

York to open volunteer centre

By MARK WINSTON

With \$5,000 and the cooperation of three campus organizations, a York student volunteer centre will open its doors October 6.

The centre, organized and managed by the Council of York Student Federation (CYSF), the Community Relations Department and the Student Affairs Office, will place students in various volunteer positions within the community.

"The centre allows students to explore a variety of careers, an opportunity to develop skills and an opportunity to help other people," said Cora Dusk, director of Student Affairs. "When opened, the centre will list a variety of positions where one can gain various business and social skills on the job."

"The centre will be unique," said Gail More, a Toronto consultant and Toronto Volunteer Centre employee. "... it will be one of the first true attempts to have a volunteer community service on its own, as opposed to being part of another service, say the Career Centre."

York's operation will be linked with the Toronto Volunteer Centre with access to their listing of 200 community organizations seeking volunteers. Some of the possible openings available from the York centre will include working with children and seniors, tutoring in a number of subjects, and working in business and counselling environments.

An earlier version of the centre, Options, ran seven years ago, but disbanded after the students involved graduated. "There was no paid staff support, no support from the university and they were also in a bad location," Moore said. Moore discounted that from happening now because of the strong support from the three sponsors, who have hired two co-ordinators to maintain the centre until March when it will undergo a review.

Although the centre is enthusiastically endorsed by all participants, Gerard Blink, President of the CYSF, expressed regret that the centre had not started earlier, considering the size and needs of the student population and the outside community. "It's a good time to do it," Blink said. "It's something we've needed, to get into something career related before getting out of university... It's also good for the community (Jane-Finch)." Blink also expressed CYSF's desire for a centre on the Glendon campus, depending on the success of York's.

Success for the volunteer centre will not be measured by numbers

alone. "Our goal is not simply numbers," said Wayne Burnett, a summer researcher for Student Affairs, responsible for setting up the centre. "We're much more interested in being successful in matching people to their own interests and following up on their appraisal of their experience."

Located at 112 Central Square, tentative hours for the centre are noon - 3:00 p.m. Monday and Wednesdays, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Thursday and noon - 2:00 p.m. Friday. Staff will also be available during club week starting September 22 and career week beginning September 30.

Punctured gas pipeline forces Pioneer Village to turn away school groups

By KEVIN PASQUINO

A punctured gas pipeline at Jane and Steeles last Friday (September 15) placed York Security and Safety Services on alert but only traffic in the area was directly affected due to the incident.

At about nine o'clock Friday morning a natural gas pipeline was punctured by a construction worker using a power shovel. Consumer Gas then called the North York fire and police departments for assistance and traffic control.

John Graham, the operations manager for Consumer Gas, stated that because it was an above ground gas lead and no buildings were nearby, there was no immediate danger. "If there had been an explosion," said Graham, "it would've been spectacular but not hazardous (to the public)."

Although there was no immediate danger, the threat of a change in

wind direction forced Black Creek Pioneer Village to turn away four school groups that had planned to tour the facilities. The superintendent of maintenance at Black Creek, Dennis Potter, said that the incident may have cost them as much as 75% of the day's business.

At York the main concern had to do with fumes the pipeline had released. Natural gas, which is odorless, is mixed with ethyl mercaptan as a safety precaution in order to prevent a gas leak from going undetected. A side effect of this mixture is a feeling of nausea, and the possibility of ill students and faculty was the main concern at the university.

"At no time, however, was anyone (at York) in any significant danger," said David Kurosky, assistant director of Safety and Security at York.

The leak was capped at noon and permanent repairs were completed by midnight.



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