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Referendum called by Radio York to increase grant

By WARREN CLEMENTS

Within a couple of weeks, York students will be able to hear music and public affairs from their first glass of orange juice to their last cup of Ovaltine.

Radio York has contracted Western Telephone and Telecommunications to build a new closed circuit system on campus, which will pipe the station's signal into every dining hall and coffee shop, as well as the common rooms and the bookstore.

Service is also being extended to Osgoode Hall, Atkinson College and Administrative Studies. The new contract follows a discontinuation of the station's relations with its previous servicer, Noram.

At the same time, Radio York is extending its hours next week, starting the broadcast day at 8 a.m. and stretching it to 2 a.m. on weekdays. The broadcasts will start at 10 a.m. on weekends.

"We'll be giving people that wake-up type programming for breakfast," said chief announcer Bruce Wood. "And Ken McCulloch has volunteered to take the midnight to 2 a.m. shift. One guy even said he'd be willing to go until 4 a.m."

A press release from the station states that the solid-state system, to be completed by January 22, will provide a considerable saving over the old system, and calls for guaranteed service and replacement of damaged speakers.

"This will ensure an end to the problems of the past when frequent breakdowns were experienced," says the release.

While the move improves the closed circuit operation, the station is also applying for an FM licence.

"The problem with broadcasting around the university is that it isn't in-

dividualized enough," explained Wood. "We're desperately fighting against the Muzak image, and as long as we're closed-closed-circuit, we'll have that disadvantage."

The trouble with the FM application is that the cost of such a venture is extremely high—so high, in fact, it would mean a dramatic re-structuring of the station's financing.

Currently, Radio York receives \$5,000 of its funding from CYSF. But on Jan. 31, the station is holding a university-wide referendum to support its demand for five times that amount, to be taken out of ambiguous "student monies".

The referendum's wording, subject to change, is as follows: "I understand that a group of students from Radio York, a non-profit organization owned and operated by students of the York community, are making an application to the Canadian Radio and Televisign Commission to obtain an FM radio licence.

"I also understand that a prospective licensee must be able to guarantee licensing costs for a period of three years. I therefore agree: disagree with the following proposals:

"The university shall provide such financial assistance as may be necessary to prepare a licence application, and after a licence has been granted, the university shall provide a continuous grant of \$25,000 from monies available to the student organization for a minimum of three years."

These "monies" comprise the \$27 fee each student pays in addition to the standard tuition. Until last summer, this sum was clearly divided into three parts, for athletic affairs, college councils and CYSF.

But, reportedly because students



Peter Hsu photo

were demanding a refund of part of these fees, student liaison officer John Becker circulated a declaration that the monies were no longer divisible into three categories, and that they could be used for various functions.

It is from this pot that Radio York hopes to draw its funding. If the referendum is passed, the station will present the results to the York senate and ask that body to approve them.

The FM licence will mean 50 cents or \$1 annually per person on a general

basis," said Wood. "That's not too much to ask for a service which will provide more freedom to give clear-cut programming that gives the views of the students, and not of the advertisers."

Advertising is one of the bugaboos, in the story. Currently the station receives some advertising, though it is not allowed to transmit it over its Willow Downs cable line.

But the FM licence which Radio

York is applying for is classified by the CRTC as an "educational, non-commercial" permit.

"It would be a criminal offence for us to put any paid advertising on the air," said Wood. "This hampers us from getting money outside the university."

In anticipation of the FM licence, however, Radio York, which has called itself RYFM for five years, is already calling itself CKRY-FM.

200 may be ineligible

Admin. rejects YUSA plan

By ROBIN ENDRES

The administration has thrown a spanner in the works of YUSA, the York University Staff Association.

Last October, the YUSA membership voted almost unanimously in favour of forming a voluntary association which would be protected by the regulations of the Labour Relations Act. A voluntary association differs from a certified union because it is dependent on the voluntary agreement of both employer and employees.

In Dec., administrative vice-president William Small and director of personnel Don Mitchell agreed in principle to the voluntary association.

However, after consultation with its lawyers, the administration claimed it would recognize the staff association, but not with the protection of the Labour Relations Act. The main issue in their refusal to go for voluntary agreement is the eligibility of managerial staff.

Initially, Mitchell claimed only a few senior administrators would be excluded from YUSA. Now, however, the administration is hinting that up to 200 YUSA members could be excluded. This would mean that most of the YUSA executive, and the three members of the "Ad Hoc Policy Committee" appointed by the executive to negotiate, would be ineligible.

In a memo circulated to the membership by the executive Dec. 18, two possible courses of action were outlined. The first is to abide by the membership decision and continue to push for voluntary recognition. The second is to agree to the university's request and bargain "in good faith", that is, with no legal protection under the Labour Relations Act.

Several YUSA members have expressed astonishment that the executive would even consider the latter course given the strong mandate from their constituents for a voluntary association. Many assumed that if the ad-

ministration did not agree to the proposal, YUSA would then press for actual certification.

EXECUTIVE ATTACKED

An ad hoc YUSA committee, called the Education Group, has circulated another memo criticizing the executive and outlining various proposals. The authors of this memo claim the YUSA executive has been too slow in advancing the membership's proposal and too soft in considering the option of an association which has no real rights or powers.

"The reason the Labour Relations Board exists is to protect the rights of the working people. Why should the University object to us having the protection of the Act? Why should our executive feel intimidated by the University's choice? They say some people will have to be excluded. It is accepted practice for managerial people to be excluded from an employees' bargaining unit. This should not deter us from seeking the protection of the Act. The purpose of YUSA is to best represent the interests of rank and file, who have no bargaining power, no legal status," the memo says.

NEW CONSTITUTION

The Education Group proposes a new constitution for YUSA in which people in managerial positions would not be eligible for executive posts as this "will jeopardize our constitutional position."

YUSA organizer Judith Steed also expressed dissatisfaction with the executive. "The executive has not acted on the vote of Oct. 25 although they insisted on upholding it," she said.

The executive has called a membership meeting for Jan. 15.

Library to be hit hard by budget reduction

By MICHAEL LAWRENCE

Faced with a budget cut which could reach \$250,000, York's library will be seriously affected by next year's spending projections.

William Newman, director of libraries, described the situation as "not a pretty one".

"We have been told to prepare for either a six or ten per cent budget cut," he said, adding that such a cut would inevitably result in a reduction of available staff positions or in reduced service, or most likely a combination of both.

When asked how severe staff cuts might have to be to meet the budget, Newman replied that possibly as many as twenty positions would have to be eliminated next year, bringing the total library staff down closer to two hundred. He expressed hope staff cuts could be made by not refilling vacancies created by the normal turnover that takes place each summer.

If the rate of staff attrition is not high enough, it might be necessary to lay off staff before the next academic year.

"I would try to give as much lead time as possible to those individuals affected," he said.

"The staff knows about the cut, but until I find out the final budget

figures, I don't want to start a minor crisis."

SERVICES REVIEWED

Besides the staff consequences, Newman said that in an attempt to reduce spending, present library services would have to be reviewed. Possible measures could include limiting or closing completely certain library sections.

Newman cited the rare book collection and the listening room as possible casualties.

STAFF REACTION

Reaction to Newman's projections from library staff ranged from cynical to shocked. Commenting on the reduction in positions available next year, a female staff member holding a middle echelon position said: "If this staff has to operate with twenty less people next year, they might as well close up the place."

Newman predicted that, regardless of the combination of staff and service cuts that will finally be made, the student body will directly suffer from the crunch. Increasingly slower circulation of books, restrictions on the materials available to doctoral students, and reduced hours of library service are all possible next year. See budget story on page two.