

## Senate vote on space university postponed

by Pat Micelli

The fate of the proposed York-affiliated International Space University is still up in the air.

York senate ran out of time before they could decide whether to support a proposal giving officials the go-ahead to negotiate a conditional link with the Massachusetts-based school.

The decision is postponed until their Dec. 10 meeting.

## Let space school come, Vanier students say

By Jenni Buckland

Vanier students voted to support the International Space University coming to campus.

The college's stand — determined through a referendum last month — goes against York Federation of Students' "No" vote in the spring on the space university issue.

Results showed 80 per cent of Vanier students support the school choosing York as its permanent campus, but the number of votes was not released.

Vanier president Ian Bell said he decided to have the vote because the Council wasn't prepared to speak for Vanier students without one.

Norman Bethune College council also voted to support the space university in October.

Jeff Zoeller, the federation's internal vice-president, defended their early decision on the ISU, saying it was well-researched and debated by student representatives.

"We do what's in the best interest of students," Zoeller said. "Of course we aren't going to get the whole student population agreeing on any issue."

Michele Chai, the federation's external vice-president said, "if more students express more discomfort about the No stand, it will have to be discussed."

## Glendon faculty baffled by space information

by Jordan H. Green

Glendon's faculty council can't make up its mind about the proposed International Space University.

The group passed a motion last month, charging York's administration for not following standard decision-making procedures on a bid for the Massachusetts-based school.

"The point of the motion is a demand for information," said Martin Fichman, chair of the council's policy and planning committee.

According to Fichman, the York community does not have enough information to make a decision to either accept or refuse the space university, and Glendon's council wants more information to be made available.

The council fears the space university would be independent of York's regulations, and is seeking exemption from Canadian laws such as income tax, property-rights, and policies on hiring non-Canadian faculty.

The motion also voices the group's concern that the project will be an "agent for intensifying defence contracts and the militarization of space," since several space university board members are private military contractors in the United States, Europe, and Japan.

"The institution itself will be a financial drain," David Cooke, chair of the English Department of Glendon, said in an interview.

The provincial and federal government are promising \$22 million for the school's first year of operations, plus an annual \$3.5 million in operating funds from the province. The motion says such spending has not been justified, since a "potentially private corporation" would be publicly funded.

## Teaching assistants union accepts contract

by Excalibur Staff

York's teaching assistants and part-time faculty accepted a new contract last Thursday, six weeks after coming close to a strike.

Members will get an average raise of 1.5 per cent with the one-year agreement. Teaching assistants will also get a refund equal to York's 11 per cent rise in their tuition, along with a promise that the university won't scrap 'post-residency' periods.

Post-residency is an extension of many graduate programs when tuition is reduced. Chief union negotiator Margaret Watson said the university signed a binding note which guarantees it won't drop post-residency before the contract expires in August.

Watson said this feature was added in November, after Canadian Union of Educational Workers members voted 57 per cent in favor of a strike in a similar package. But a 60 per cent majority is required by the union.

# Italian youth urged to cooperate

by Pina D'Agostino

The sky's the limit for Italian-Canadians but "we must first learn to work in a cooperative way as a community because we don't work well together," Raffealla DiCecco told a York audience last week.

DiCecco, regional director for Ontario's Ministry of Education was among the academics and politicians who spoke at a conference last Wednesday on problems facing the future of the Italian-Canadian community.

Lou Fortini, a fourth year philosophy and political theory major said the conference was only a partial success and a starting point to addressing problems in more detail.

"I'm very optimistic for the future five, 10 or 15 years from now, but down the immediate road, it looks bleak," said Fortini.

DiCecco urged Italians to become better informed and more interested in their community.

"Italians need to excel in non-traditional areas and it's really difficult for Italian families to support this," said DiCecco.

DiCecco cited that the greatest proportion of Italian-Canadians (about 11 per cent) are employed in clerical jobs and most of these workers are women. The second greatest source of employment is the service industry, followed by assembly work and menial labour. Professional areas were last on the list.

Only about 8 per cent of Italian-Canadians have university degrees, DiCecco said.

York associate professor of Sociology Livy Visano, who was also on the panel, said Italians have a tendency to hide their aspirations to get to the top.

Liberal MP Rosario Marchese said they are underrepresented

in positions of responsibility and they need as a community to get into senior government positions.

