

Administration confronted by students over flu outbreak

By DANIEL WOLGELERENTER
About 200 students gathered in Stong Junior Common Room last Thursday to confront the Administration about its handling of the flu outbreak in January.

Ninety people from Complex II (Stong and Bethune residences) reported flu-like symptoms between Wednesday, January 18 and Friday, January 20, as well as a number of students from Complex I who came to Health Services for treatment of similar symptoms. Six Complex II residents required hospitalization.

At Thursday's rally, protest organizer Michael Stokes, a don of

12th floor Stong residence, presented Director of Housing And Food Services Norman Crandles with a 1,100 name petition demanding an investigation and saying that the Administration's response to the situation was unacceptable.

"Somewhere in the shuffle to handle the situation, the students got lost," Stokes said, but added that the University's initial response to the crisis was good. He said the University acted quickly to call in the Public Health Department, post flyers, and have a doctor on call but "after that we [the students] heard nothing."

In addressing the students' con-

cerns, Crandles said he would "have to agree that there was a breakdown in communications" when it came to keeping students informed about developments in the incident, adding that he takes full responsibility for the breakdown.

"The tacit understanding was that the colleges would handle the students," he said. Students were concerned about learning details of the incident in the *Toronto Star*. Crandles said he should have put out daily bulletins, even if he had nothing to report.

Crandles also said that the idea of informing commuter students of potential dangers by phone was impractical and that doing it through campus radio and the general media "never occurred to us."

Students also expressed concerns over the handling of the stool sample kits that came from the Health Department for testing purposes.

Crandles said, "there was an arrangement between the Colleges and the Board of Health" regarding the distribution of the kits to students. The kits were not delivered to the Colleges in Complex II until Thursday night, and ended up in the hands of the caterer when there was no one to receive them.

Once the kits had been received by the Colleges on Friday morning, there was confusion over what to do with them. Residence tutors were being told by the Health Department to store the samples in floor fridges meant for food. In the end, no stool samples were returned from Complex II, although four were returned from Complex I and, according to lab reports, no pathogens were isolated in them.

"I'll probably ask them [the Health Department] to give them to me in the future so I can personally deliver them," Crandles said.

Crandles later said, "should this ever happen again, one of the things that will happen is that the cafeteria will be shut" as a gesture towards the students. He also said that there are no plans to cancel Marriott's contract since it was never proven what caused the illness.

In a report released last Wednesday, Crandles said that the actions of the University in response to the matter "were not fully integrated" and that the incident "showed a clear need for a comprehensive action plan in case of a future similar outbreak." Crandles took responsibility for the lack of a comprehensive plan.

The report also stated that Crandles will "immediately" start formulating a plan, and that he intends to involve students, caterers, College residence staff administrators, Student Affairs, The North York Department of Health, and Health Services in the process.

Increased competition has SCC officials concerned

By DANIEL WOLGELERENTER

The York University Development Corporation's (YUDC) plan to have more than one food service outlet in its planned Yorklanes on-campus shopping complex has Student Centre officials extremely concerned.

"There are going to be food facilities — plural — in Yorklanes. It can't be any other way," said Stephan Kuzoff, Vice-President of DI Realty and leasing agent for the Yorklanes project.

Student Centre Corporation (SCC) Chairperson Rob Castle said this came as a complete surprise to him. He learned about it from a prospective Yorklanes food tenant, Saint Cinnamon. Castle said that YUDC had made a verbal agreement on November 21 with the SCC stating that the Yorklanes complex would include only one food service outlet — a sit-down restaurant with table service.

The SCC plans on having a six outlet food court in the Student Centre. "If they carry through with their plans, they will be in direct competition with us," Castle said.

"I think this is a clear contravention of the [SCC] management

agreement because this would be a fundamental alteration of their business intentions," he said. "I don't believe we're being given the full picture of what's going on next door to us."

Under the terms of the management agreement, the University and SCC are obliged to keep each other informed of their business intentions at least once every six months.

"There has never been a reciprocal sharing of information to our satisfaction," Castle said, yet he feels the SCC itself has been open with the University.

