

York's computerized Voice Enrolment System (above) will accommodate over 15,000 students during course registration.

## Phone registration to cut enrolment wait

By EXCALIBUR STAFF

Course-registration waiting time could be cut to under ten minutes once students learn the new telephone registration system.

York's \$200,000 computerized Voice Enrolment System (VRES), will administer the registration of all Arts, Fine Arts and Science students and courses.

VRES is only accessible through a touch-tone telephone, since the system cannot decipher dialling from rotary phones or from push-button phones that produce clicks instead of beeps.

Though VRES has been operational at York for two years, this year only 1,000 students used the system to register. Next year, the system will accommodate over 15,000 students.

Starting in a few weeks, students must choose their course list by telephone, using all 10 number keys, and the star (\*) and pound (#) keys to enter each course selection.

The system will give immediate feedback; if a course section is available, a student will be immediately registered.

If not, the student will be informed of other available sections, or told that the course is full.

VRES produces a synthetic voice, which guides the user through the registration process. This year, the

average call to VRES lasted five minutes, according to Advising Centre Co-ordinator Nancy Accinelli.

Automated telephone registration is currently in use at many Canadian universities, but York is the first to add extra security features, including a PIN (personal identification number) and a limit on the number of attempts to access a student's record with the wrong password.

Other universities report only few and isolated incidents of tampering with student records, but there have been technical problems with telephone registration.

At the University of Alberta in Edmonton, the VRES system's voice would trigger another, unintended command sequence each time students attempted to register in one particular course. Instead of adding that course to the students' course lists, the system dropped the students' other courses.

At some universities, students are also frustrated at times when the system is in high demand — like the first week of classes — because the lines are continually busy.

Students should still speak to an advisor before choosing their course list, as with in-person registration in the past. Each department will schedule its own advising sessions.

Registration packages will be distributed from February 27 to March 3.

# Proposed recycling programme a first for Canadian universities

By JUDIE SNOW

York's proposed recycling policy will break new ground, if various university departments decide it is feasible and cost-effective.

York would be the first university in Canada to embrace a programme of this magnitude, according to Juanita Berkhout, head of the York-U-Can—Recycle Programme.

Berkhout says that there is a great demand for recycling at York. She receives about 25 phone calls per week requesting recycling information and services. In response to this demand York-U-Can-Recycle sets up a weekly information booth in Central Square.

York is already involved in limited recycling — mostly paper and cardboard products. However, there are only two recycling depots on campus, one on Assiniboine Road and the other in the Faculty of Environmental Studies. Berkhout says that more funding is needed in order to increase the number of depots.

Peter Struk, Vice-President (Physical Resources), confirms that the University is committed to adopting a full recycling policy and expects that the York community will follow the example set by Metro Toronto's acceptance of the Blue Box.

Struk sees the process involving two steps: first, to establish a university policy toward recycling among a cross-section of university representatives, and second, to implement the programme.

The administrative areas largely responsible for adopting the policy are Physical Resources, Physical Plant, Caretaking, and Grounds and Vehicles.

