

Camping off-campus

By WENDY WARD

The ever-increasing enrollment at York makes housing a problem each year and there just aren't enough on-campus facilities available. The alternative? Off-campus housing.

The office that isn't quite an office, located in the north hallway of the Ross building is set up to assist students in finding an "affordable place to live that is also suitable to their lifestyles and needs" says employee Philip Taylor. What the staff tries to do is set a student up with what is available as quickly and problem-free as possible.

Many students who are unable to get into residence come to off-campus housing feeling frustrated and rejected. Robert Adetuyi and Philip Taylor act as mediators

between landlords and students—often talking the landlord down in price to what the student can reasonably afford and getting that extra hot plate when cooking facilities are not available. The two say they understand the students' situation because they've experienced the same.

Colin Lachance, an environmental studies student at York, paid \$40.00 to a homelocator company before coming to off-campus housing. "Off-campus housing and the guys that work there were extremely helpful in finding me an affordable place to live that is also close to campus. The guys are friendly and helpful—superb at their job."

The key aspect of off-campus housing is that whether or not

students find what they are looking for, they don't go away feeling that the staff didn't care. The department is understaffed and underfinanced yet still manages to have coffee on when you get there. Both Adetuyi and Taylor handle the incoming vacancies with a positive outlook and a good sense of humor.

Adetuyi says "housing is a major and critical aspect of a student's life, a comfortable home can make the difference in how a student performs in school."

An article published in last Thursday's Toronto Star and various broadcasts on local news stations have increased the number of available locations. Anyone having any vacancies in their home or apartment are urged to call off-campus housing at 667-3703.

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ibur's request for \$1 from student fees was supported by a vote of 941 to 600; The Ontario Federation of Students will continue to receive \$3 per student per year by virtue of a 681 to 519 vote in favor; The

Canadian Federation of Students will still receive \$1 per student per year after a vote of 770 for and 420 against; and Radio York lost its bid to have students donate to them \$1 a year by a vote of 828 to 717.

Food co-op gone

By CRAIG DANIELS

The Black Creek Food Cooperative, the student/faculty-run organization that operated out of Room 124 in Bethune College, has been closed as part of a \$1-million dollar project by the University to create more office space.

The Co-op, which provided an on-campus alternative to supermarket and cafeteria food, had operated for three years. It closed June 22. Black Creek was a non-profit organization whose members supplied their labor voluntarily.

Ross Dawson, the Director of the University's Facilities, Planning and Management Department, said that space for offices is desperately required with this year's increased enrollment. "With only 250 members, the co-op was occupying prime space, while only serving the needs of a few," he said.

Dawson added that space across the hall from its former location had been offered to the co-op group.

Co-op members and Bethune College Master David Lumsder were unavailable for comment, however Pat Legris, President of Bethune College Council said that it is unlikely the Co-op will take the location across the hall. Legris said that space used by the Co-op was student space under a long-standing agreement with the university.

"To set up again across the hall would only invite the University to

annex it, too, at some later date, whenever it was required," said Legris. He also pointed out that Bethune has been a victim in the past over space requirements, citing the renovation of Bethune dining hall for the Theatre department.

But according to Dawson, the administration isn't just picking on Bethune. "Each college will have to make sacrifices," he said. Dawson also said that portable office space is not a cost-effective solution.

Under terms of its lease, the Co-op was to pay the University a monthly rent of \$311 for its Bethune location. In three years of operation, the Co-op had accumulated debts to the University in excess of \$8,000. Total rent received from the Co-op by the University was \$400.

When asked if the outstanding rent was a factor in the closing of the Co-op, the University's Financial Manager, D. Nesbitt, replied with an emphatic "no." "Obviously," he said, "it was in the university's interest to keep the co-op open to try to recover some of the rent owing. It was simply a matter of that particular space being required for offices."

Nesbitt explained that there is a clause in the rental agreement of every small business on campus that, if the University at any time requires the space designated for any particular store, it must be surrendered. This includes the stores in Central Square.

He added that, "the primary concern of the University was fulfilling its obligations as an academic institution. Office space is necessary to do this."

Currently, part of the former Co-op space is housing Physical Education Graduate Students.

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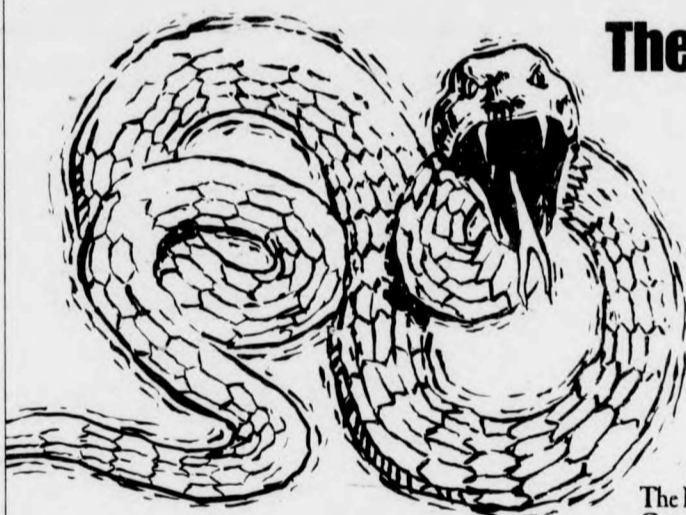
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