He said the SCC is concerned that this expected competition will decrease its revenues from the food court, because it gets a percentage of its tenants' gross earnings. The Student Centre is counting heavily on profits from the food court to help meet the Centre's operating costs, and to help pay off the Centre's mortgage, Castle explained.

"If we're not as profitable as we can be, this will have an impact on the individual student," Castle said. He added that if revenues from the food court were low, the Student Centre levy, now \$9 per course for every York undergraduate, may have to be raised or extended indefinitely.

At Tuesday's CYSF council meeting, a motion was passed giving the CYSF's support to the Student Centre Corporation in the dispute, and opposing any direct competition between the SCC and Yorklanes.

CYSF president Tammy Hassel-feldt also said later that she had received assurance from YUDC Vice-President Greg Spearn that YUDC was not planning to compete directly with the Student Centre and that he was only putting in one restaurant in Yorklanes.

Spearn could not be reached for comment.

YUDC's Director of Development Ron Hunt disputes Castle's version of events, saying there was never any agreement limiting the number of food outlets in the Yorklanes complex.

Hunt said that YUDC and SCC "were talking in terms of what there would not be" and said that meant no food outlets in direct competition

with the Student Centre's food court outlets. He said that YUDC has a tentative agreement with Saint Cinnamon for space in Yorklanes and that they are not in direct competition with Treats, a company Hunt says is negotiating with the SCC for an outlet in their food court. He said that only outlets complementary to the ones in the food court will be considered for Yorklanes.

Hunt also said that the YUDC is not affected by the management agreement between the University and the SCC.

"There is a management agreement between the University and the Student Centre, not between the Student Centre and YUDC," he said.

"That's horseshit," said Castle. According to Castle, YUDC is definitely bound by the agreement. Provost Tom Meininger also said that the YUDC is bound by the management agreement.

Castle added that the YUDC's claim that there was no agreement limiting the number of food outlets in the Yorklanes complex is "complete deception."

cont'd on p. 10



A WINTER WONDERLAND OR AN ACADEMIC HELL? This deceptively Utopian scene masks the desolate, concrete reality of York's existential expanse.

Varsity athletics threatened by underfunding and poor facilities

By CLAUDE ALEXANDER

"Underfunding!"

It's a cry that is often heard within the York University community and is now jeopardizing the future of many athletic and recreational programmes at York.

The administration's insensitivity and misrepresentation of Athletics and Recreation's needs translates into further budget cuts to these essential student activities.

"We cannot go on like this anymore," says Dave Chambers, director of men's athletics at York. Chambers was forced to cut funding to five men's programmes this year.

"If we end up a school with four or five inter-collegiate sports, we will not be a first class school in the same

categories as Western, University of Toronto or Queen's. I think we've always strived at York University to be in the same category as them academically, in research and all the aspects of student life."

The Yeomen and Yeowomen have been very competitive both provincially and nationally capturing 51 OUA and OWIAA Championships, as well as twelve CIAU crowns since 1980. The budgets however, have not fared as well. York has one of the lowest-funded athletic programmes in Ontario, if not Canada. The measly \$189,000 for men and \$102,000 for women does not even meet the cost of the bare necessities.

The men's athletic budget is the same today as it was three years ago.

It has not even kept pace with the rate of inflation, not to mention the increases in coaching salaries and operating costs. As a result, the men's fencing, golf, curling, squash, and badminton teams are no longer funded. Although they still represent the University, they do not receive a penny from the administration.

This pales in comparison to York's counterparts in Ontario. For example, Western allocates \$400,000 to its men's athletic department, while U of T gives close to \$300,000 and Waterloo \$235,000.

One of the most visibly suffering programmes at York is the varsity football team. Their budget is the

cont'd on p. 7

INSIDE

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"That's horseshit."

Student Centre Corporation Chairperson Rob Castle on YUDC's claim it's not covered by the Student Centre-University Management Agreement obliging both parties to keep each other informed of their business intentions.

BIG BUSINESS: York students are making big bucks selling scrip. Page 3

ARTHURS AWARD: York president Harry Arthurs has been awarded the Order of Canada. Page 3

SECURITY: An exclusive *Excalibur* interview with Interim Security Director Pat MacDonald. Page 9