the anti-strike posters because they were not signed.

"How can I comment on something that's unsubstantiated," he said. "I don't even know if these people exist."

Doyon said there was a 70 percent vote in favor of a strike from last Tuesday and Wednesday's strike votes. CUEW will go into mediation on October 12. The earliest possible strike date by CUEW could be October 18.

news bits

Here's the deal

By KEN MOORE

Final details of the settlement between the York University Faculty Association (YUFA) and the Board of Governors (BOG) was published last week in the York Bulletin.

Effective May 1, there will be a general three percent pay increase followed by a 2.5 percent Career Progress Increment (CPI) starting July 1, 1984. The CPI increase translates into a raise of \$1,108 per YUFA member. Taking effect on January 1, 1985 will be a one percent Merit Pool.

The staggered dates of the wage increases enabled the agreement to stay within the six percent increase allowed by the BOG. However, the settlement does go beyond the five percent increase established by the province's Inflation Restraint Board, to which the agreement has to be submitted for approval.

Also included in the settlement is a professional expenses allowance of \$350 per member. The faculty dental plan will be updated to the 1984 fee schedule on October 1, and updated again to the 1985 schedule as soon as it is announced. The York Pension Plan also had improvements made in the areas of guaranteed minimum pension and inflation protection clauses.

The university and YUFA will go to the bargaining table in February of 1985 to settle next year's contract.

Blues busters bust loose

By EDO VAN BELKOM

Not all the action took place between the opposing teams during the York-U of T football match last Thursday.

Following the 44-20 Yeomen victory hundreds of jubilant York fans rushed onto the field in an impromptu celebration of York's first win over the U of T team in their 13-year history.

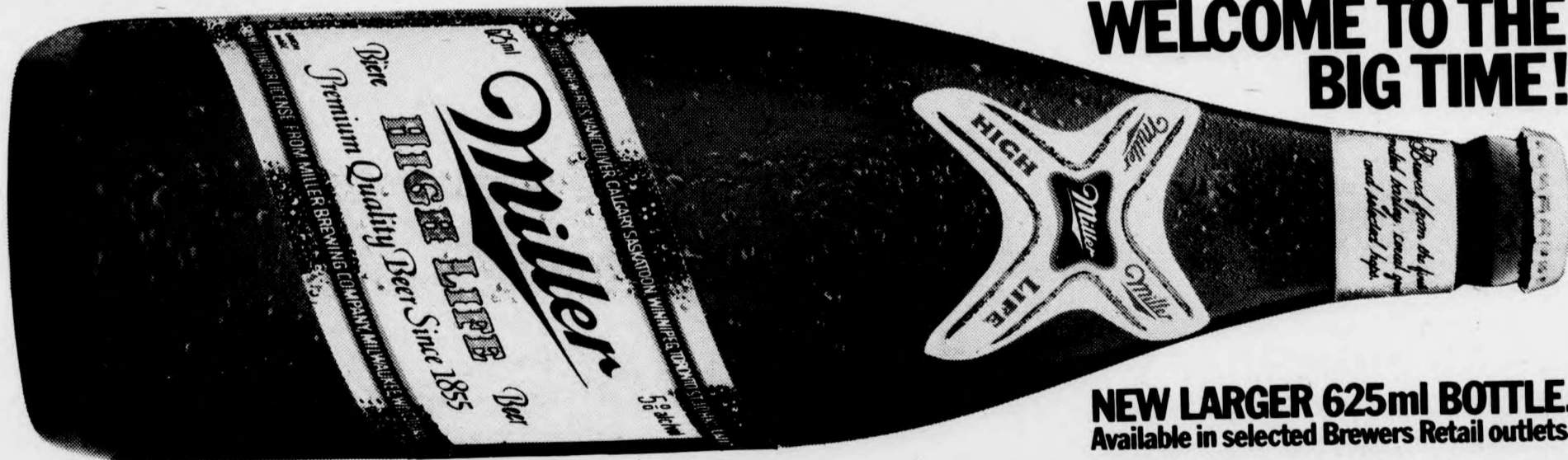
One large group assembled around the goal post at the north end of the stadium and rocked it back and forth in an attempt to bring it down. This proved fruitless, but another group joined in to successfully pull down a crossbar.

A Varsity Stadium employee said York students also tore out sections of bench seats at the stadium.

Varsity Stadium Manager Gord Bullock said that no seating had been torn up, and the cross-bar was not badly damaged. He estimated the damage at only \$25, but said "the cost of repairing the goal post might be charged to York University."

BIG MILLER IS HERE!

WELCOME TO THE BIG TIME!



NEW LARGER 625ml BOTTLE.
Available in selected Brewers Retail outlets.