

TILT!

By Ted Mumford

Boing bzzzt ding TILT! No free balls, game over. Deposit 25c for another round of buzzers, bells, flashing lights and bonus points.

So it goes with thousands of quarters from the pockets of York students, who spent an estimated (by *Excalibur*) \$200,000 in campus pinball parlors last year.

There are more than 60 pinball games on campus, spread over eight locations: in each of the Complex I and Complex II colleges and the Osgoode Hall and Administrative Studies buildings.

The pinball rooms are run by the student councils at their respective locations, and for several provide a large chunk of their revenue. Some councils are wary of recent moves by York food and beverage manager Norman Crandles to unearth the facts about this lucrative business.

The university is not "officially" aware of the presence on campus of the three firms which supply it with pinball and some other "skill" games, according to Crandles. He thinks it is time the business is "legitimized".

Crandles has written Davis Skillgames, Sydot Enterprises and Quality Amusements, asking them to "identify" themselves and state

their arrangements with the various student councils on campus, and the revenue they draw from pinball at York.

This move irked Osgoode Legal and Literary Society treasurer Tim Sehmer, who learned of it second-hand from Peter Davis of Davis Skillgames (which supplies machines to all but Founders and McLaughlin Colleges).

Sehmer dispatched a letter to Crandles last Friday, asking him to "have the common decency to obtain our permission before attempting to elicit confidential information as to our affairs."

Crandles told *Excalibur* he saw no reason to contact the various councils beforehand except to get the names of their suppliers.

When contacted by *Excalibur*, other student councils, with the exception of Stong's, were either unaware of Crandles' probe, or had heard of it from Davis. Student council officials at both Stong and Bethune colleges suspected Crandles was exploring the possibilities of having some pinball revenue go to the university.

Crandles told *Excalibur* the distributors were doing business at York, "without the (official) knowledge of the appropriate of-



Gary Hershorn photo

Pinball action at Osgoode.

Peter Davis of Davis Skillgames has not filled Crandles' request for information. He told *Excalibur*, "Since the request deals with existing contractual relationships, I have to seek legal advice."

When contacted by *Excalibur*, most of the councils were unwilling to reveal last year's take from pinball, which is split either 50-50 or 40-60 with distributors. Stong made \$2600, which subsidized two college dinners and paid for convocation expenses. McLaughlin made about \$2000, which went towards refurbishing the college's common room. Winters college council could not be contacted by press time.

The curse of keeping pinball machines is theft and vandalism. In the most recent incident, last Saturday night, all twelve machines at Osgoode were broken into. Between \$50 and \$100 damage was done to each, and an estimated \$100 was stolen.

Some councils, unlike Osgoode's, pay students to sit and watch over the parlors during operating hours. At Vanier and Founders, this expense makes pinball a break-even enterprise. For councils with less security, such as those at Osgoode and Administrative Studies, pinball is a major source of revenue.

rice," and it was time to "legitimize the business".

Crandles is gathering the pinball data on his own initiative and will present it to his superiors. No decision has been made to charge the pinball operations, he said.

However, Crandles feels it is time the pinball operations pay their way at York, as other outside enterprises (such as caterers) do. He says there ought to be "equitable charges" for electricity and other benefits provided by the university.

Excalibur

Volume 12, Number 18

York University Weekly Community Newspaper

Thursday, Feb. 2, 1978

Calumet may "collapse" into Bethune due to cuts

By Laura Brown

The amalgamation of Bethune and Calumet colleges has been suggested as an alternative to drastic budget cuts for all seven non-faculty colleges.

Although sources point to the ninth-floor as the originators of this plan, parties involved were hesitant to name names. Bethune acting master Griffith Cunningham said that in view of the matter at hand, the names of the individuals were unimportant.

In light of the university's present financial crisis, all colleges will suffer up to a 15% budget cut unless an alternative solution is acted upon. If the amalgamation goes through there would be no cuts and more than \$40,000 would be distributed to the six remaining colleges.

Consequently, amalgamation was suggested at the masters' meeting three weeks ago. The "collapse" of Calumet into Bethune, Stong or McLaughlin was suggested. The latter three colleges are vulnerable for they are all looking for a master at this time.

The proposal remained a guarded secret for several weeks. The necessity for resolving the problem shortly overrode the apparent fear of the masters' of creating "paranoia" amongst staff and students for their future. Consequently, the information was made public in hopes that discussion will soon lead to a solution.

Calumet master Eric Winter announced the possible amalgamation at a Calumet General Meeting Wednesday January 24.

Winter explained that when the possibility was mentioned at the masters meeting it seemed to everyone a good solution because it would mean that fewer people would be laid off. He suggested to the students that they take this matter in the light of the consequences which could occur, and begin to seriously discuss this matter.

The students' discussions centered around Bethune as the college in question, for as Winter said, "Bethune is traditionally

*see AMALGAMATION page 2



Not everyone was excited about the opening of the new Spadina subway line (left). Adam Coshan of the York Daycare Centre told *Excalibur* that he prefers to drive to York anyway. Story and more photos, page 10.



Next week, it's cutbacks week

By Paul Kellogg

Early Monday morning, in classrooms all over the York campus, seminar leaders will distribute anti-cutback leaflets to their students, and initiate discussions on the financial crisis facing our university. Thursday afternoon, many discussions, and 10,000 leaflets later, a public meeting will wind up the campus-wide week against the cutbacks.

The week was initiated by the Graduate Assistant's Association, and joined in by the staff association, the faculty association, the Atkinson College Students' Association and the Council of the York Student Federation.

Cutbacks in financing for post-secondary institutions have been a problem for several years in Ontario. But the problem at York assumed gigantic proportions with the announcement last fall by York's administration that at least \$4-million would have to be shaved from next year's budget.

The first indication of the impact such a cutback would have on the quality of education at York came early in the new year, as various heads of departments indicated that hundreds of part-time faculty would probably be given lay-off notices at the end of this academic year. This would mean, the elimination of many courses and increased class sizes.

The anti-cutbacks leaflet being distributed

indicates that this is only the tip of the iceberg. Continued escalation in post-secondary costs with a continued short fall in revenue are being projected for many years yet, and York's Board of Governors has indicated its determination to meet the crisis by balancing its budget. According to the leaflet "The only answer provided by a budget balanced on the basis of wholly inadequate grants is the destruction of York University in a very few years."

"Unless all of York's workers want to be out of a job, unless York's students want to see their degrees devalued, the only answer is to insist that the institution will not be dismantled piece by piece. York must insist that it will stay open and keep providing high-

quality education. The administration must be forced to make publicly this political commitment," it continues.

A literature table will be set up every day and every evening next week in Central Square. The week's activities culminate with a "No-Cutbacks Rally" next Thursday at noon in Curtis lecture hall "B".

Excalibur's contribution to the week's activities can be found on page 10 and 11 of this week's issue. *Excalibur* staffers Harvey Pinder, Agnes Kruchio and Ian Kellogg, in collaboration with Tony Woolfson, chairperson of the GAA, have written a series of articles, describing and analyzing the financial crisis facing not only York but all Ontario universities.

What goes on behind closed theatre curtains
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