

# News

## Survey finds:

# No love for housing dept.

**Bill Zock**

The worst thing about living on campus is the Housing Department, according to a York University Tenants' Association questionnaire.

The Housing Department was most often singled out by a large number of tenants who made comments on the questionnaire.

"Rude and bureaucratic were the two most common printable adjectives," according to YUTA Chairman Lorne MacLean. He added that "A creative variety of vituperative expletives were also used."

"Housing has put the rents up 8

per cent," said MacLean, "but we don't seem to be getting anything for our money. In fact, things appear to be getting worse."

Over 40 per cent of the tenants complained about the lack of cleanliness in the halls and elevators, and almost the same amount said the garbage rooms were dirty. "But by and large," said MacLean, "the superintendents got support." Analyzing this apparent contradiction, MacLean said, "I must presume that tenants recognize the superintendents are overworked and get little, if any, support from Housing."

More than one-third of the

apartments, according to YUTA's survey, need substantial maintenance, including painting and plastering, repair to loose, cracked or broken windows, and cleaning or repairing carpets. YUTA received 31 complaints concerning loose wiring and faulty switches, and 17 complaints regarding malfunctioning appliances. About 20 per cent had difficulties with locks, doors and intercoms.

Twenty-five tenants complained of cockroaches or mice.

"I doubt that Housing is even aware these problems exist," said MacLean. "They just take our money and laugh all the way to the bank."

"We received a significant number of concerns about the fire equipment. Roughly 15 per cent had some misgivings. Several people, especially those in the corner apartments, said they did not even hear the false alarm in the middle of the night. Some tenants indicated that a fire drill would be a good exercise."

"There were also many complaints that there were no lights in the stairs at 8 Assiniboine the day the power went off. Apparently the emergency back-up system failed," MacLean added that "In a genuine emergency this could cause a major catastrophe."

The tenants' association wrote to Housing and outlined the danger, but received what MacLean felt was "a rather strange reply." Former Housing Services Manager Jane Corbett wrote: "the lights cannot function without the generator. The problem was resolved within a few hours."

"If there had been a fire, people would not have been able to get to safety. In a few hours many tenants could be dead. I just don't understand what's going on in Ms. Corbett's head," said MacLean.

"I hope the response from this questionnaire gets the idea through to Housing that there are substantial problems. Experts in public opinion polls tell us that with a questionnaire of this sort, a 10 per cent return is very high. We had a 25 per cent response, and there are some indications that we did not receive all we should have. In one building, it appears that some prior editing was done by persons unknown. Coupled with a significantly lower return than from the other three buildings, this particular building had no complaints whatsoever about Housing. We can read between the lines," MacLean added, "But it's not worth making an issue out of it. The main thing is to get the message through to Housing that there are problems."

In a recent administrative shuffle, the University appointed Norm Crandles to the post of Residence Manager. MacLean said he would seek an early meeting with Crandles to iron out difficulties.



Jules Xavier

Fall-spring love affairs—can they stand the test of time?

## Osgoode voters put Steve Ross on top

**Neil Wiberg**

Steve Ross was elected President of the Osgoode Hall Legal and Literary Society during the last week of the school's elections last week.

The Legal and Literary Society serves as Osgoode's student council. Five executive positions were contested, while two were acclaimed.

Rose emerged as the leading candidate from a three man field polling 169 votes, to Kirk Boggs' 124, while Tony Veneer trailed with 88.

Rose and Boggs were experienced members of the Society. On the 1980-81 executive, Rose was

Vice-President while Boggs was Treasurer.

The other victorious campaigners include:

- Andrea Habas, Secretary
- Dougal Macdonald, Treasurer
- Susan Manwaring, Second Year Representative
- Donna Wowk, Third Year Representative

Geordie Jones was acclaimed as Vice-President, and Jerry Herszkopf was acclaimed as External Affairs, Director.

There were no complaints launched about the conduct of candidates or campaign officials.

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