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YORK UNIVERSITY'S COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

Financial officer hotly disputed by students

By JAMES FLAGAL

In the face of strong opposition from several University student leaders, York Provost Tom Meininger has finalized plans to establish the position of a financial liaison officer who will help student organizations in financial management matters.

According to Meininger, "Facts speak. It's clear to me that the size, complexity, and sophistication of student government at York, which is a \$4 million business... have persuaded me that such a function is necessary."

According to a letter sent by Meininger to student leaders, dated December 7, the problems in financial management by student governments include: "The poor handling of contractual arrangements with external vendors; failure of treasurers to fulfill their responsibilities leading to substantial and costly scrambling at year-end; apparently inadequate performance by accountants; loss of assets due to theft of cash, equipment or performance or furnishings; and others."

One case in particular, which took place this year, is the delay in the Council of York Student Federation (CYSF) accounting firm, Touche Ross, in bringing down the Council's audit. This resulted in a two-month delay in releasing the Council's budget.

Another incident involved the McLaughlin College Council and the photographer who takes their graduate portraits. Two council members were charged with financial impropriety after it was alleged that they had attempted to bribe the photographer into giving the College money in return for a secured contract over the next couple of years.

Meininger said that discussion on creating the liaison's position really began in late 1985; last January many student leaders expressed strong opposition to the idea, saying that the service to be supplied by the liaison is already being provided by their auditors. Student governments are especially upset because they will be forced to pay the bulk of the wages for the position.

The liaison will cost \$15,000, and while \$5,000 of that will be picked up by the University, \$10,000 will be covered by student governments. How much each Council will contribute to this cost will be based on the size of their University grant. For instance, since CYSF receives \$234,454 from the University (in 1986-87) their fee will be \$1,932.31. College fees will, of course, be considerably less since their grant is much smaller than the CYSF's. The fees will be taken directly out of the

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Food service shows "no improvement"

By JAMES FLAGAL

Beaver Food Services, which presently runs cafeterias in both Complexes One and Two, has shown no improvement in their performance over the last year's caterers (Rill Foods), according to two recent surveys of residence students.

The first survey, conducted for the department of Food and Housing by the York Enterprise Development Centre, drew 420 respondents. The results will be used by a sub-committee of the University Food and Beverage Committee (UFBC) to determine whether or not Beaver should be tendered a five-year contract, based on their performance over this past year's trial period.

According to Norman Crandles, Director of Housing and Food Services, the one-year contract signed by Beaver last year stated that they had to "upgrade the facilities, the food, service, and quality," in order to secure the five-year contract.

The University's survey concludes: "Students indicated that Beaver Foods was no better or no worse than Rill Foods." In six of the nine areas dealt with in the survey, Beaver was perceived as being less than adequate, according to the report.

93% of respondents rated the food quality between three and five, with five being the lowest rating. 64% of those students polled believe that there is not enough variety of food, and 47% gave Beaver less than adequate rating in making products presentable.

Crandles noted that it is premature to say what the sub-committee's

reaction will be to the report, and how it will affect their decision. The group has a meeting tomorrow afternoon when it will decide on a recommendation to be made to the UFBC next week on whether or not the University should continue its contract with Beaver.

In response to this crucial decision affecting students, the Council of York Students Federation (CYSF) conducted its own survey, which essentially shows the same results. But, as Internal Affairs Director Dean Furzeczko points out, the University's survey failed to ask critical questions, especially about how students will feel if Beaver's contract is renewed. On this topic, the results of the CYSF's survey "show a two to one ratio (against renewal). Those voting yes seemed rather passive about their decision, while those voting no were a little more vehement."

CYSF's survey also included findings on how students feel about Beaver's hours. The report says that while students find week hours to be almost satisfactory, weekend hours are completely inadequate.

Another area ignored by the University but which the CYSF investigated, is how students feel about the proposed meal plan to be introduced next year. Students demonstrated a strong opposition to the plan, which will eliminate scrip and introduce a meal card which can only be used in Complexes One and Two.

According to Furzeczko, the survey clearly shows that Beaver should not be given the five-year contract. The UFBC will make its final decision on the matter next Thursday.



