

New 10-year plan for annual rental increases

By DANIEL WOLGELERENTER

A new 10-year plan for annual rent increases for all York residences was unveiled Monday at the university's Residence Budget Committee meeting. The increases will be about 7 per cent.

Assistant Vice-President of Budget Operations John Becker said that the increases are necessary because of the construction of two new residences, which will increase York's mortgage budget from \$1.5 million on 13 buildings to \$4.5 million once the new buildings are completed.

"It's clearly important for us to raise rental rates for us to cover the [mortgage] increase," he said, adding that all residences will experience increases in order to spread out the \$30 million cost of the two new buildings — a graduate resi-

dence south of Osgoode and a Calumet College residence west of Stong.

Becker also noted that rental rates on campus are currently "less than 70 per cent of market rates" in the northwest part of the city. He estimates that they can increase above the inflation rate "and still not exceed market rates in 10 years time."

Becker attributed the \$3 million rise in the annual mortgage mainly to increased inflation and interest rates since the last buildings were completed in 1972. He also said that a new 20 year mortgage from the province, which has also helped arrange financing using Canada Pension Plan funds, is also contributing to the increase. The mortgages on the 13 existing buildings were obtained from the Central

Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) and are spread over 50 years. These are no longer available because "the CMHC is out of the student housing business."

Becker said there is currently a 1,200-name waiting list for on-campus housing, and that the two new residences will only provide 670 new spaces. He said the plan is projected to "leave rents at 95 per cent of market rates" and that if York chooses to build a third or fourth new building, it can "simply shrink the difference between York rates and market rates."

"We're only meeting half the waiting list as a means of testing the market," he said, adding that if rents go up, demand might disappear.

Rent for a bachelor apartment on campus is currently \$278 a month while a one-bedroom is \$404 and a

two bedroom is \$466. Starting next fall, rent for bachelor apartments will increase by 13 per cent each year for two or three years. After that, they will increase by about 7 per cent for another 7 to 8 years along with all other campus apartments. Campus rents this year are 9.9 per cent higher than last year.

Director of Housing and Food Services Norm Crandles said that the 13 per cent increase for bachelor apartments will serve to bring them closer in price to one bedroom apartments. He said that they have been held "artificially low" because

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Glendon and Excalibur reach an agreement

By GARRY MARR

The Glendon College Student Union (GCSU) and *Excalibur* have agreed that Glendon students will be exempt from the results of last fall's *Excalibur* referendum.

Excalibur held a campus-wide referendum October 20 asking students if they supported a 60-cent increase in the direct student levy to the newspaper. During the vote, a number of Glendon students protested the manner in which *Excalibur* conducted the referendum, claiming that adequate notice of the referendum was not given and that the ballots were printed only in English.

All 71 Glendon votes were eventually disqualified by Chief Returning Officer (CRO) Kerry Wright for alleged disruption of the voting process. The referendum passed 228-104.

After the referendum, GCSU President Jennifer Barrett expressed Glendon's concerns during a number of informal meetings with *Excalibur*, and stated that she felt Glendon students did not want to pay the increase.

Barrett had suggested that *Excalibur* and Glendon work out an agreement whereby *Pro Tem*, Glendon's newspaper, would receive the additional funding from Glendon slated for *Excalibur*, or that Glendon students be exempt from the increased levy.

At its January 5 meeting, *Excalibur*'s Board of Publications agreed that through an oversight it had neglected to make signs and ballots bil-

lingual, and decided that it would not collect the additional funds from Glendon.

The Board, however, unanimously disagreed with Glendon's claim that its constituency was not given adequate notice of the referendum and restated its feelings that CRO Wright acted fairly and properly when she disqualified Glendon's votes.

Barrett had planned to petition the referendum decision to the Student Relations Committee, but says she is happy with the compromise that was reached.

She added, however, "I'm not happy with the *Excalibur* attitude that all they did wrong was not have bilingual ballots and posters. *Excalibur* is not making a concession because they would have lost at the Student Relations Committee (SRC)."

"We didn't like what happened," said *Excalibur* Board of Publications chairperson Brigitta Schmid about the alleged voting irregularities at Glendon.

"But that is no reason not to look for an amicable agreement," Schmid added that she was glad that referendum guidelines have been established.

At the time of the *Excalibur* referendum no guidelines existed.

Excalibur has forwarded a letter to Provost Tom Meininger outlining the proposed agreement, which will be presented January 19 to the SRC for approval along with *Excalibur*'s plans for the extra funding.



SPOT THE ROSS RAMP: A global problem is the environment. January 18-26 is Environmental Awareness Week.

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Caterer's contract extended five years

By MARK WRIGHT

The University will extend the contract of The Marriott Corporation — the Complex I and II caterers — for five years, when its one-year trial period ends.

Assistant Vice-President of Business Operations John Becker said the decision, made by the Vice-President's Committee late last week, was primarily based on the recommendations by the University Food and Beverage Services Committee (UFBSC) and other staff, in a meeting held last month.

"The UFBSC believes that things will continue to improve, and since they [Marriott] began in the fall, there have been sound indications that they could change their spots when the need arose," he said.

The Marriott Corporation has been operating under contract since it replaced Beaver Foods. The trial period ends April 30.

The UFBSC reported that, although there were areas which still

needed attention — such as early grill closing — the quality of the food and service had improved.

Marriott Director Jim Fougere is "looking forward to the extension." He said, "We'll now get down to negotiations. This presents a tremendous opportunity and it should be exciting with all the things we've planned. We've come through the worst of it now, and have made efforts to respond to any problems which have come up."

"Generally we've been getting good feedback."

Director of Housing and Food Services Norm Crandles said that a sub-committee of the UFBSC would handle negotiations with Marriott to ensure that students' concerns would be considered.

"Normally, I would handle these negotiations alone," Crandles explained. "However, because there have been some concerns about the contract from various people, a decision was made to go with the sub-committee."

The sub-committee will be chaired by the master of Stong College Professor Allen Koretsky. It will include Crandles, and the student chairs from the Complex I and II Food Service Committee, Paul de Rege and Jane Hatley.

"Ms. Hatley and Mr. de Rege will be working with Professor Koretsky so that all potential concerns about the meal plans are taken into consideration," Crandles said.

The five year contract should commence May 1.



TAKE OUT ORDER: Marriott will continue to cater to Complex I and II.