

International Affairs organization starting a chapter at York University

By ZENA McBRIDE

The Canadian Institute of International Affairs (CIIA) is opening a new chapter at York. According to Kathryn Seymour, coordinator of the project, the York branch of the Institute should be in operation before the end of the school year.

The CIIA is a non-partisan organization, "dedicated to stimulating a greater interest among all Canadians in their country's role in world affairs," according to the group's literature. Founded in 1928, the Toronto-based institute has fostered study and discussion about world affairs for many years, and now boasts over 2,500 members in 25 branches across Canada.

The idea for a York chapter began when Seymour met with the president of the society, Alan Hockin, to see what was available here in terms of the CIIA. When she found no such group in existence at York, she set out immediately to establish one.

Seymour had no problem attaining club status for the group from the Council of York Students' Federation (CYSF). "They unanimously supported the whole venture," she said. The faculty at York has also expressed enthusiasm for the project. "They are excited about students working in that capacity, and are willing to help," she said, adding, "All systems are go from here."

The first CIIA meeting at York drew 12 people, according to Seymour, and as students become more aware of the group, more people will become involved. "The interest is definitely there," said Seymour. In addition, since the institute is just new at York, it is flexible. "(We can) mold it into whatever we want," Seymour explained. "Students don't often get the chance to be involved in something totally new. They always enter into established clubs. That is the challenge of this club," she added.

The next step, according to Seymour, is to form an interim executive, and to ratify a constitution. A committee structure must also be set up, to take care of the various concerns of the group, such as the membership, academic affairs, media and publicity, and special events. Seymour hopes to lay the ground work for these areas at the next meeting, tomorrow.

The ultimate objective of the new organization is to foster discussion groups, seminars, and guest speakers to examine the role of Canada in international affairs. In addition, research projects will be identified which the students can undertake on an individual basis. All individual work will contribute to expanding the society's resources, said Seymour.



GETTING STUDENTS AWARE OF WORLD AFFAIRS: Kathryn Seymour, co-ordinator of the new CIIA chapter at York says that now is the time for students to get involved.

The main idea is to educate the students, Seymour explained. "(On a national level), the CIIA consists of largely professional membership," she said. "Student input is needed to propitiate the group."

The CIIA does not set policy goals, or take an active role in lobbying. Its object is to share information and perspectives, according to Seymour. "That's the charm of it," she said, "all sides are represented equally, and no effort is made to present one

viewpoint." For this reason, Seymour feels that students will benefit from this kind of forum.

Seymour hopes to have the framework for the York chapter established by the end of this term, to clear the way for the open house which is being planned for January. John Holmes, past president of the CIIA and founder of the institute's library, will address the role of students and youth in the future of Canada.

The idea is to attract new members to the institute, by providing an occasion for them to meet with existing members. "(It will be) an excellent opportunity for students to make contacts, and to impress them with their abilities as students," said Seymour.

The next meeting of the York chapter will be held on Friday, November 28, from 12:00-1:00 p.m., in Curtis 110. All interested parties are welcome to attend.

York's retirement policy confuses faculty union

By JEFF SHINDER

Despite the October, 1985 signing of a memorandum of understanding between the York University Faculty Association (YUFA) and York's Administration, little progress has been made toward the resolution of the mandatory retirement issue.

The memorandum designated a joint committee to examine a broad range of issues related to mandatory retirement. Among the topics to be discussed were steps to allow retired faculty members to maintain their affiliation with the University, possible changes to York's pension plan, a new salary structure for long-time faculty who continue to teach on a reduced load, and a new formula that would give the University a flexible retirement policy.

The committee was to conclude its deliberations by January 1986 in the hopes that an agreement could be reached by that time. When the memo was written, York President Harry Arthurs reassured YUFA that the time schedule to reach an agree-

ment could be "easily" met.

Despite the attempts of the joint committee, the faculty association still awaits the Administration's proposals. According to YUFA President, Hollis Rinehart, the faculty association is disappointed and confused by the Administration's delay in tabling their proposals. "The main thing that puzzles us is that they made this agreement that said this committee would complete its deliberations by January 15, 1986 at which time mandatory retirement will end," Rinehart said, "and we're still waiting to hear from them."

Rinehart also complained about the arbitrary nature of the present mandatory retirement system, which he claims infringes on the individual's human rights. Presently each faculty member is required to meet the dean of his faculty 14 months prior to his retirement date in order to register his decision about whether or not he intends to retire. The dean, however, must concur with the faculty member's decision in order

for the professor to remain with the University. If the dean does not concur, the faculty member is forced to retire.

Paula O'Reilly, Legal and Employee Relations Officer, defends this practice in order to prevent an individual faculty member from prejudicing the needs of the entire faculty. "If YUFA's position is that a faculty member has the unqualified right to continue regardless of whether he or she is contributing satisfactorily to the department, then the Administration would have no way of severing its relationship with that individual, save and except commencing an ugly dismissal procedure," she said. "The Administration doesn't believe that dismissal is not a reasonable or desirable way of terminating a long service faculty member's relationship with the University."

O'Reilly played down the arbitrary nature of the present system. According to her, most faculty members are responsible for their personal evaluations prior to their

normal retirement date, therefore precluding many possible conflicts.

Rinehart, however, cited a number of controversial cases where, he claims, valuable faculty members were prevented from continuing.

He also criticized the Administration for acting strictly to defend the Administrative convenience that compulsory retirement affords them. In his viewpoint, "the real teeth behind their position is that as long as compulsory retirement exists, there is no need to pay an adequate pension. We believe if an adequate pension is paid most people will want to retire at 65." Rinehart supports his contention by pointing to the high rate of early retirement in the Ontario secondary school system that is a direct result of the new pension plan that was recently introduced.

O'Reilly stressed that budgetary concerns are in part responsible for the present impasse. According to O'Reilly, "the Administration is willing to negotiate anything that

will make the agreement reasonable for people who want to retire and are concerned about the financial aspects of retirement—but these issues must be examined within the guidelines of our budgetary concerns."

When asked about the Administration's delay in putting proposals forward, O'Reilly said that the Administration is now in the process of formulating its position. Part of the problem, she said, was the ongoing court case against mandatory retirement at universities. The suit was launched by the Canadian Association for University Teachers (CAUT) in conjunction with several faculty associations and the employees involved, which contended that mandatory retirement contradicted the section of the Charter of Rights which prohibits discrimination on the grounds of race, religion, marital status or age. The verdict went against the CAUT, as Mr. Justice Gibson Gray of the Supreme Court of Ontario ruled that mandatory retirement is in fact legal.


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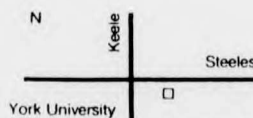
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