

## Residents call for rent increase to be reduced

By MARK HUNTER

On February 22, the Residence Budget Committee (RBC) met to present its recommendations regarding the 1988-89 Housing Services Budget.

In the RBC's subcommittee's report, it was acknowledged that the 9.9% increase in rent for students living on campus (4-6% higher than in recent years) was comprised largely of two main areas; 6.5% of the rent increase is the result of university-wide inflation (increased costs, salary hikes, etc.) and the majority of the remaining 3.4% is allotted for the organizational expansion of housing services.

Organizational expansion entails an increase in the number of service, clerical, and supervisory staff, plus the purchase of new computer hardware, software and office equipment. The RBC expressed concern as to whether or not there is indeed a direct need for the hiring of more staff.

In response, Norm Crandles, of Housing and Food Services, stated that "the load of the present staff was such that they have been stretched to their limit," and that "new staff are absolutely needed for catching up with years of understaffing."

A further concern with the student rent increase involved the Housing Services Committee's plan to make a profit in 1988-89 on student accommodation. According to the university's Board of Governors it is the goal of all York business operations

to secure a 'modest profit,' and in the case of student housing, a 2% surplus is planned.

The RBC strongly recommended that the budgeted surplus in this area be eliminated and that the student's rent be cut accordingly. But beginning this year, the Housing Services Committee has decided that any profit made above the budgeted surplus may be retained by housing and used the following year as a credit in the budget. Alan Greenbaum, President of York University's Tenants Association, explained.

A third problem noted by the RBC was that of the Conference Centre's charges per occupant and distribution of its profits. The RBC feels that it is unfair that York students who live in York's housing facilities over the summer (students enrolled in summer courses at York comprise 50% of the total number of occupants in the facilities during the summer months) are charged the same 'cost per bed night' as non-students. The RBC recommended that York students be charged a preferential rate and that the term 'York student' apply to anyone enrolled in summer courses at York or who is registered for the Fall term.

The RBC also recommended that since the Conference Centre's primary purpose was to support the operation of housing students, any surplus generated by the Conference Centre should be directed to the Housing Budget for the purpose of reducing rent increases.

## Group boycotts Osgoode caf.

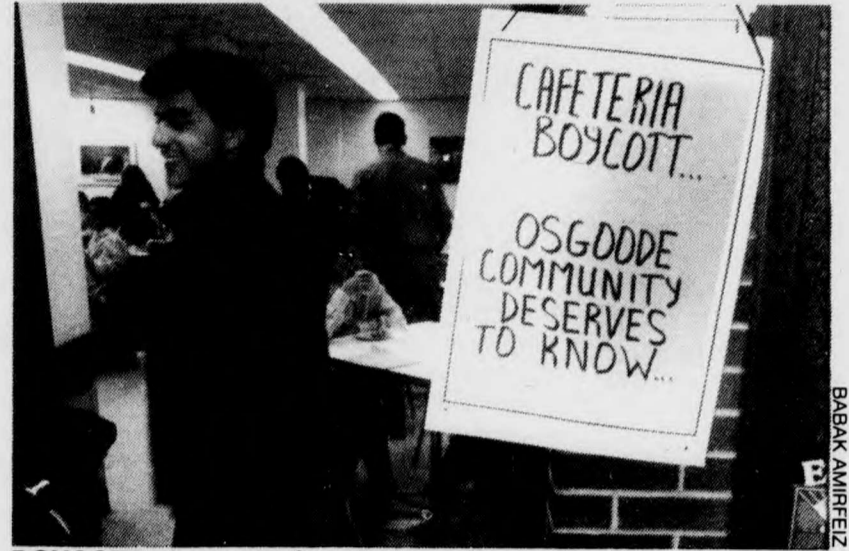
By JAMES FLAGAL

Following a recent decision by the new Osgoode Cafeteria caterer not to hire back three former employees, a group of staff, faculty, and students joined together to boycott the cafeteria.

Calling themselves the "The Ad Hoc Committee for a Boycott of the Osgoode Cafeteria," the group says that "The contractor was warned that a good number of Osgoode faculty, students, and staff were angry about what had happened to these women and were prepared to act to get their jobs back."

The controversy started when a new caterer, Eddie Haag, was hired by the University's Food and Beverage Service Committee after Osgoode's student council decided to give up the cafeteria since they were making such a small profit. At first, the three employees, Rosa Risicioni, Maria Laurenza, and Gina Bizzario, complained that Haag had reduced their wages by \$2.00-\$2.50 and that working conditions were unbearable. Represented by Osgoode Professor Michael Mandel, the women managed to secure their old wages, but the working conditions eventually caused them to resign. Many students felt that both Mandel and the university's intervention into Haag's business was far too excessive, and that Haag should be allowed to run his business as he sees fit.

Mandel says that one of the main reasons the women resigned was the supervisor which Haag hired,



**BOYCOTT:** A group of students, staff, and faculty are boycotting Osgoode cafeteria.

Sharon Christie. A couple of weeks ago, Haag tendered his resignation and turned over the cafeteria to Franz Heutshi. Heutshi, Mandel and Dorothy Moore from the President's Office met to discuss the possibility of the women returning to their old positions.

Mandel says that at the time, the university assured him that with the new caterer there was a good chance that the women would be offered their old jobs back. During the meeting, Mandel says that Heutshi expressed a willingness to consider taking the women back, but on the condition that they continue working under Sharon Christie. Mandel presented this proposal to the women, and they accepted the conditions.