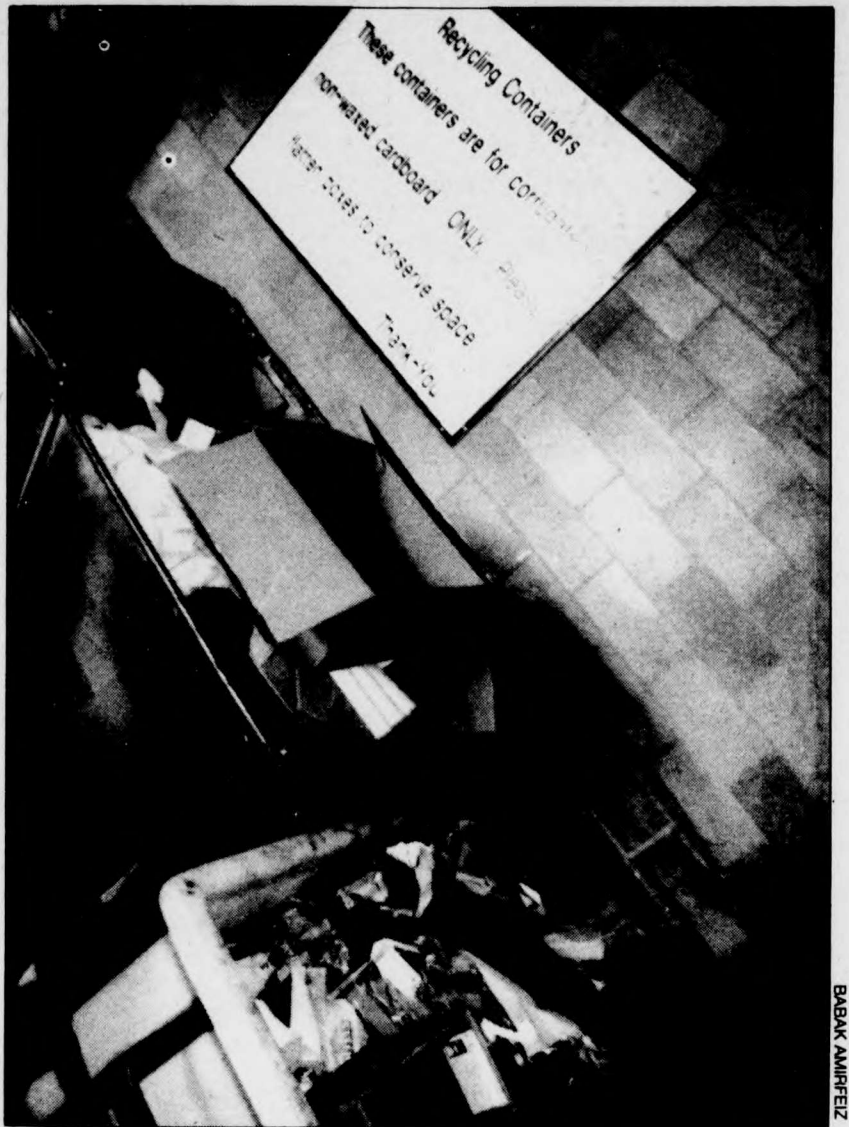
Berkhout expects that the Administration will accept the policy within six months.

But because so many departments are involved and affected by this policy, the process is slow-going.

The Physical Resources department is currently forming committees to study the feasibility of implementing the policy.

Economics play a major role in the decision-making process and the main reason the administration has expressed an interest in the policy is largely due to the potential cost savings. Each year York generates approximately 2,200 tons of garbage. The University pays tipping fees of \$65 per ton of garbage to Metro Works to remove this garbage to a transfer station.

According to Cor Van Ginkel, Superintendent (Grounds and Vehi-



**DID YOU KNOW?** York generates 2200 tons of garbage every year. A proposed recycling programme would eliminate much of this waste.

cles), these tipping fees will increase to \$100 per ton this May, an increase of 54 per cent.

In addition, garbage which is removed to landfill sites currently costs the University \$50 per ton. This figure too will increase in May to \$85 per ton — an increase of 70 per cent.

If the recycling policy is adopted, caretakers' and groundskeepers' salaries may have to be increased to reflect the added workload, and more staff may need to be hired in these and other involved departments, says Van Ginkel. But he argues that these increased costs would be offset by the large decrease in tipping fees the University normally pays.

Leon Wasser, Executive Assistant (Physical Resources), compares the implementation of the recycling policy to the smoking policy that was implemented by the University last year. Both projects impact many people and departments and require

the creation of a university-wide committee to co-operate and reach a consensus.

According to Wasser the actual costs of implementing the programme are difficult to determine because a policy of the scale York is considering has never been implemented in a Canadian university. Wasser sees the key to the programme's success as education, saying attitudes towards waste need to change.

"We need to reduce the amount of garbage before it is recycled."

The York-U-Can-Recycle programme, too, aims to educate the community; Berkhout lobbies for an official recycling policy that would teach the community proper recycling techniques.

An open forum on the recycling programme will take place on Tuesday, March 7. For more information contact York-U-Can-Recycle at 736-5252.

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