

Housing officer says York isn't biased towards gays

In other that the York community may become further acquainted with York's housing policies, I wish to reply to Mr. Trollope's letter in your December 2 issue in which he is critical of

some housing policies and practices.

It has been the practice from the beginning of our apartment administration to request post-dated rent cheques. Experience has

shown that this practice not only assists rental procedures but also obviously helps tenants with their personal budgeting, because the majority of tenants still favour its use. The University is aware that the Landlord and Tenant Act forbids requiring post dated cheques and therefore has continued their use on a request basis only.

Mr. Trollope's statement that the Housing staff had indicated that the University has no obligation to repair apartments, or to clean them in preparation for new tenants, is completely erroneous. The facts are that when an apartment is vacated, the turnover is normally timed to permit cleaning and any needed repairs. However, on occasion, in order to accommodate an incoming tenant, early occupation is agreed upon in lieu of University cleaning, and a later scheduling of repairs. Such a mutual arrangement is clearly designed to

help a new tenant and in no way attempts to avoid responsibility for normal cleaning and repairing between occupancies.

Thirdly, Mr. Trollope accuses the Housing Office of being discriminatory towards the gay population at York. Readers are invited to form their own judgement after reading the following.

In the case of the two female students that Mr. Trollope mentions who were seeking a 1-bedroom furnished apartment, after a calm and reasoned discussion of their request with Housing personnel, the two women agreed that they would apply for a 1-bedroom unfurnished apartment at 22 Moon Road as an alternative to a 1-bedroom furnished apartment, since they were free to furnish it to suit their needs. There was no 'anger, scene or embarrassment' as intimated by P. Trollope, and this is borne out by a

reading of the encounter as told by one of the partners in the December issue of the feminist paper "Breakthrough", page 19. Through the process of the waiting list, accommodation was subsequently offered to these two women and they became tenants.

The present guidelines that are used in allocating apartments were established from the beginning to ensure a fair distribution of the types of accommodation (furnished and unfurnished) to meet the variety of student requirements while ensuring maximum use of accommodation by as many students as possible. Married accommodation (furnished 1-bedroom apartments) have traditionally been held for that category of students who are married or living common-law; all other applicants are considered single and eligible for single accommodation, and this split between married and single is in proportion to the demands as revealed by the waiting list. This is an example of the balance achieved through the guidelines to allow equal opportunity for accommodation for both single and married students. A working group is currently studying apartment policies with a view to recommending desired changes in priorities and eligibility.

If the gay organization feels that the accommodation available to them now is not equitable, they should send a proposal to the Residence Manager. It is interesting to note that under present priorities, 60 per cent of furnished apartment accommodation and 100 per cent of unfurnished accommodation is open to the unmarried student community.

