

Graduate student loses faith

By BRIAN MILNER
And HARRY KITZ

In its attempt to get closer to student problems at York, EXCALIBUR has started an "Action Line" type feature the first instalment of which appears below. If you are having trouble at York, whether it be with academics, residence, food services or any facet of your life here and you want help, come to the EXCALIBUR office in the Central Square or drop us a line.

Marinus Boekelman is an Atkinson student, lives in the graduate residence and believes in the system — at least he did until last week when he ran into York's amazing bureaucracy.

The trouble was over a rent cheque returned by the bank, a fine for late payment and a threatened eviction — and the whole experience has left Boekelman

confused, upset, and very, very angry.

Marinus has always accepted the system pretty much as it is, what with his credit cards, bank account and all — and his's never had any trouble before, dealing with private property management companies.

This year though, he decided to move into the grad residence.

The rent's \$140 a month, payable in 12 post-dated cheques at the beginning of the term.

This makes it easy for the accountants. Each month the handy cheque is shipped off to the bank. There's never a problem about collecting rents — and maybe hearing tenant complaints at the same time.

But Marinus' November cheque came back from the bank because it didn't have an account number on it.

York's machine swung into action. By November 10 Marinus

had a nice form letter telling him about the overdue payment (for the first time), the \$3.00 "administrative charge" plus a late fee of \$1.00 per day, and the "automatic" eviction notice after 10 days.

Never, Boekelman said, had he ever been treated like that. They have "no tact whatsoever," he charged. "As soon as the problem occurs, somebody grabs the damn form and sends it."

Mrs. D. Ferris, administrative assistant to the residence coordinator, said: "If I had issued an NSF (bad cheque) I wouldn't be offended by this letter. A majority of people don't keep their cheque book annotated."

The money, of course, was in the bank all the time, but no one from York tried to find the mistake. This, plus the letter threatening eviction, particularly angered Marinus.

D.A. Nesbitt, residence coordinator, admitted that "it's not a very friendly letter but it states the facts." "Ninety per cent of them (tenants) are damn good," he said, "but you get the odd one who is a slob."

Boekelman has been excused, with a half-hearted apology, from paying the fine, and if the rest of his cheques are made out properly he won't have any more trouble.

But this problem could arise again, as long as students have to sign leases calling for, among other things, apartment inspections without warning, automatic eviction and payment by post-dated cheque.

Under the new Landlord Tenants Act though, parts of the present lease may be invalid.

"We drew it (the lease) up in this office and the university lawyers approved every aspect of it,"

Ferris said. Nevertheless, in compliance with the Act, damage security deposits are now being refunded.

The tenants association, which is now looking into Boekelman's case, has the lease under review. "The whole damn lease is illegal," a spokesman said, Tuesday.

"There weren't any tenants when the lease was drawn up," Nesbitt said, but added that "we're reasonable."

One final grad residence note: EXCALIBUR reported last year that each apartment had a large, useless storage area that cut sharply into available living space.

This closet has been removed in the grad 3 residence. Are living quarters larger now? No. Because, according to reliable sources, an extra apartment has been added on each floor to make use of the extra space.

Name the column contest

The contest is open to all members of the York community (EXCALIBUR staffers excepted). Entries should be satirical in emphasis with reasons (if possible) for selection.

All entries must be DATED and signed, and submitted to the EXCALIBUR office (Suite III, Central Square) no later than December 1, 1970. In case of duplication, winning entry will be decided by earliest date of entry.

The winner and loser will be announced in the December 3 edition.

WINNER: One week free meals at Versafood (or cash equivalent)

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* will be established by draw of all entries, except winner.

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