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York president to head planning committee on university's future

By OAKLAND ROSS

York president H. Ian Macdonald will chair a five-member commission on the goals and objectives of York if the university senate accepts a recommendation from its academic policy and planning committee at today's senate meeting.

There is little chance the recommendation will be rejected.

The establishment of the commission is a direct result of a request last May by the senate that the academic policy and planning committee (APPC) draft a statement of the academic priorities of York and an outline for the means of achieving them.

Further impetus for the move was provided by president Macdonald who, as early as November, 1974, stressed the need for a systematic study of the future of York. A green paper issued last April by the Council of Ontario Universities urged that such a study be undertaken by all universities in Ontario as a basis for dialogue with the government.

The York Gazette this week devoted an entire issue to the APPC recommendation. In it, Macdonald outlined the duties of the proposed commission: "first, the identification of the university's future goals and objectives; second, the articulation of the university's immediate and short-term areas of priority or middle-range goals; and third, the delineation of alternative methods

of implementing both."

The formation of the commission comes during a difficult time for Canadian universities and the commission will have to concern itself with more than purely academic considerations.

The report which APPC chairman J.B. Ellis will present to senate today stresses that the commission must study academic issues in the light of social, economic and administrative factors, many of which are unfavourable to universities.

According to Macdonald, "the commission will be primarily a co-ordinating and integrating body" and will work in conjunction with various "exploration teams" made up of faculty, students, support staff and representatives "from outside the university".

One academic year is the time provided for the completion of the commission's basic tasks. Although the commission was not designed to be a permanent body, Macdonald told Excalibur this week that "it may well become the focus for the on-going study and guidance of the university."

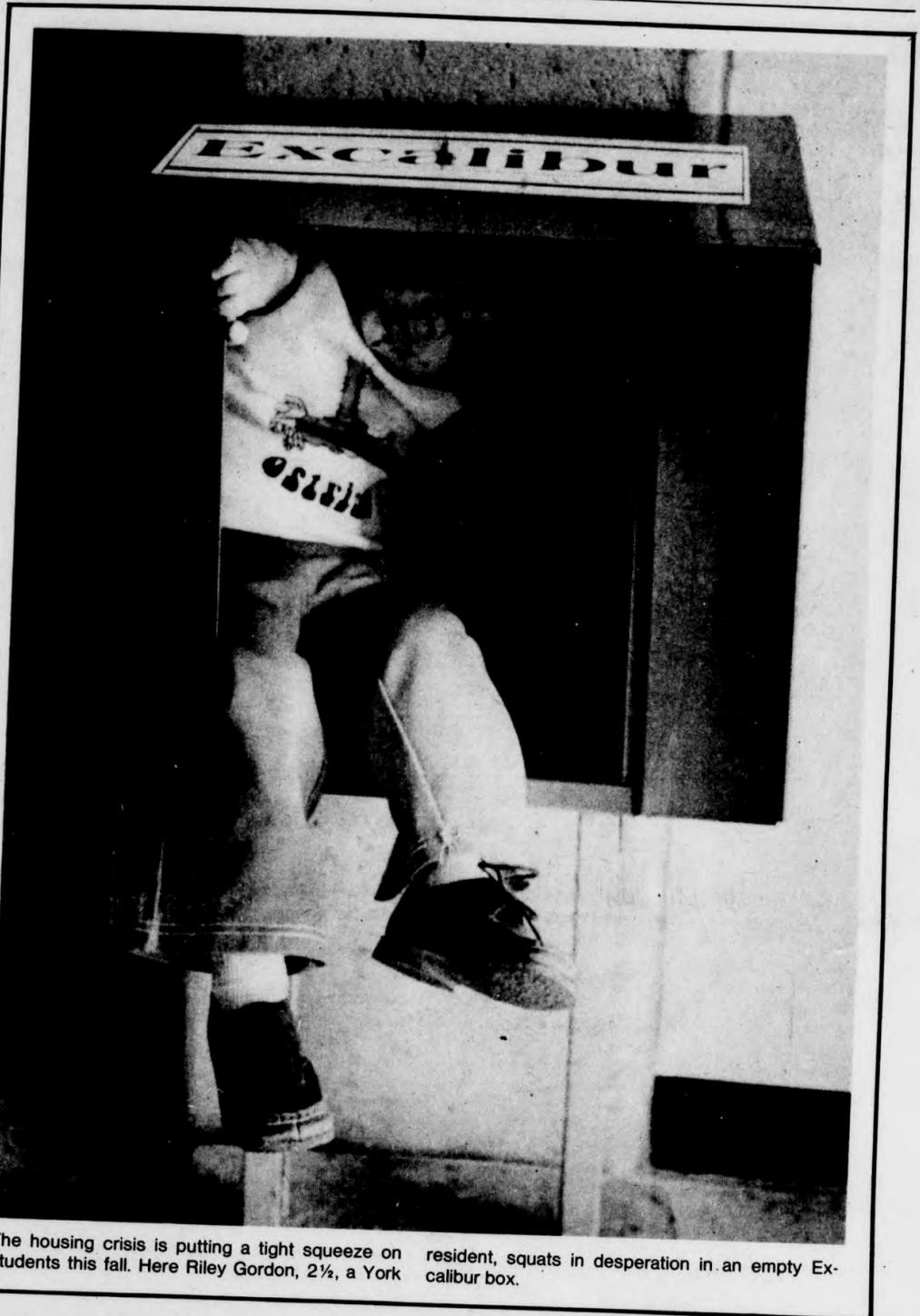
Originally, there was to have been a single commissioner who would hold hearings and discussions and make regular reports to senate. This proposal was rejected because, the APPC felt that a single commissioner would not be able to deal effectively with the wide-range of administrative and financial issues involved.

