



letters

Vote Yes on referendum

Editor:

We are now in the midst of the student referendum for a new Student Centre building on the main campus of York University. I would strongly urge students to come out to vote on this critical issue at York. I would urge them to vote yes and help move York forward.

In a survey conducted last month on the issue of a Student Center, we found that some 59 percent of those surveyed favored this project. Answers to several of the questions provide detailed information as to student views about what should be included in the new building. For example, 90.7 percent of respondents indicated that they would like to see a student-run photocopy service in the building, 85.5 percent wanted study space provided and 84.2 percent stated that they would like to see a

large multi-purpose hall.

At the same time, it appears that students are satisfied with the present location of some services. Only 49.5 percent of respondents felt that the bookstore ought to be relocated in the new Student Centre.

The Student Centre referendum question is asking students to participate in the redevelopment of the York campus and, in turn, to improve the quality of student life. Students are being given an unprecedented opportunity to revitalize the student community at York. For too long we have been divided.

The details of our proposal were circulated in last week's *Excalibur*. A considerable amount of effort has been expended to flesh out the concept of a Student Centre. However, we envisage that the detailed planning will involve extensive consultations with students about what they want to see in their building.

The referendum has three parts. First, it seeks approval in principle

for the project. By this, the question will authorize the next phase of development.

In this context, the details of the building design will proceed only with an affirmative answer in the referendum. It would have been irresponsible to have committed student monies to a project in advance of this referendum.

Second, the question outlines that the cost of the project will necessitate a fee increase of approximately \$10 a full course. Outside sources of funds—which will be actively sought—and revenues from ongoing operations may reduce the amount of the fee increase.

Third, the question authorizes the creation of a Board of Trustees to oversee the development of the project. It would have been inappropriate, as some have suggested, to have entered into commitments with the University or its Board of Governors without receiving the authorization of the student body. This we seek to do with this referendum.

Indeed, the Board of Trustees will be put in place to safeguard student interests in negotiations with the University Administration and the Board of Governors. Perhaps it would be most appropriate to think of the students as a donor approaching the University with a project. In this way, the Board of Trustees—with majority student representation—is in an extremely powerful position, entirely adequate to see student interests enhanced.

In a sense, a positive result in the referendum will signal the beginning of the complex, technical aspects of design and building. At all times, however, this will be married to detailed consultations with students at York.

An exceptional opportunity beckons. We may never have a chance to create a student-financed and student-controlled Student Centre building in the future.

—Christopher Costello
Chairman

Student Centre Steering Committee

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The Toronto Arts Council officially released its cultural policy report for the City of Toronto on February 13th, 1985. The report entitled

**CULTURAL CAPITAL—
The Care and Feeding of Toronto's
Artistic Assets**

was written by Tom Hendry. The report is now available for \$12.00 per copy (\$10.00 for students) at the Toronto Arts Council office. For further information, please contact Ellie Rubin at the Toronto Arts Council office—(416) 367-9575.