"I don't believe we are doing this," Marchese said. "Therefore we are not helping to change the culture of our ministries, agencies and institutions. Therefore, we are not being effective at all."

Rose Sottile, president of the York Italian Association, agreed.

"We must mobilize as students and increase the number in the upper echelons to then fulfill our needs and act as children's mentors to show us that that ceiling is not so unattainable," she said.

But Visano added, "I don't celebrate having positions of power unless these people return their interest and encouragement to the community."

Visano reasoned that once people are elected as leaders of political parties they forget about the people and are only loyal and interested in their party lines.

But Joe Dematteis, York graduate and ex-president of the association said he received "no shockers" from the conference.

"It was more for promoting their [politicians] self-image rather than addressing the concerns of the Youth of the Italian background," said Dematteis.

"There is no continuity, we need to organize ourselves and be integral in our society, proposed Dematteis.

Joe Bresci, vice president of the association, also blamed the lack of community involvement. He said it was "pathetic" to see out of a substantial proportion of about 13,000 York students of Italian origin only about 300 are association members.

Sottile said together, Italians at York can break down any systemic barriers or stereotypes "Together we can show the Italian community by reaching greater heights," Sottile said.

# ISU opponents target pro-military speech

by Pat Micelli

Opponents of the International Space University are using words from one of the school's high-ranking supporters to stop it from coming to York.

In a speech, George MacFarlane, who played a large role in drafting the bid to bring the space university to York, promoted military use of space technology.

"As an ex-military officer with first-hand experience in the [United States Air Force] space program, I can dream of Canada becoming a major military space power," MacFarlane told a consulting group in May. "We all know, however, that neither the will nor the funding exist to make that dream come true."

MacFarlane is the director of the Institute for Space and Terrestrial Science, a government-funded research centre affiliated with York.

"It confirms all of our worst suspicions," David Noble, a critic of the space university bid, said last week. Opponents have argued that the semi-private institution will become a magnet for military research funds.

But MacFarlane said in a recent interview that those were his personal views and they had nothing to do with the space university.

"I'm not on the ISU board, I've got no management position in ISU — I don't plan to have any management position in ISU, because I'll be retired before that operation starts up," said MacFarlane.

MacFarlane said his personal comments and ideas should be differentiated from official duties and responsibilities. "I know the policy of ISTS. I know what I can do and what I can't do."

York research policy, which ISTS must follow, prohibits any classified research

— such as designing an anti-missile interceptor — from being done, according to MacFarlane.

But he does advocate ISTS doing research that would "assist in national defense" by "adding to the knowledge base."

"Why not?" MacFarlane said. "Scientists have always played a role in national defence."

"My position, as an ex-military officer, is that this

country and the United States should be prepared to defend itself against, you might call them, rogue attacks."

In the speech MacFarlane urged the Canadian Forces to train "without delay, a cadre of people" who would get information from remote-sensing imagery, and said ISTS "would be pleased to develop a series of short courses" to that end.

An "interesting" use of that technology, MacFarlane went on to say, is improving the

images in flight simulators to make bombing runs more accurate.

MacFarlane said the remote-sensing research done at the institute is related to environmental studies.

But opponents have recently released an open letter to Susan Mann calling for York's immediate withdrawal from ISTS. The letter also demands that the Ontario government and York investigate the institute's research history.



## Fans get Souljah no-show without apology

After waiting three hours, about 1,200 people were disappointed because Sister Souljah never showed, and even the promoters don't know what happened.

"This is a lot of crap," said promoter Brother Noel. "She is being disrespectful to the community."

According to Noel, the promoters are hoping that "Souljah will give an open apology to the Black community."

The rap activist who was scheduled to speak at York two Sunday nights ago was faced with numerous bomb and death threats. She moved to another hotel and refused phone contacts with anyone, said

Noel.

"Immigration was breathing down her neck as well as the Heritage Front," said Noel. "She did not feel safe."

The white supremacist group had earlier written to Immigration Minister Bernard Valcourt asking that Souljah be expelled from Canada.

As part of the \$10,000 contract, Souljah was also expected to sign autographs for those who were not able to attend the show, and do interviews with CBC and the Toronto Star, said Noel.

The promoters are asking for their money back plus compensation.

— Jennifer Lim