

Crandles talks turkey



Norm Crandles explains...

James Carlisle

At the first meeting of the Complex II Food Users Committee on Tuesday, students complained bitterly about the cost of food and the scrip system.

Both Norm Crandles, York's Food and Beverage Manager, and Warren Rill, caterer for Complexes I and II, fielded questions and listened to complaints.

Most student dissatisfaction centred around prices. First year student Martin Spei told Rill, "To eat three balanced meals a day costs me seventy dollars a week."

Rill answered that he could only cut prices by cutting his costs.

Rill became quite upset as he described the rift growing between himself and the students. He often gives 'freebies' to the students but now they look on gifts with suspicion. "When I give something," said Rill, "I don't want anyone to take

it as a bribe."

Rill explained that his operation at York is not profitable during the academic year. "I do not look for making money from you as a student," he explained. When questioned about why he has a commercial operation at York, Rill stated, "To make a profit over the summer conference business which is very good."

The concept of the scrip system or any other compulsory meal plan was attacked by several students. Crandles commented that "any meal plan stinks." However, he also stated categorically that a meal plan of some type is necessary. "If you are going to have a mandatory food service you must have a mandatory clintele."

Crandles went on to explain that residence food services produce "a seventy thousand dollar deficit to the university," which is offset by profits made by the Conference Office. "If I were directed to break even," said Crandles, "I don't know how I would do it."

Crandles also placed part of the blame for high operating costs under the present system on student pilferage. "If I didn't have to spend seventy grand a year for plates, cups and saucers," he stated, "the food prices would go down."

At the end of the meeting Rill made several concessions to the students, notably the posting of weekly menus. He also asked Mimi Zucker, the newly elected chairman of the Complex II Food Users Committee, to meet with him and the chairman of the Complex I committee in the next few days. Crandles conceded that the Food Users Committees could make agreements with Rill on matters not concerning food policy, such as the changing of hours or prices.

(Excalibur has learned that Norm Crandles informed the Masters' Residence Committee on Feb. 6 that the cost of replacing dishes for the academic year 1977-78 was \$31,000. He estimated that the cost for 1978-79 would be \$35,000.)

Bell rung for typing service

Erina Ingrassia

Relations between the Council of York Student Federation (CYSF) and its apparent progeny, the CYSF Typing Service, have broken down over rent increase conflicts.

According to Diane Wallace, proprietor of the typing service located in 105F Central Square, the CYSF Typing Service is actually a private enterprise called Dawn's Secretarial Service. Two weeks ago CYSF informed her that her business should vacate its present office by the end of the month. She was told she would be offered another office but an alternative hasn't yet been found.

The basis of the present dispute is rental costs. CYSF was demanding \$200 a month, not including three per cent of gross revenue for in-office typing sales. Dawn's Secretarial Service is arguing that the flat rate charged for office rental in Downsview (with similar facilities) is about \$70 a month including no percentage of gross revenue.

Wallace spoke to CYSF President Keith Smockum and discovered that York's administr-

ation had informed CYSF that if they wished to keep the typing service room as part of their office space, it was to be used for non-commercial purposes only.

Wallace also said she objected moving from the present office for two reasons. "One, I don't know if a new office will be adequate for our needs, and, secondly, it's going to cost me money."

Said Wallace: "In the past we had agreed to go under the name of CYSF because it was a favor.

The student council (under then President David Chodikoff) felt it was doing Dawn's Secretarial Service a favor by letting us use these offices, so we agreed to go under the CYSF name."

But the CYSF had nothing to do with operating the service, she emphasized.

Because of the precariousness of Dawn's Secretarial Services financial position, Wallace feels that the typing service cannot continue to operate on campus unless their rental are substantia-

lly lowered to resemble rental costs of similar offices off-campus.

Wallace sees CYSF as having no jurisdiction over either what business services Dawn's wishes to offer, or what prices should be charged for these services.

Smockum has informed Wallace that CYSF is willing to help the typing service move from their present location. He maintained that he would speak to the university concerning lower rental charges.

Bored of the board?

Elena Naccarato

Where have all the Governors gone?

During the last year six members of the Board of Governors, including the Chairman, have resigned and none have been replaced. The Board is responsible for the financial management of the university.

Proctor, the acting Chairman since the summer resignation of Bert Gerstein, said that business will carry on as usual but that until

a new Chairman is found not much can be done to replenish the Board with the other five needed members. The Nominating Committee must consult with the Chairman about all appointments and there is no time limit on how long it will take to find a new Chairman.

Mel Ransom, Secretary to the university, revealed that a major reason for the resignations is the loss of prestige that a Board of Governors position has taken.

Twenty years ago many businessmen would have considered a Board position an honour and a duty. "Today," he said, "these types are much harder to find."

Last spring Thelma McCormack, before she left her position as Faculty member to the Board, recommended Stephen Lewis, former leader of the provincial New Democratic Party, and June Callwood, a radio personality.

Daycare outgrows diapers

Elliot Lefko

From a beginning as a baby-sitter service ("Standing one parent at each door to keep the kids from escaping") to its present multi-dimensional, early education status, York's Daycare Centre has provided a much needed function. Celebrating their tenth anniversary this month, the centre combined a birthday party with a farewell to departing director Maria de Wit.

Late last Friday afternoon Excalibur spoke with de Wit, a sensitive but firm woman who was upset about leaving her friends, but spoke determinedly about her new position as one of three administrative heads for Metro Daycare Services.

"I guess I'll be a trouble-shooter," predicts de Wit. "The Metro Board knew it was

overdue for an administration evaluation. It's a mess."

The quality of York's program has done a lot to change the popular image of the daycare centre as a glorified baby-sitting service. An administrative board of parents makes decisions on budget projections, financial matters, and the hiring and firing of staff. York's staff are required to have an early childhood education diploma or the equivalent. Parents have an obligation to participate four hours a week. The full developmental program offers emotional and cognitive stimulation to the children. With dancing, skating, swimming, library and trips to places like Pioneer Village they encourage self-help and make kids socially aware.

The centre is divided up into

five sections and one subsection. They are: Toddler, Junior Pre-school, Senior Pre-school, and just a couple of years ago they introduced a kindergarten for 5 year olds. The fifth section, an infant service (for babies 6 weeks to 18 months) is a radical idea in the minds of the Metro Daycare Service. After all, these kids aren't even toilet trained.

"Infant daycare can be done successfully," says Maria de Wit. "I know it is expensive. But it can be done well. Interaction at an early age with other children is an important concept."

The York Daycare Centre is a communal effort. At least one parent of a child must be a member of the York community. York student, Angi Bogdon, and her son, Jason, have been partaking of the service for a year and three months. Says

Bogdon, "The centre gives a single parent an alternative. I am now able to turn My daytime attention to the pursuit of a university degree. I feel confident in the ability of the staff.



The financial situation at the centre has gone from poor to fair though they still operate under a deficit. Maria de Wit feels it presently is too

organized. However, problems facing the new director are government cutbacks, low staff salaries, and an absence of male staff (only one man in ten years). At present, half the parents pay their own fees, half are municipally subsidized. The government is cutting back and has imposed a freeze on staff salary increases.

So the spirit of the sixties still exists, at least in this one daycare centre. Mothers have an alternative to spending all their time with their young children. Kids have an opportunity to play with other children instead of just toys. A group of people began with an idea, stuck with it and saw it flourish and develop. With well-adjusted, happy, creative kids like Jason, it is easy to see that the perseverance has paid off.