

Metrodome - not for York use

By TRISH HARDMAN

Imagine an immense domed stadium — a stadium providing year-round, all-weather facilities for a multitude of amateur and professional sports activities — a stadium to serve as a training ground for Canadian Olympic teams — a stadium to house large space events such as rallies, revivals, rodeos, extravaganzas, conventions and spectacles — a magnificent stadium, located on the 80-acre Downsview site of the Canadian Armed Forces Base, only a mile from beautiful uptown York University — a stadium that you can enjoy and that you can enjoy paying for through not one, not two, but three forms of taxes.

No private capital believes the project profitable enough for investment. According to Toronto alderman David Rotenburg, 50 percent of the cost will hopefully be donated by the federal government, 30 percent from the provincial coffers and the remaining 20 percent will be provided by the citizens of Metro Toronto.

York's athletic chairman Bryce Taylor and York's vice-president of finance Bruce Parkes are members of a non-profit organization called Mission Dome Inc. This organization is one of several citizens' action for the new stadium, Mission Dome Inc. favours the Downsview airbase.

They claim lower cost to the taxpayer — \$48 million compared with \$65 million for a downtown site suggested by alderman Joseph Piccininni. This estimate is based on the hope that the federal government will donate the land for a token sum. Moreover, the site would allow ample parking space for the 55,000 potential spectators. The stadium would serve all southern Ontario as well as Toronto. An extensive highway system plus proposed public rapid transport projects would facilitate access.

Taylor and Parkes claim only personal interest in the Dome project. Taylor hopes by his involvement to emphasize the need for amateur sport use of the stadium. Unfortunately, use of Metrodome facilities for amateur sports would not extend to York University. The stadium administration would be responsible to the public in general and would naturally try to break even financially with all bookings. York could not afford the rental costs of such an expensive outfit.

Parkes was first approached to join Mission Dome Inc. by Jim Service, ex-mayor of North York and originator

of the project. Parkes feels that he was originally asked to join the 40 member group because of his connection with York, an institution with a possible interest in using the stadium. He quickly informed the group that the university could not afford the high rental costs of the Metrodome. However, he remains with the group because of his personal interest in amateur sports. Parkes says he has made no attempt to push the project among other members of the York administration, the faculty or the student body.

What would be the effect of the Metrodome on neighbouring York? The answer seems uncertain, but a few facts are clear. Any special rental rates for the university would be rare and the effect on York athletic life negligible. Moreover, York cannot afford a stadium of its own for a long time. For the moment, York must use either Varsity or Centennial stadiums despite their inconvenient distance from the campus.

Taylor pointed out the tremendous economic stimulus the Metrodome would bring to North York. Surrounding service industries such as motels and restaurants would multiply. He suggested the possible creation of student jobs both within the service industries and within the stadium itself. However, Taylor estimated that the stadium, if approved, would require six to seven years for completion.

Although Parkes and Taylor admit the existence of other more important social priorities, they feel the Metrodome is a project worth community support. Taylor feels it will have the same positive effect for Toronto municipal pride as Expo did for Montreal. Parkes said that the money not spent on the domed stadium, would not be spent on other community projects. He likened the situation to the U.S. space program. Much money is being gobbled up to satisfy scientific curiosity and national pride — yet these same funds will not be directed towards health, welfare and social problems even if they are released from space research.

Is the Metrodome worth your support? Will you benefit as an individual and as a member of York from the erection of this expensive domed stadium? In any case, Metrodome will have a considerable effect on the future of the York community. Bruce Parkes would like to see more awareness of the consequences in the university.

YORK BRIEFS

CUPE, York to meet to avert strike

Canadian Union of Public Employees and York officials met for the first time with mediator John Hopper yesterday to try and iron out differences in pay and social welfare benefits. CUPE representative Jim Anderson said he expects the meetings to continue until Saturday. A membership meeting is called for Sunday when the employees may decide to ratify York's offers or demand a strike on Monday. York has offered rates lower than what the North York Board of Education pays its cleaners. York employs about 200 men and women cleaners. Another 50 workers include drivers, painters, plumbers, carpenters, electricians and mechanics.

9% prefer non-Black neighbours - York study

Although most Torontonians are prepared to accept any neighbor irrespective of race, nationality or religion, nine percent would prefer not to have a Black as a neighbor. Despite "ethnic concentrations", Toronto is not developing "ethnic ghettos" as it might. These are two findings of a survey released on Monday by York's Institute for Behavioral Research. It shows that one half of Metro's 597,000 householders were born outside Canada and that 33 percent of them are from Britain and nine percent from Italy. Although 24 percent of the householders said they would prefer to live in an ethnically homogeneous area, most lived in a mixed one. The survey was directed by British born Anthony Richmond and funded by the Canada Council and the Department of Manpower and Immigration.

Versa losses \$120,000, fees up \$100

York vice-president of finance Bruce Parkes says Versafood's loss for this year is about \$120,000, almost \$114,000 more than last year. Residence fees are slated to go up another \$100 next year to a maximum of \$1,300 per year for the 21 meal plan. Glendon College's residence council is planning a boycott of fees in January unless present costs are lowered. Residence Council president Bill Rowe said the council had sent a letter to president David Slater complaining of the high costs and low occupancy level at Glendon. Less than 260 of the 436 beds are occupied, Rowe says and the community situation there is being hurt. The council is also going to set up a committee to look into the legal aspects of such a boycott. The house presidents in the two residences have asked each resident to send in a letter to Slater complaining about the situation. With an easy access to cheaper housing, the college's students don't have to pay York's high residence costs. Versafood's loss is not as bad as it appears. York pays the company about a five percent management fee on the direct costs of food, labor and operating supplies of \$1,499,992 (last year).

Dog lost, now in residence

Lost a dog lately? Excalibur's nose for news, Viviane Spiegelman has set up a lost and found for dogs in Grad Residence Three for a miniature male collie found on the campus this week. Anyone who claims the dog should phone 630-5878 before York's cleaners read this and file complaints about people who keep animals in the residence.

Colleges pressing problem - CUA brief

The annual senate report to the Committee on University Affairs calls the accommodation of the college system at York "one of our more pressing problems. York University retains its deep commitment to the College system as an integral part of the institution and feels the provision of sufficient support to realize the aims of that system is a high priority requirement at this time." Two of the seven colleges are now in temporary quarters. They await the construction of new buildings, in the midst of government cut-backs on education expenditures. Finances occupy a good portion of the 80 page brief, accepted Thursday by the senate. After some additional revision and editing, the report will go to the Ontario government as York's statement in areas of enrolment, finances, and effectiveness at this university.

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