



SOME TOLSTOI AT THE WHEEL: TTC operator Jack Tolstoi gets some winter reading done as he waits for passengers. Jack (or was it Ernest?) drives a "bus." Apparently, people climb into this thing and get driven around on "roads."

Student center referendum set for March

By LAURA LUSH

A win on a student center referendum scheduled for early March could bring York a new Student Center as early as 18 months from now.

The referendum will take place from March 6 to March 12 at well-positioned locations throughout the campus to accommodate York's 35,000 student body.

The Student Center Steering Committee (SCSC), led by Chairman Chris Costello, won the Board of Governors' (BOG) approval on a proposal for the new center at a February 8 BOG meeting. The SCSC needed this approval to get a go ahead for a referendum. The SCSC has spent the week distributing 1,500 posters designed to "bring about student interest in the center," Costello said. "We want to ensure that everyone will have the opportunity to know about the center," he added.

The Student Referendum is asking students to approve "the construction of a student-financed and student-controlled Student Center building," Costello said. "We want to pay for it all."

The cost of the Student Center has been estimated to be as high as \$8 million. A student-financed building would give students better bargaining power when seeking funds from the government and corporations, Costello said. "You don't have much to bargain with unless you have the student referendum—the commitment," he added.

Costello referred to other universities who had similar centers that only collected half of their revenues from students. This made their job considerably harder when having to seek the other half of their funding from outside sources. With full student ownership, any additional funding would help lower the student levy fees.

The proposal estimates student levy fees to range from \$4.00 to \$10.00 per six-credit course, depending on final financing costs. The levy would not be phased in until the building is completed. Costello estimates a 25-year levy period which would eventually cover the mortgage, all operating costs, and renovations, allowing students to carry on a self-supporting system.

In the SCSC proposal, the committee requested that the administration provide some cleaning costs for the center. Costello estimated these costs to amount to \$500,000 a

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York legal clinic seeks student levy

By DAVID BYRNES
and GRAHAM THOMPSON

The Community and Legal Aid Service Programme (CLASP) of Osgoode Hall Law School is in financial trouble and will be reaching out to the students of York for aid come CYSF election time in early March. The CYSF ballot will contain a referendum question that will ask students if they are willing to pay 30¢ more per full-time course (or \$1.50 for full-time students) in fees to bail out the clinic.

Susan Vella, CLASP Chairperson of the Board of Management, said that if the referendum is successful, it will mean \$37,000 more in funding, alleviating an anticipated deficit this year of \$46,000.

The reasons for CLASP's financial problems are complicated. In a press release, the organization explains that most of the problem has

been caused by an important source of revenue drying up in the last two years. In 1982-83 the Law Foundation of Ontario contributed \$50,000 to CLASP. In 1983-84 it cut its contribution to 25 percent, and this year it contributed nothing.

Because of this, in the spring of 1984 CLASP faced a budget slash of close to 20 percent, and without the Law Foundation money this year are facing an additional 20 percent cut. The projected operating expenses for 1985-86 are over \$170,000, while the anticipated revenue is only \$123,000.

The CLASP press release says that if the organization cannot find an additional source of revenue the result will be at least a "severely impaired" service and quite possibly the closing down of the clinic.

The report says that if the needed funding is not acquired, then CLASP will not be able to hire summer staff. Currently, essential staff acquire their training over the summer months, the report explains, and if they are unable to get this training then there would be few people trained to supervise the student caseworkers in the fall.

"This means that nine out of 10 York students currently served by CLASP would not be assisted by the clinic," the report reads.

Furthermore, the report continues, the reduction in the number of cases the clinic would be able to handle would result in a reduction in funding from its main source of revenue, the Ontario Legal Aid Plan, whose funding allotment is directly proportional to the number of cases handled.

Vella said that about 20 percent of CLASP's clients are York students, who receive aid with matters such as academic appeals and OSAP affidavits.

"CLASP is definitely the biggest legal aid clinic in Ontario," Vella said.

There is an explanation for the Ontario Law Foundation funding cutbacks to CLASP said the Dean of Osgoode Hall Law School J.D. McCamus.

McCamus says that OLF funding is derived from the interest earned on the lawyers' mixed trust accounts. Lawyers are required by law to hold their clients' money in trust accounts, rather than personal accounts, and are not allowed to collect interest on these accounts. The interest collected on this money goes to OLF which must distribute the money for 'good works.'

OLF income from trust accounts was quite high when interest rates peaked a few years ago at 20 percent but has been declining ever since as interest rates plummeted, McCamus said.

Since approximately 75 percent of OLF income is going to the Ontario Legal Aid Programme, CLASP's chief source of income, OLF has decided that direct payments to CLASP is double-funding and thus undesirable.

In an effort to increase student awareness of the clinic, organizers are planning a CLASP awareness week prior to the referendum vote. Seminars will be given March 11-14, and an information booth will be open in Central Square on February 27, and March 4, 6, 7, 8, 11 and 12.

Candidates step forward in CYSF election scramble

By GARY SYMONS

When the starting pistol is fired tomorrow at precisely 9:00 a.m. to begin the 1985 CYSF election race, the largest group of political hopefuls in York's history will be scrambling for a total of 20 positions.

Positions up for grabs include the presidency, seven directorships, 11 seats on the student senate caucus, and one seat on the Board of Governors.

A particularly large number of combatants will be vying for the position of president of the Council of the York Student Federation. As of Tuesday afternoon, only three candidates had been nominated, but at least four others have stated, or are expected to state their intentions to run.

Those candidates already nominated include this year's Director of Social and Cultural Affairs Reya Ali; Ted Christensen, a Faculty of Fine Arts Senator and Founders College Council Representative to CYSF; and McLaughlin College Council President Bob Walman.

Those candidates expected to run but who have not yet been nominated, include 1983-84 CYSF Director of Finance Darren Chapman; John Christie; present Director of Finance Valance Ellies; and Alex Riha. The nomination period closes at 9:00 a.m. Friday morning.

Two of the seven presidential candidates expected to run this year are veterans of last year's five-way race. Both Valance Ellies and Alex Riha campaigned for that same position last year against current President Chris Summerhayes. Riha just barely edged out Ellies in last year's contest, only to fall 172 votes short of beating the incumbent Chris Summerhayes.

The campaign itself will last just under two weeks, ending on Tuesday, March 12, during which time the halls and walls of York will be festooned with campaign posters and banners of every size, color and political persuasion.

Voting will begin with the advance poll on March 13, and end the next evening at 7 p.m.

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