Heutshi explains that following the meeting, all parties decided to give him two weeks to assess whether or not he had enough positions to offer the women their old jobs. But he discovered that all he could offer the women was one position as a dishwasher, because he didn't need a cook since he already had a chef and did his own baking, and he didn't need a cashier since his son fulfilled that responsibility.

Heutshi also says that he offered the women an opportunity of a job with Cara caterers at the airport. He explains that he could most likely get the women interviews for a job, and that Cara offered its employees good wages plus a medical and dental plan, something which Heutshi could never offer the women.

Mandel then put this proposal before the women, but they refused to accept it on the basis that the airport was much too far to travel for work and that the offer did not assure the women that they would actually get the jobs.

Because of Heutshi's refusal to hire back the women, the group launched a formal boycott on Monday, but an informal boycott had been taking place against Haag for some time.

The group is also protesting the way the university allowed Heutshi to take over Haag's business, and how caterers in general are allowed to assume contracts on campus. They feel that the university gave the caterer too much power by only demanding that management offer the old employees their old jobs back, but without specifying at what wage rate and under what kind of working conditions. They also feel that the Osgoode community was never given a chance to say how they feel about giving Heutshi the contract, and under what conditions he should be able to take over the cafeteria.

"We want the contract torn up," says Mandel, "we want the women back with guarantees. And if this guy cannot do this, then we want the rest of the York community to join in our boycott."

But under the circumstances Heutshi feels he's been cooperative, and that he's offered the women as many alternatives as he can, but he simply cannot hire the women back.

## Admin and student committee reach agreement on centre's commercial space

By JEFF SHINDER

The administration and the Student Centre Committee (SCC) have settled their dispute over the legal status of commercial operations within the Student Centre.

The deal eliminated a major stumbling block in the ongoing negotiations for a final agreement between the SCC and the administration. The impasse began when the university's lawyers proposed a head lease to be placed over the Student Centre's commercial space. The SCC felt the proposal contradicted the

draft management agreement by providing the administration with potential power to change the internal configurations of the centre's commercial space.

According to Administration Provost Tom Meininger the settlement provides a "bare bones mechanism." The agreement does not include a detailed lease arrangement between the SCMB (Student Centre Management Board) and the administration.

The deal, is thus subordinate to the draft management agreement. As a result, SCC fears about unnecessary

administration control over the SCMB have been alleviated.

SCC representatives were pleased with the outcome. In the viewpoint of SCC chairperson Robert Castle the "administration demonstrated a willingness to be sensitive to our concerns."

Meininger was very positive about the deal. He stated that "We (the administration) are very pleased with our steady progress to a final agreement. Through teamwork we managed to jump that hurdle and are now, in my opinion, moving to the finish line."

SUMMER  
JOBS AT

CAMP



WHITE PINE

HALIBURTON, ONTARIO

(EMPLOYMENT AVAILABLE FOR 2-4 MONTHS)

**ORIENTATION SESSION (including video and conversation)**

with JOEY RICH and JEFF WILSON

ON CAMPUS...TUESDAY, MARCH 1st

9:00 to 9:30 a.m.

SOUTH 102 ROSS BUILDING

At this session, personal interviews can be scheduled to take place between 9:30 a.m. and noon

**IF YOU ENJOY:** Working with children, sharing challenges and if you want to gain valuable experience for a people-oriented career...

**WE HAVE OPENINGS FOR:**

- **Supervisory Positions:** Canoeing, Canoe Tripping, Riding, Pottery, Copper Enamelling, Drama, Outdoor Education/Nature, Arts & Crafts; Waterski, Swimming, Tennis, Sailing, Woodworking, Audio Technician.
- **Cabin Counsellors:** (for boys & girls, ages 8-16)
- **Specialty Instructors:** Canoe Tripping, Kayaking, Pottery, Drama, Arts & Crafts, Outdoor Education/Recreation, Photography, Tennis, Gymnastics, Woodwork, Dancersize, Windsurf, Swimming, Sailing, Silk Screen, Riding, Waterski.
- **Piano Accompanist**
- **Nurses**
- **Office Secretary** (including Computer/Word Processing)
- **Dining Room Supervisor** and Dining Room Staff
- **Drivers** ("F" licence minimum)
- **Maintenance Staff**

**Salary** (varies with job and experience)

**Room and Board Provided**

**Previous Camping Experience Preferable**

Winter Address:

8 Rollscourt Drive  
Willowdale, Ontario M2L 1X5  
Telephone: (416) 447-4125

YOUTH VENTURE CAPITAL

Be  
Your Own  
Boss

\$7,500  
Interest-Free  
Loan To  
Start Your  
Own Business

Young people who  
may qualify are those  
who are:

- between 18 and 24 and  
not attending school  
full-time or

- between 25 and 29 and are  
recent graduates from a post-  
secondary school or have received  
a trade certificate in the past year.

Get down to business,  
call (free):

THE YOUTH HOTLINE 1-800-387-0777.

The program is sponsored by the Ontario Ministry of Skills Development in co-operation with the Royal Bank of Canada, the Ontario Chamber of Commerce and local participating Chambers of Commerce and Boards of Trade.



Ministry of  
Skills Development  
Alvin Curling  
Minister