

Accommodating York University

Housing shortage hits Canadian campuses

Compared with many other universities, York has been able to house its students relatively well this fall.

Prospects looked bad when, at the end of orientation week, campus residences were full and the waiting lists numbered between 80 to 100 students; however, the off-campus housing bureau was immediately able to take care of them. The bureau reports that there are only "a handful" of students still seeking accommodation.

Good listings are still available through the bureau at 667-3698.

Residence manager D.A. Nesbitt comments that if there are any students around who have not found

good housing, he is not aware of them.

OTTAWA (CUP) — Across Canada, tents are sprouting on university lawns as returning students find it next to impossible to obtain housing for the coming year.

At the University of Waterloo, the student's council has pitched close to 30 tents, while Lakehead University in Thunder Bay now has four.

The University of Guelph has pitched one giant tent and may use a football storage area as a temporary dormitory for 300 students. Ryerson in Toronto is also thinking of setting up tents this week.

Other universities like Queens are setting up temporary housing in residence lounges and common areas.

In Ottawa, almost 2,000 students are looking for accommodation, and most university housing officers are calling the situation a crisis. Last year several Ontario universities had to set up tent cities.

The western cities of Regina and Saskatoon are also having difficulties meeting students' housing needs.

The University of British Columbia's residences are all full and the UBC housing administration has a waiting list of 1,600.

The Ontario Federation of Students, a province-wide organiza-

tion of university and college student unions, says the problem is caused by the government housing and tax policies.

"It's interesting to have this shortage in light of an Ontario government study, which has never been released, that states that with the exception of Northern Ontario and the community colleges, the universities have not demonstrated a need for housing starts in the next few years," said OFS researcher Carolyn Kendrick.

Another problem faced by students is the Ontario Student Assistance Program, which es-

timates that students need not spend any more than \$32 per week for room and board. Loans are granted to students for room and board using the \$32 figure as a base.

The average room cost is now from \$20 to \$25 per week, and the food bill for one person runs to about \$16, which puts the cost of living for students well over the provincial government estimate.

"It's obvious that the government has to raise the OSAP housing allowance and change its housing policy or else tent cities will be a common thing on Ontario campuses," said Kendrick.

YOM KIPPUR SERVICES

Wednesday September 25 6:30 P.M.

Thursday September 26 10:00 A.M.

conducted by

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Comics as bullion at Fancon's market

Comic collecting can be almost as secure an investment as buying real estate, providing the collector knows what he's doing.

The actual profits aren't as monumental, but how else could you explain the fact that the first issue of Conan the Barbarian, published in 1970, is now being flogged for up to \$10?

The Winters College Fancon, held last Sunday afternoon in the Winters dining hall, was an active stock exchange for hundreds of collectors or fans who either needed issues to supplement their collections, or relished the thought of speculating on the future value of a Dr. Strange or Kazar issue.

Teen-agers and older addicts flocked around a host of display tables offering everything from Orb, a new Canadian fantasy-comic magazine, to 8-mm film clips from old horror movies.

For fans with different interests, screenings were held of Fantasia and Big Night Out (a weird oldie with The Supremes, We Five and the Beatles), and visiting artists and writers sat on two rather sluggish discussion panels. The highlight was a series of comments by comic writer Steve Skeates, a regular visitor to Winters' comic art conventions.

"I have a story that I've sold five times," he remarked when asked

where he got his story ideas from. "It's appeared in a Charlton mystery book, as a Kid Flash story, in a Warren magazine (Creepy, Eerie, etc.), in a Red Circle comic and in a Marvel book.

"I've also sold it to House of Mystery, but that hasn't appeared yet. I'm hoping to hit 10 with this story."

He also recounted the dangers of working with foreign artists on his stories, a practice common in the Warren magazines and others.

"I found out they don't have phone booths in the Philippines," he said. "I sent a story called Phone Booth to a Philippine artist there, and his conception of a phone booth was a room with a chair and a table, and an ordinary telephone sitting on the table.

"When I described a guy leaning on a rake near a pile of leaves, one Spanish artist drew him leaning on a lawn mower."

The one-day convention, which charged \$1 admission, was touted as a warm-up for Winters' fourth Cosmic Convention (abbreviated to Cosmicon), a weekend version of Fancon which will blanket the college from January 24 to 26 next year. Fancon itself is the work of CYSF president Anne Scotton and Toronto comic dealer Marty Herzog, and is scheduled for repeat performances on October 20, November 17 and March 16.

York Briefs

African liberation week film

The week of September 19 to 26 has been declared African Liberation Week by support groups in almost every country of the world. In connection with this, the Toronto Committee for the Liberation of the Portuguese African Colonies (TCLPAC) is participating in a meeting Sept. 24 in Curtis LH-A. The film A Luta Continua will be shown and a speaker will talk about the recent developments in Africa.

Student directory corrections

The York Student Federation (CYSF) is publishing a 1974-75 student handbook-directory which will include the names and addresses of all students. To ensure that the information is as accurate as possible, students should report any changes subsequent to registration to the office of Student Programmes of their particular faculty immediately. Anyone not wishing his or her address and/or phone number to appear in the directory should so advise the CYSF office, located in N111 Ross, immediately. (Phone 667-2515.)

Ukrainian association to meet

The Ukrainian Canadian Student Association of York will hold its first general meeting today in N105 Ross. The purpose of the meeting will be to gauge interests for future events.

NEWS LINE 667-3201