



Excalibur



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Homosexual couples may not rent some furnished apartments

By PAUL KELLOGG

Gay couples at York cannot rent furnished one-bedroom apartments on campus although the same apartments are open to heterosexual couples, married or single.

According to Residence Manager Jane Corbett, furnished apartments are covered by the regulation and not unfurnished ones, because all furnished apartments are equipped with double beds.

Explaining this in *Breakthrough*, a York feminist magazine, Corbett said she herself couldn't conceive of living in such close quarters with another woman.

Paul Trollope, spokesperson for the Gay Alliance at York (GAY) said that the alliance was sending a strongly worded letter to the York Housing Office, "protesting this policy and asking them to repudiate the existing policy and replace it with a clear one of non-discrimination."

The issue surfaced two weeks ago in an article in the December issue of *Breakthrough*. A third year Women's Studies major at Atkinson College, Charlene Robertson, had an application for a one-bedroom apartment in Atkinson Residence rejected because, according to Residence Manager Jane Corbett, "two members of the same sex are not allowed to share a furnished one-bedroom apartment on campus." The application had been for Robertson and another woman Robertson described as her lover.

The couple finally obtained an unfurnished one-bedroom, but no change was made in the university regulations regarding furnished apartments.

"I don't know whether you call two people of the same sex a couple," said Corbett explaining the regulation. She added that the graduate residences had been built primarily to accommodate married couples on campus.

"The apartments affected by the regulation comprise only 40 percent of the ones in grad residence," said Corbett. "The other 60 per cent are available".

"Our discussion with Ms. Corbett" said Robertson "led us to believe that many other couples in the past had found themselves in our position, and had either taken a two-bedroom apartment or decided to commute rather than live on campus".

"Why should we pay \$50 a month more to live together because of York's heterosexual ruling, when a heterosexual couple can have a one-bedroom regardless of whether or not they are married," said Robertson.



Sometimes a picture really is worth a thousand words. Above, Yasmin Novack of the York daycare centre smiles for Excalibur photographer Rich Spiegelman. This week Spiegelman visited the campus daycare centre and more results can be seen on page 17.

University, students to reach agreement

By JENNY JOHNSON

An agreement may yet be reached between the Student Bargaining Committee and the University Administration on the formation of a representative student body that will participate in making recommendations over rent increases by the University.

The Student Bargaining Committee consisting of CYSF president Barry Edson and a representative from each residence council is currently undergoing a series of meetings with Assistant to the Vice President of Business Affairs Harry Knox in order to work out the details.

The need for such a committee arose after the recent controversy over the University's rent increase of 13.5 per cent last May. Debate over the legality of the increase ensued when it was charged that the university allegedly failed to comply with rent review legislation that a representative body of students be consulted before any rent increase was put into effect. The bargaining committee is taking this action in lieu of pressing for rent rebates from the rent review board.

Harry Knox, acting for the administration at bargaining committee meetings said students have always been welcome to sit in on the Budget Preparation Committee meetings but up until now the Master's

Residence Committee (MRC) has been the only formal body representing student interests, although no students actually sit on it at the present time.

The bargaining committee originally wanted the proposed committee to be given the power of determining rent increases. According to Knox this would be impossible since there is no one committee on campus that has absolute decision making powers of this kind. "What we are endeavouring to establish now", Knox said, "is a representative student body that would act with the Master's Residence Committee not only for the present but in such a way that it is built into continuing university procedure."

The MRC accepted the 1976-77 budget although Knox was not sure that they had in turn presented it to the student councils. He said the budget was drawn up

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Anti-union faculty challenge YUFA's contract certification

By AGNES KRUCHIO

A group of professors calling themselves Independent Faculty Members have challenged the decision of the Ontario Labour Relations Board to grant union status to the York University Faculty Association.

Their request for a judicial hearing into the Ontario Labour Relations Board decision was made last June, but no date for a hearing has yet been set because presentations from all five parties concerned have not yet been submitted. Should the judicial review be decided in favour of the challengers, the decision of the Labour Relations Board to grant YUFA union status could be reversed, and could potentially

affect faculty unions at other Canadian universities where such exist.

In the meantime, a hearing was held last week at the Divisional Court of the Ontario Supreme Court in the IFM's request to restrain the Board of Governors from signing the university's first contract with YUFA until a full judicial hearing on the issue can be held. The hearing took place last Tuesday, the day following the decision of the Board of Governors to ratify the contract. While there was to have been a decision by the court that day, or the following day at the latest, a decision has still not been made.

According to Professor William Jordan, one of the six professors who have made the original request for a judicial hearing, the fact that the Board has ratified the contract has changed the whole thrust of the Tuesday hearing, but neither he, nor professor Doug Butler, nor anyone else connected with the case was willing to speculate about the reason for the court's delay.

It is also unclear just what the powers of the courts are in such a case, but according to H. J. Glasbeek, a labour lawyer who

teaches at Osgoode Hall "any court has reserve powers to interfere to preserve its jurisdiction".

Board of Governor chairman Bertrand Gerstein said that given the Ontario Labour Relations Board decision to grant YUFA union status, York's Board of Governors had an obligation to act in good faith and to consider the contract for ratification.

But Doug Butler said the Board had been approached informally by the IFM to delay consideration of the contract before the formal appeal was made to the courts. According to professor Jordan, it is considered normal procedure to postpone decisions based upon the outcome of a court hearing.

Whether or not the court grants the IFM's request in this matter, the fact that they want to reopen the whole question of faculty unionization still remains.

Professor Jordan, who emphasized the independence of the Independent Faculty Members and refused to speak for the group as a whole, said their claim is that they were not adequately heard by the Ontario Labour Relations Board at the time the YUFA's unionization was being considered.

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