

## 50 students fall victim to suspected flu virus

By GARRY MARR  
and JAMES HOGGETT

Close to 50 resident students from both Stong and Bethune college reported persistent vomiting and diarrhea late Thursday night, which has been linked to a flu virus.

At approximately 11:00 p.m. several cases of nausea were reported throughout Complex II and five students were taken to York-Finch hospital for treatment. Michael Stokes, a don at Stong College, said York-Finch hospital indicated they

would be unable to handle an epidemic and requested that no more students be sent over.

Initially, the source of the virus was alleged to have been food poisoning, which resulted in a quarantine of all food at the Complex II cafeteria. Food samples were sent from York to a private lab and the North York Health Department was also called in to collect samples.

Stong and Bethune both share the same kitchen, which prompted the food poisoning suspicions.

"We sent samples of everything in our fridge," said Jim Fougere, food service director on campus with Marriott.

But on Wednesday, Director of Food and Housing Norm Crandles was informed that food poisoning has been ruled out. "We treated it as if it could have been contamination," said Crandles.

Over 30 samples of food were sent out to be tested for salmonella, E coli, and staphylococcus, but all the results were negative.

York's chief medical official, Dr. James Wheeler, stated in yesterday's

*Toronto Star*, "The students had a very sudden and acute gastro-intestinal infection. Nothing other than a virus could do this."

Among the victims of the unknown virus were Mike Robbins, a third year Economics student who also plays defense for the hockey Yeomen. After suffering stomach cramps from 8:00 to 11:00 Robbins was taken to hospital when he became severely nauseous. He had to wait up to twenty minutes for treatment at York Finch Hospital, during which time he vomited again.

Kathy Lyons, a first year physical education and English student, also

reported similar symptoms. She was taken to York-Finch and released about three hours later.

Paul Ferris, a third year English student was told by doctors at York-Finch that he may have had food poisoning. Ferris was given an intravenous solution for several hours because of dehydration and released two hours later.

"They told me I should be better in a couple of days," Ferris said.

An article in *The Toronto Star* on Sunday said that the flu-like ailment had spread to Vanier and Winters colleges, where vomiting and diarrhea were also reported.

## More housing for first-year students

By DANIEL WOLGELERENTER

A new recruiting strategy will allot more residence spaces to first-year students for the upcoming academic year.

Starting next September, about half of York's 1,564 undergraduate beds will be occupied by first year students, Provost Tom Meininger said. As a result, between 125-150 upper-level resident students will lose their beds. Currently, first year students account for about 35 per cent of undergraduate residents.

The Vice-President's Committee on Housing made the decision to give more spaces to first year students in early December after consulting the Department of Housing, the Council of Masters, and the Office of Admissions.

Meininger said that the decision was made because it is "in the recruiting interests of the University" to be able to offer more spaces to incoming students for whom "housing is high on the list of their concerns."

He also said that the decision was made because upper-year students are more familiar with Toronto and are better equipped to handle living off-campus.

Founders master and chairperson of the Council of Masters Arthur Haberman said that because most universities have a greater percentage of first-year students in residence, York was at a disadvantage when it came to attracting students.

Haberman said that a more equitable mix between first-year and upper-level students was needed and that "a 50-50 split is minimally appropriate."

The university also announced that residence boundaries around Metro have been extended to include more outlying communities.

The old boundaries extended from the lakeshore to Highway 7 in the North, and from Indian Line (mid-Etobicoke) in the West to Markham Road (mid-Scarborough) in the East.

