

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 1991

VOLUME 25, ISSUE 50

excalibur

YORK UNIVERSITY'S COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

Campus Chronicles

by Jennifer Lim

Queen's University

In an event to support World Vision International (WVI), 40 students went on a 30-hour hunger strike.

Sponsored by Queen's Christian Fellowship (QCF), Kara Thompson, one of the organizers, said this was the first year the event was held at Queen's.

The fast was an annual international event "to raise funds for sustainable development projects in the developing world."

According to Thompson, the WVI helps the hungry, homeless and sick towards self-sufficiency.

University of Alberta

Numerous classes were cancelled on Mar. 1 to retaliate against government underfunding.

The Students' Union proposed cancelling classes for two hours to allow students and faculty to participate in a protest against government underfunding.

Despite opposition from the General Faculties Council (GFC), professors were going ahead as planned.

Remco van Eeuwijk, a member of the Action Committee, said the aim of the rally was to request that the government make post-secondary education a higher priority.

The committee is hoping for 5,000 people to march to the Legislature.

Saint Mary's University

Students boycotted Marriott Foods on Mar. 6, putting up signs with a slash across "Marriott" all over campus.

In addition, the Students' Association hosted a barbecue and a thousand hot dogs and hamburgers were given away.

"We really feel that SMU students are getting [terrible] service," said VP Student Affairs Terry Brennan.

Marriott signed a five year contract with the university administration in spring 1990 after competing with three other companies.



A. CLIVE COHEN

FACE OFF

Nationals '91 chairman Brian Conacher announces the draw for this year's CIAU championships at a press conference Monday.

Friday night's semifinal sees the top-ranked UQTR Patriots taking on the Atlantic champion UPEI Panthers at 7:30. Saturday afternoon at 2:00, Waterloo meets the Alberta Golden Bears. Sunday's final goes at 1:00pm. All three matchups are at Varsity Arena.

Problems with housing

by Raffy Demirdjian

Tenants of the Assiniboine Road apartments are convinced that the Housing department is trying to take away their superintendents.

As old superintendents retire, there are no replacements being hired to take their positions.

The remaining supers are now responsible for a larger range of duties, in addition to being available for the tenants and their daily concerns. The benefit of having a free room for the caretakers is also being eliminated.

According to residents, these new job requirements and loss of benefits are convincing some building caretakers to look elsewhere for employment and their vacant positions are not being filled.

Tenants are angry that Housing does not understand the importance of the superintendents to the residents.

Combined with the proposed eight per cent increase in residence fees, the tenants of the Assiniboine apartments feel angry that the services the supers provide are being cut.

Peter Ridout, director of Housing, denies the allegations that superintendents are being indirectly forced to resign.

"We are trying to replace an old

inefficient system of live-in superintendents, with a new system of five coordinators at Passy Gardens," Ridout said. "The coordinators will help tenants with miscellaneous needs and an independent crew is responsible for cleaning."

According to Ridout, a coordinator will always be available by phone twenty-four hours a day. He argued that the existing superintendents are not capable of helping tenants with miscellaneous needs as well as carrying out their own duties.

"We have been able to collect more than 150 signatures in only one day," [in support of the superintendents], said graduate student Avril MacKinnon. "The superintendents have been more than employees in these buildings. A number of tenants rely on them for more than just repairs and vacuuming."

According to MacKinnon, the superintendents provide the residents with a sense of security and to most residents, replacing them or shifting their job responsibilities is not the answer.

"We understand the concerns of the tenants, and I'm sure we still have not heard the end of it yet," Ridout said. "Our main objective is to improve service not take it away."

Residence fees for next year on the rise

by John A. Vink

Next year students may be paying more to live on campus while at the same time having services cut.

Student residence fees could increase by eight per cent for single rooms and a whopping 28 per cent for double rooms. The increase in the double room rate will make it the same price as a single room.

Mike Holt, president of the Stong College student council, thinks that the increase is much too high.

Holt says that the eight per cent increase is far above the estimated four per cent inflation rate, and it is unfair for students to have to pay the same amount to be in a double room.

"If all you can say is please don't do it, well that just won't cut it," said Director of Housing and Food Services Norman Crandles at the Residence Budget Committee (RBC) meeting.

According to Crandles there is a finite amount of money available in the budget, and the RBC committee has to work under those constraints.

Matt Clark, president of Vanier College student council, says that he would like to organize a mass student action, but at this point there is not much that they can do because of time limitations. Clark says that a great number of students are angry over the cuts.

The proposal also outlines many services that are to be cut, including linen service, hall telephones and night porters.

Because the proposal comes so late in the school year, many college councils don't have the time to address or fight the increase. This is compounded by the fact that many students thus far are also unaware of the increase.

The RBC's recommendations will be forwarded to VP Finance Bill Farr who will then decide which recommendations he will accept.

The Board of Governors will then vote on the final budget put forward by Farr.

A major concern among many of the resident students is the elimination of the night porters.

"I feel a lot safer knowing that there is someone there controlling who gets in during the night," said Nicole Aucoin, a Bethune resident student.

The RBC suggested that the night porters be retained. To allow this, however, they reluctantly suggested to reduce the night porters' salaries and alternatively to offer them some other non-monetary form of compensation.

The committee recommended that investigations be made as to what other campus faculties and departments were using housing service facilities, for example parking using college electricity.

Rob Centa, MacLaughlin College student council president said that he is trying to get the council to help pay for buses to transport students to a protest at Glendon on March 25, when the Board of Governors will be voting on the budget.

Crandles confirmed that a recommendation was proposed to refinance the debt over a longer period of time. This may possibly lessen the student's financial contributions in terms of residence fees.

At the RBC meeting a proposal was rejected that would have allowed students to live in bunk-rooms if they had not been able to get into residence at the beginning of the year.

It was argued that the bunk rooms are intended for overnight accommodation and are in no condition to be used for much longer periods of time.

Another problem facing residences is hall phones. Due to third-party calls, these phones have been racking up a bill of about \$65,000 per year.



A. CLIVE COHEN

OUTRAGEOUS INCREASE: A room in residence might cost students more money next year. A single room now costs \$3976 per year. For that price a student receives a small room on a floor, sharing a bathroom and common room with 24 other students.