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NEWS DIGEST

Building approved by Administration

By LIDIA CABRAL

Thanks to the York University Development Corporation (YUDC), funds are now available to make the proposed \$17 million classroom and office building a reality.

Earlier this month, the YUDC completed a sale of 20 acres of land in the southwest corner of York's campus which provided the remaining \$6.5 million needed before construction could begin. The Ontario government announced that they would provide \$10.5 million of the \$17 million last June.

The project has now received final approval and a committee has been formed to tackle the issues of location and building design. According to York University President Harry Arthurs, an "Academic Committee" has been formed to decide the proportion of classes to offices that will exist in the new building. He added that the Academic Committee will also decide "what is most urgently needed (at York) and what can be afforded in terms of the number of dollars available."

The new building project, referred to as the "Academic Plan," will address the university's chronic space shortage by adding 6,900 square metres to York's office and classroom space. As York is still in the process of planning development of its campus, it remains to be decided where the classroom/office building will be located.

Arthurs noted that this is one of the decisions the Academic Committee has yet to make. "We're studying very, very closely the proper site for the building to make sure that wherever it goes, it contributes to the realization of the new campus and design."

Recommendations for the proposed building are not yet definite, but Mr. Arthurs stated that we can expect the structure to fit into the new campus concept plan which will be finalized in the near future. A very important part of that design will be a new university green running east from the Ross building which will become a central feature of the campus, so this classroom/office building will be sited somewhere around the greenbelt," Arthurs added.

Proposed dates for beginning construction of the new building are set at late spring to early summer of 1988.

Upcoming forum highlights security

By TRACY REID

Have you ever been the victim of sexual harassment or sexual abuse? Have you ever found yourself wondering just how safe you are as you walk through a parking lot or along a path late at night? If you answered yes to either of these questions, or if you are concerned with these issues then you are not alone.

Many people at York realize that there is an overwhelming need to publicly address the issues of sexual harassment, sexual assault and campus security. As a result, York administrators and student representatives have set up *Security Week*. The forum, running from September 21 through to the 23rd, will consist of a series of seminars dealing with these questions.

ERRATUM

Last week *Excalibur* reported that the CYSF and the University had struck a tentative agreement on the

On Tuesday September 22, the Provost of York University, Professor Tom Meininger and the Council of York Student Federation (CYSF) Director of Women's Affairs, Marcia Cooper, invite all students, faculty, and staff to an open forum on campus security at York. At this time questions may be addressed to a panel with representatives from Safety and Security, York Administration, CYSF and many others. The forum will begin at 4:00 p.m., in room 201 South Ross.

The following day, on Wednesday, September 23, the Office of Student Affairs, Sexual Harassment Education and Complaint Centre (SHEACC), CYSF, and the Graduate Student Association will be sponsoring an educational program on sexual harassment and sexual assault. This seminar will be offered to officials at York who may have to deal with victims of harassment or assault. It has been designed to give a working knowledge of how to assist victims.

This program will be divided into two presentations. The first seminar period on sexual harassment or assault, which will include a video entitled, "Breaking the Trust," will run from 4:00-6:00 p.m. The second will run from 7:00-9:00 p.m. Both seminars will be held in the Vanier Residence common room.

Frosh get advice from student vets

By CHRISTINE GOMES

For the first time in the history of York University, a concentrated effort has been made to welcome all first-year students. This effort—the Student Support Network—was initiated and organized by Deborah Hobson, Associate Dean of the Faculty of Arts, and her colleagues Mark Webber and Arthur Haberman. The beauty of the program was that each first-year student was in contact, not with a faculty member, but with a fellow student.

The assembly of 200 student advisers was gathered from members of the Dean's Honour Roll and participants of last year's pilot project in Vanier and Founders colleges. Whereas the pilot project involved only 100 students and faculty members, the aim of the Network this year was to reach each first-year student entering York University. The concentration was directed primarily towards commuter students (residence students are well taken care of by their colleges). Each adviser was assigned a group of 12 first-year students whom they were to contact before the orientation meeting on September 8.

Most advisers found that major problems didn't arise until the actual contact, on the college to college level, was to be made. Chaos reigned at most of the college meeting places on September 8 with not all first-year students present, advisers struggling to coordinate their groups, while an abundance of students complained that they were never contacted.

Organization, then, seemed to be the major drawback to the program. Communication between the faculty and student advisers was clear, but seemed to break down enroute to the colleges. As Deborah Hobson said in her talk with the student advisers, the role of the Network was to "provide York University with a human face." For those who participated, this goal was accomplished.

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