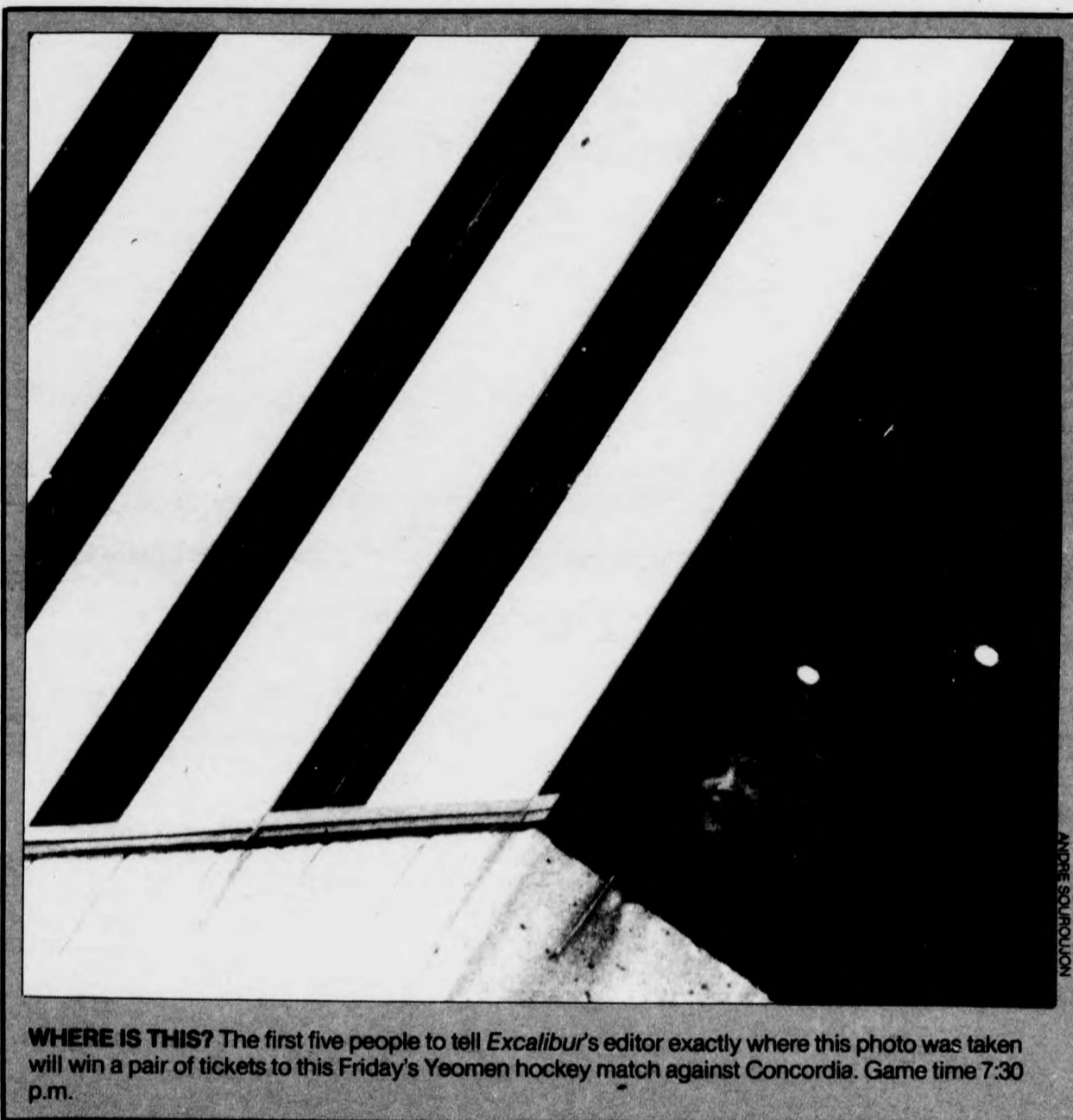
The new boundaries extend farther north and west.

Beginning in September, residents of communities such as Kleinberg, Richmond Hill, and Aurora will no longer be eligible to live in residence unless they qualify for "high scholarship awards" which would guarantee them a space, according to Food and Housing Director Norman Crandles.

Crandles said that previously the boundary had not extended past Highway 7 to the north, which meant that students from downtown were ineligible for residence, while students from just north of Highway 7 were eligible, even though they lived closer to York.

According to Meininger, the boundaries as initially proposed would have made all Mississauga, Scarborough, Markham, Brampton, and Newmarket students ineligible

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WHERE IS THIS? The first five people to tell *Excalibur's* editor exactly where this photo was taken will win a pair of tickets to this Friday's Yeomen hockey match against Concordia. Game time 7:30 p.m.

ANDRE SOROUJIAN

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## YUFA and CYSF back Prof. Holmes

By MARK WRIGHT

The York University Faculty Association (YUFA) and the CYSF have decided to support psychology professor Chris Holmes' continuing grievance against the university.

Last spring the Psychology Department rejected Holmes' proposal to make his special topic courses — "Mystical Psychology and the Psychic Sciences," and "Mystical Views of Consciousness and Creation" — part of the undergraduate programme.

The decision was made by the Psychology Undergraduate Committee based on the investigations and advice of an *ad hoc* committee.

Holmes' major complaints are with the manner in which his courses were reviewed.

This is not the first time that Holmes has had a conflict with the

university. In 1983 his tenure was turned down and he filed a grievance alleging that he was denied tenure because of a bias against his work.

The university settled with Holmes in 1986 before the case reached an arbitration board. In addition to financial compensation, he was given two special topics courses to teach that would be evaluated on the basis of academic freedom.

Academic freedom, as defined in Article 10 of the Collective Agreement (the contract signed between the university and YUFA), states that the university will strive to be free from "institutional censorship."

Holmes believes that during the reviewing process the *ad hoc* committee violated the terms of the settlement.

"One member of the subcommittee attended a class," Holmes said, "but for only half of it, and another attended to hear a guest

speaker and to hand out some class evaluations."

"I consider that the totally superficial justifications given for the dismissal of my proposed courses makes a mockery of the ideals upon which this university was founded, of any semblance of academic, scholarly integrity or tolerance within the Psychology Department," Holmes states in a letter to YUFA.

YUFA's renewed support is most valuable because the administration can't ignore it," Holmes said.

YUFA would not comment.

Psychology Department Chair Katherine Koenig said her department has not changed its position.

"As I understand it, we went through the ordinary review process. Every member of the Undergraduate Studies Committee went to Holmes's courses, read all the material and the special information about the courses," she said.

"The only thing that was unusual about this case was the great amount of effort made in reviewing it."

Last week the CYSF decided to support Holmes. In a draft of its letter, which is to be sent to the Senate Committee on Curriculum and Academic Standards, the CYSF states that it "must question how much weight was given to student opinion" in the evaluation process.

The letter further states that the manner by which the *ad hoc* committee investigated the case was "nothing more than a stab at the process."

"The issue here is academic freedom," Holmes explained. "I think that it's important that students in a modern university be exposed to the areas of psychical, mystical, and spiritual teaching and research, and I don't understand why there is such resistance to one teacher who has an alternative view."