The appointment of president Macdonald as chairman of the commission reflects this concern.

The five-member model now being proposed will include, in addition to Macdonald, two faculty members elected by senate, one student elected by the senate student caucus and one alumnus.

THIS WEEK

Donald Cameron reviews the role of Canadian universities in society ... p. 8 & 9



The housing crisis is putting a tight squeeze on students this fall. Here Riley Gordon, 2½, a York resident, squats in desperation in an empty Excalibur box.

Dale Ritch take food boycott issue to the students

By JULIAN BELTRAME

A student rally aimed at mobilizing York students into an active boycott of the lucrative Central Square servery, was scheduled this week for October 2 (a weak Friday).

Student council president Dale Ritch, in conjunction with the laid-off Versa workers and local 254 of the Restaurant, Cafeteria and Tavern Employees, has been working for a general boycott of campus food services for weeks, and the October 2 rally will determine whether student support exists for the initial stage — a boycott of Commercial Caterers' Central Square outlet.

Central Square was singled out because of its location and because it would not greatly inconvenience York's residence population.

"Residence students have to be serviced. They need some place to eat, so the logical place to boycott is Central Square," explained Ritch, Tuesday.

"I'm anticipating several hundred students to come, and we're hoping to get from 700 to 1,000, so overflow arrangements have been made," he added.

If the mass rally gives Ritch and the United Left Coalition (ULC) the green light, the scenario for the fall months will be—

- boycott of Central Square until Commercial Caterers is forced to withdraw from the campus.

- a more general boycott of Rill Foods and Commercial Caterers' Complex II location.

- and a demand that the university set up a non-profit university-run food service, overseen by a committee of democratically elected students, faculty, and staff.

In the event the administration refuses to run food services, CYSF would be willing to step in and operated Central Square on a temporary basis, said Ritch.

While the laid-off Versa workers were the initial focal point for the ULC's dissent on food services this summer, Ritch maintained that the workers were no longer his central concern. The quality of food, the price of food, and the entire question of who should operate the university's serveries, were the key issues to be discussed at the rally, said Ritch.

Norman Crandles of ancillary services, denied both that food prices had risen inordinately and

that quality had not improved with the new caterers.

"The only person I've heard say food hasn't been any better this year is Dale Ritch," said Crandles. He added that food had not increased by 30 per cent, as claimed by Ritch.

"Sure you can go to Marky's and pay \$1.50 for a sandwich, but they put one quarter pound of beef in that sandwich.

"The first person to show me an item that's gone up 30 per cent, I'll buy him lunch," he promised.

Ritch sited milk, donuts, muff-

ins, coffee, and salad plates as all having increased in excess of 30 per cent in the past year. He admitted, however, that for most food items where quality and weight differed between Versafood and the new caterers, it

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Food caterers tell different story

Food prices at York are at their lowest possible levels and the culprit for high food costs are not the caterers but inflation, Paul Farkas, vice-president of Commercial Caterers and Warren Rill of Rill Foods, claimed Tuesday.

Responding to charges of high prices and low quality levelled at the caterers by CYSF president Dale Ritch, and to the threat of an impending boycott of the Central Square cafeteria, both representatives said the charges were unfounded.

Farkas told Excalibur that Commercial Caterers runs its serveries at a 42 per cent material cost level and that the reason donuts are 20 cents is because a donut costs the caterers 12 cents to purchase.

"I can't help it if we have to pay

12 cents for a donut or if coffee went up 35 per cent in the past three months," said Farkas. "I think if our government doesn't do something about inflation soon, we'll be faced with increases weekly."

Asked if he thought the planned boycott of his Central Square servery was justified, Farkas said it was "if someone believed that the university should subsidize food. Ritch's argument is with the university, not with us," he added.

"Our contract with the university specifies that our prices will reflect the cost trend in materials and labour, so if our costs go down, so will our prices.

"We lost \$2,160 in August which we hope to make up during peak months in the fall, but if the university starts to operate the

food service themselves, they'll run into the same problems. They have to find money somewhere too," he concluded.

Warren Rill said Rill Foods could not give away food, and that his operation lost \$4,000 in the past week alone.

"Someone's making money on campus and it's not us," he said. "Possibly the caterer who was given the lucrative Central Square outlet should have received the two college complexes so as to offset the costs in the dining hall operations," he added.

Asked to comment on food costs and quality, Rill said, "Anyone can say whatever they like about cost and quality, but I personally believe the food is better this year."