

excalibur

YORK UNIVERSITY'S COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

YFS champions YES coalition

by Natalia Smith
and Brent Poland

The York Federation of Students (YFS) has thrown its support behind the YES-Coalition's drive for membership in the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) and the Ontario Federation of Students (OFS).

"I think we need to realize that York students can't battle chronic underfunding alone, there-

fore it is essential for them to join in lobbying the government," said YFS president Jean Ghomeshi.

The coalition, headed by Ghomeshi, has been campaigning for persuading York students to "Vote Yes!" for York's CFS and OFS membership.

According to Ghomeshi, the root of many problems at York, including annual increases in tuition, overcrowded classes, long

line-ups and inadequate facilities are due to consistent underfunding by the government.

So far the YES-Coalition has received support from a number of student groups including Calumet, Bethune, Vanier, McLaughlin, and Osgoode college councils.

Not all student councils, however, have supported the YES-Coalition.

"I put forward the motion to

support the coalition but it was defeated," said John Curie, president of Founders student council.

According to Curie, the council felt its responsibility in this issue was to act as an information source to Founders students. The council wanted to remain impartial to carry out this mandate effectively.

Although Founders council has remained neutral, McLaughlin's student council endorsed the YES-Coalition.

"York students need to unite together to effect change," said McLaughlin council president Rob Centa.

Centa believes the CFS and OFS have solid policies which allow them to voice post-secondary issues loud and clear to both the federal and provincial governments.

Although there is no evidence of any significant opposition to the YES-Coalition, students who are knowledgeable about York's separation with OFS in 1988 want to hear the "other side" of the issue.

"A lot of senior students remember that when York withdrew from the OFS, there were a lot of mixed feelings," said Curie.

The OFS and CFS are student lobby organizations which represent 250,000 Ontario students and 450,000 Canadian students

respectively. There are 72 post-secondary institutions belonging to the CFS, 34 of which are members of the OFS.

Significant exceptions to CFS membership are the University of British Columbia (UBC) and the University of Toronto.

"The problem that UBC students have with the CFS is their concept of democracy," said Jason Brett, co-ordinator external affairs at UBC student council. "The CFS believes in one school one vote."

Brett argued that larger schools have to pay more money for membership, therefore they should be entitled to a larger voting block.

Voting rights are also a stumbling block at UofT.

"The amount of money to join, should be reflected in voting weight. Another factor is the progressively less realistic policies of OFS/CFS, such as free tuition," said Paul Hirst, university affairs commissioner at SAC.

After a heated debate at the University of Waterloo in 1989, they joined the OFS/CFS in the spring of 1990.

"The issue of weighted voting can be solved; the problem is that large schools refuse to join and produce change from within," said John Vellinga, president of Waterloo's Federation of Students.

Students receive controversial award

by Brent Poland

Five graduate students have been chosen for the controversial Graduate Fellowship for Academic Distinction (GFAD) award.

The award is funded by the Japanese Shipbuilding Industry Foundation (JSIF) founded by the self-proclaimed world's richest fascist and alleged World War II criminal Ryoichi Sasakawa.

Out of the five students who received the award, only two would allow their names to be released.

Meinhard Dolle, a graduate student studying environmental law was one beneficiary of the award. He was absent from the university last year and was not familiar with the controversy surrounding the award.

"It was the responsibility of the graduate program directors to ensure each recipient was aware of the donation's origin," said Pauline Callen executive officer for graduate studies.

Dolle said that he only knew that Sasakawa manufactured equipment for Japan during World War II. He was not aware that the U.S. government labelled Sasakawa a class A war criminal and that Sasakawa has been tied to the Japanese criminal underground.

"My acceptance of the award

would not have been different if I had been given the correct information."

"Would it be better to give the money back?" Dolle said. "What better way is there to hurt a fascist than to take money from him."

Dolle believes that the JSIF is a method of redemption on behalf of Sasakawa. He cited the many donations that the JSIF has given to such charitable organizations and other universities.

Jim Cogill a graduate student in international business also received funding from the GFAD award.

"The JSIF is trying to set up an organization that will contribute in an ongoing manner to international charitable organizations and global relations," said Cogill.

He accepted the award after consulting both the university faculty association's newsletter and literature in the scholarship office.

Dean of Graduate Studies Sandra Pyke was not available for comment.

"If Sasakawa had been a Nazi war criminal or a war criminal of European descent would the university have accepted the award?" asked professor Bob Wakabayashi.

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Former chair of the board of directors, Paul Conroy, will be taking over the position of station manager at CHRY.

New top dog at CHRY

by Linda Kingston

CHRY has a new captain at the helm.

Paul Conroy, former chair of the board of directors is taking over the position of station manager at CHRY.

Conroy will be replacing Dani Zaretsky, who plans to resume his law career.

Conroy, a recent York graduate with an Honours B.A. in Economics, is now enrolled part-time in the masters program.

"It was strange being a mature student, so I wanted to get comfortable with the school," Conroy said. "And the station offered a way to get involved."

Originally attracted by an ad for someone with a technical background, Conroy has been working at CHRY since 1987. He came to York in 1986 after 10 years on the workforce in mineral survey, electronics, and technical work, and having completed a technical programme at George Brown College.

"I see myself as a manager trying to be involved with everything; financial, technical, internal operations," Conroy said. "Hopefully we'll expand on our external outreach, I think that's a big role that perhaps I can play."

As a sports columnist for *Excalibur*, he eventually became a sports announcer at the station. This helped deepen his interest in community radio. Placing an emphasis on reaching out to the community, Conroy hopes to maintain the standard that the past station managers and staff have set.

"There's a feeling that community radio is a bit ad hoc and I think our radio station is getting noticed as being a station that is setting a new standard for community radio, as well as being noticed within the commercial radio community."

According to Conroy, CHRY plans to achieve this by doing more locations and remotes (such as the Driftwood community centre at Jane and Finch). He plans to cover high school sports events and continue live broadcasts from the Carabana.

"We'd like to do more so that people realize we're not just a voice," Conroy said. "I think its time we start going out and making people notice us in the community at large."

The outgoing station manager, Dani Zaretsky, had been working at CHRY since the station was only eight months old. He has

seen its development into the professionally run organization it is today.

Trying to continue in the tradition of station co-founders Mel Broitman and Kaan Yigit, Zaretsky focussed on shaping the station as a radio/social service agency, in addition to its popular style of musical programming directed to groups under-represented in mainstream media.

"What I'd always hoped was that the university's resources could be used in collaboration with radio," Zaretsky said. "In this university, I saw both potential, and potential unrealized."

As station manager and president since July 1988, he intended to enhance social development in the community, through radio.

Zaretsky's resignation will be effective Nov. 1, 1990.

Other staff changes include combining news and current affairs under new "spoken word" co-ordinator Denyse Stuart.

Stuart will be assisted by Kelly Rico and Karlene Nation, and producers Aila Ali, Nadira Baksh, and Colin Phillips.

The position of music director Ed Skira will be taken over by co-directors Gary Verrinder and Gary Wright, who is also the new volunteer co-ordinator.