N.J. Corbett (Mrs.)
Residence Manager

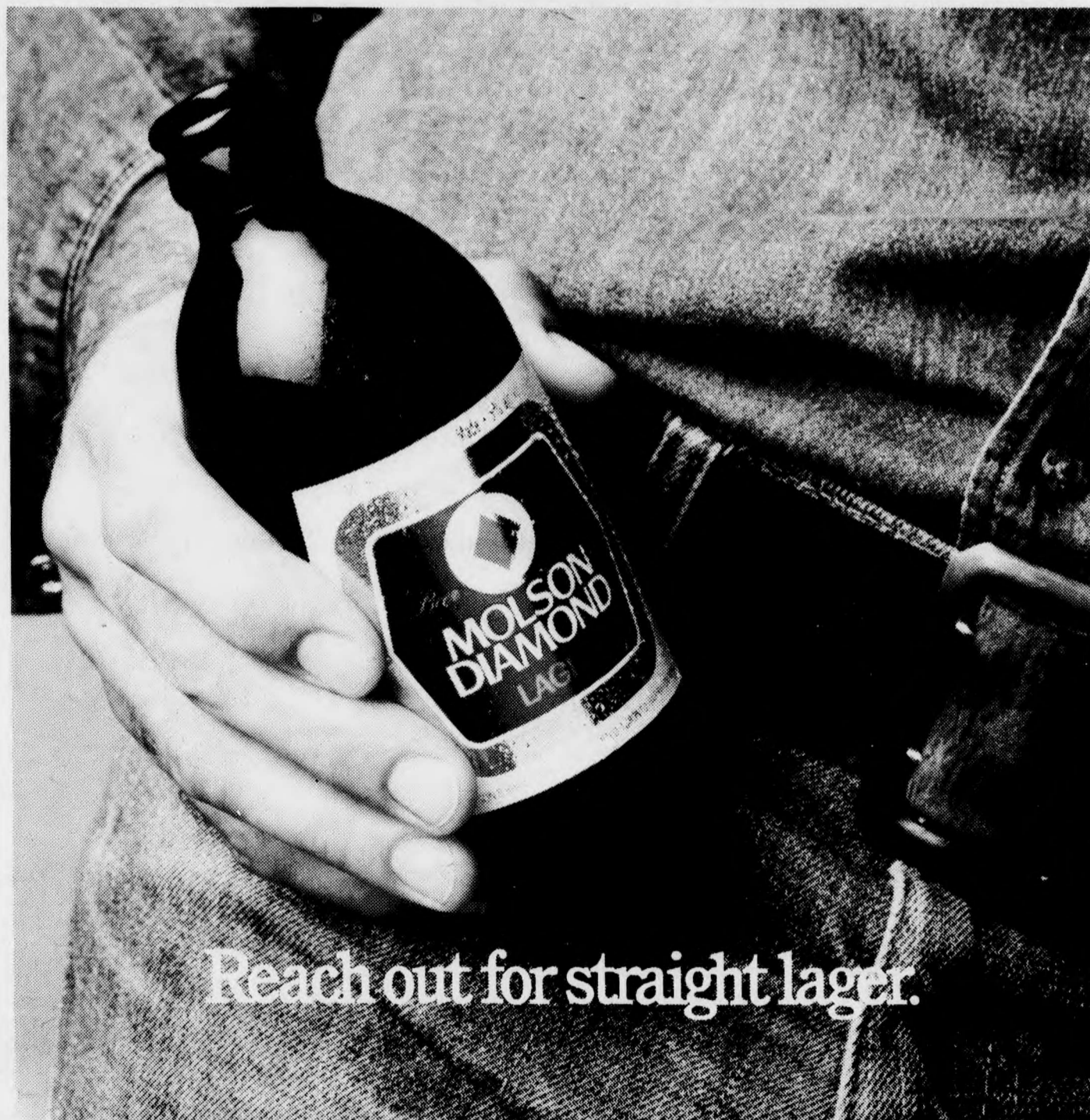


ONE FLIGHT HIGH
46 BLOOR WEST
TORONTO, CANADA
921-6555



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921-6555

MR. SUBMARINE



Reach out for straight lager.

NUS offers Chevron help

OTTAWA (CUP) — The leaders of Canada's national student organization have offered to mediate the dispute between the University of Waterloo students' union and the staff of the student newspaper the union closed two months ago.

The Central Committee of the National Union of Students (NUS) meeting here November 24-28, made the offer November 25 through a telex message.

But at press time (November 20), neither party had presented a position on the NUS offer.

Free Chevron editor Larry Hantant told NUS executive-secretary Dan O'Connor the staff of the paper had not yet made a decision.

O'Connor said no response was received from the federation, although the council held its regular meeting November 28, three days after the NUS offer was sent.

U of W students are members of the national union and the provincial Ontario Federation of Students (OFS), which formally disassociated itself from the dispute following complaints from the U of W federation about OFS' involvement. The OFS had sent an executive member to a September 24 council meeting at which the council originally overturned its executive' attempts to close the Chevron.

Student newspaper representatives at an October meeting passed motions censuring OFS for its refusal to take a stand and calling on NUS to "condemn" the U of W federation or rescind its standing policy supporting the statement of principles of Canadian University Press