ANDRE SOUROUJON

BIRD'S EYE VIEW: This photo of the Royal York was taken from a military helicopter by Excal photographer Andre Souroujon over the Christmas break. Souroujon had the benefit of seeing the entire city from the sky, courtesy of the folks at CFB Downsview. Watch for a full feature on the base in the weeks to come.

Copyright changes threaten teaching

By LIDIA CABRAL

What would happen if course kits were no longer allowed to be distributed in class and assigned readings were listed on reserve only? What if those readings on reserve were not allowed to be photocopied, and certain information was not accessible at all? If the government introduced draconian legislation that outlawed such practices, there would be a large scale public outcry. Yet, Bill C-60, the Federal government's Copyright Act, could indirectly transform these scenarios into reality.

The Copyright Act, having not been changed since 1928, is now under revision. Authors and publishers have felt that they have in the past not been properly rewarded for their work. The Canadian Association of Research Libraries defines copyright as the right of a creator to the authorship of his/her work, its integrity, the use made of the creation, and the extent of its distribution.

The present copyright bill extends beyond the economic protection of the work, to include the author's ability to screen the work from public knowledge and restrict its use for only certain purposes. In the past, this power was qualified by ensuring "fair dealing." Fair dealing is attained by balancing the reward an author should receive for his/her work and consumer accessibility to the material. The controversy surrounding Bill C-60 is about the legislation's alleged removal of the consumer's guarantee of fair dealing, and their right to have access to this material.

Universities, libraries and institutions are concerned that the federal government's decision to revise the copyright bill may result in too much protection of the creator's rights. In their viewpoint, teaching will suffer as a consequence of placing too many restrictions on the accessibility to authors' works. The bill's detractors feel the government, in its attempt to compensate authors for

the past copyright injustices, ignores the protection of consumer access.

In addressing a symposium on the copyright bill last month at Queen's, Professor H.V. Nelles of York University stated that "a tough restrictive copyright law could completely disarm the teaching profession." Nelles noted that although the revised bill is still under review, the proposals presented have not included any guarantee for students and professors interested in using the information for research purposes. York University President Harry Arthurs, in an attempt to address this concern, has formed a copyright study group of which Nelles is a member. This committee will analyze and advise faculties on the various issues surrounding the copyright policy.

Social Science and Humanities divisions in university will be most affected by the bill's passage, because both departments extensively use reserved journals and books. Chairman of the Humanities Division at York University, Bill Whitla, says that it would greatly affect the various types of materials the division depends on in its teaching format.

The most distressing fact about the bill, noted Whitla, is its restrictive access to information. All printed materials, films, and extensively used video cassettes, would be abolished because of the department's inability to pay for the high costs that would be charged for copyright fees. The quality of information exchanged between professor and students is greatly dependent on photocopying. This will deteriorate if such materials are not made accessible under the copyright bill, says Whitla.

A Task Force on copyright established by the Social Science Federation of Canada revealed that creators of published materials do not want to see the copyright protection weakened. The task force reported that copyright protection plays a

role in ensuring the integrity of the author's presentation without distorting or making unauthorized changes.

It is generally agreed by most professors, noted Whitla, that authors should be rewarded under copyright collectives in Bill C-60. If fees for information are reasonably changed

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"And the question is not so much whether we want to talk to the Contras, but what are we going to talk to the Contras about."

PASTOR VALLE-GARAY,
NICARAGUAN CONSUL-GENERAL

THE POLITICS OF CENSORSHIP: The federal government's anti-porn bill may limit the artistic freedom of expression if passed. Pages 5, 11

LEADER WITHOUT A PARTY: Prominent British politician Dr. David Owen, leader of the divided Social Democratic Party, has suffered several political defeats this year. But his chances to be Prime Minister may not be as remote as many analysts believe. Pages 12-13

BEST FROM THE NORTH: York University's collection of Inuit art is one of the best in the world, and is now on display at AGYU. Page 14

HELPING ATHLETES HEAL: The Bobby Orr Sports Clinic has taken great strides into the many areas of rehabilitation. The programme has been a valuable service for both students and the surrounding community for the past three years. Page 21