

# "if we raise a lot of shit down here, we will make the university bend." Students want voices heard in rental decisions

by Howard Kaman

Residence fees are going to increase, and some students are not going to stand for it.

Following a January 17 rally, about 45 residence students held a meeting to outline a plan to become involved in the Residence Budget Committee's (RBC) decision making process.

Glendon College Student Union president Gus Pantelidis, led the

discussion. He focused on how the students could make their RBC recommendations heard by the administration.

According to Pantelidis, a proposal was put forth last year to the RBC to increase residence fees to 95 per cent of market value, over a 10-year period.

This plan, announced last January by former assistant vice president (business operations) John Becker, would raise bachelor unit rents by 13.7 per cent for three

years, beginning September 1990. Over the following seven years, rent would then increase by seven per cent per year. All other residences on campus would face a fee hike of seven per cent a year, over the 10 year period.

Pantelidis sees many difficulties with the plan, including the RBC's comparison between "market value" and a York residential apartment. As described by Vanier College Council president Kate Collins, market value is based upon the cost of living in a Toronto area bachelor apartment with a private bathroom and kitchenette, while York's undergraduate residence students do not have such luxuries and shouldn't be made to pay for them.

"If they make residence out of reach of the average student," said Pantelidis, "then York university's going to become out of reach of the average student."

Pantelidis also described the RBC as "a loophole in the Residence Rent Review and Premises Act of 1976, which allows the university to raise rents in excess of inflation, if it consults with the students."

Last year, the RBC recommended undergraduate rent increases of 4.7 per cent over 10 years, the rate of inflation. The university, however, free of the Act's limitation's, could then raise the fees to 13.7 per cent for graduate students, and seven per cent for undergraduates.

Pantelidis believes the university has been using the Committee

to avoid the residence students' recommendations, but explained to the crowd that "if we raise a lot of shit down here, we will make the university bend."

Pantelidis said the RBC served little purpose, and that he would like to see the university pay more attention to its recommendations.

Collins agrees that the RBC's consultation with students has had little effect on the university's decisions. "Consultation means 'We will listen to your complaints,'" she explained, "but we won't promise to act on them." Every single year a new bunch of students with the best of intentions comes in, does the research and the reading... and then has to sit back and see nothing happen."

According to Steven White, chairman of the York University Tenant's Association (YUTA) subcommittee of the RBC, a unanimous motion was passed January 17 asking the students to participate in the Committee, "because of their essential role in deciding these questions."

However, White also admitted that he would be "the last one to suggest that [undergraduate] participation is enormously useful. I think it's useful only marginally more than not participating is." CYSF vice-president (internal) Caroline Winship reduces the student role in the RBC to that of a "rubber stamp." Despite the Committee's membership, consisting of one student from each

residence and five members of York's administration, Winship says the undergraduates' role is minimal. Quorum for an RBC assembly, she explained, is five members, allowing for meetings with no students in attendance.

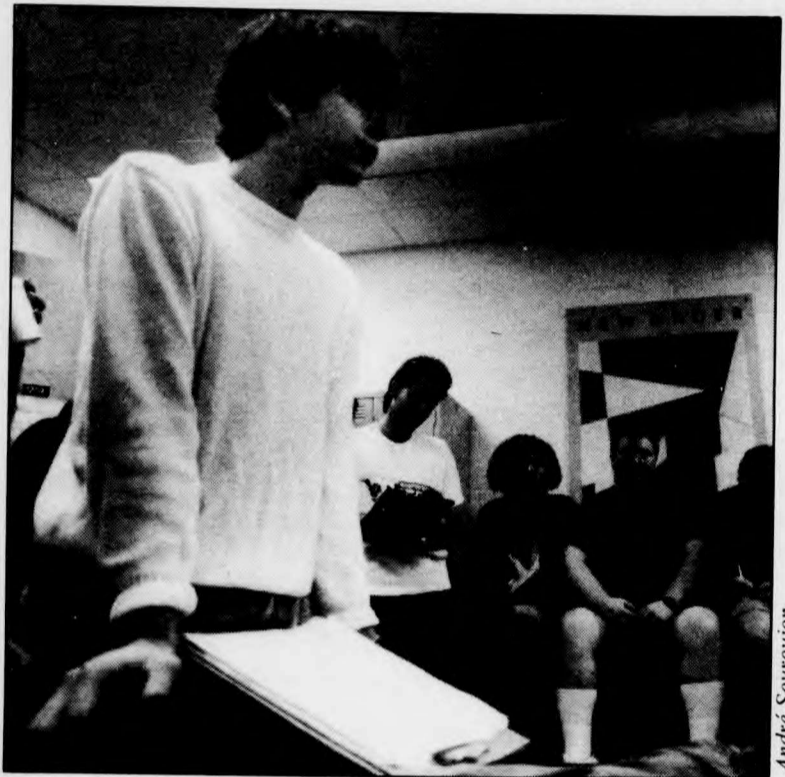
Director of housing and food services, Norman Crandles, agrees the RBC has little influence on the university administration, but believes it shouldn't be a concern to the students. He calls it a "consultative committee," which serves no more purpose than to advise the administration.

Crandles also said the "rise to 95" applies only to the graduate apartments on Assiniboine and Moon Road. "You can't take undergraduate residence to 95 per cent of anything," he said, emphasizing that the undergraduate rent increases of "five to seven per cent" are perfectly in line with inflation.

Pantelidis insists, however, that all rents will increase to the same amount. According to his calculations, the university has assessed graduate residence rent as being 52 per cent of market value. He said the university has assessed undergraduate residences at a rent 71 per cent of market value.

With the planned increases, Pantelidis explained, all residences would all rise to the 95 per cent figure.

"I want them to abandon the 95 per cent mentality," he said, "I want the RBC to become effective."



Gus Pantelidis at the January 17 meeting

André Souroujon

## Charges dropped against student and officers

by Daniel Wolgelerenter

Assault charges and counter-charges against a law student and two York security officers were dropped last Monday after a deal was made between the two sides, the security guards' lawyer said.

Assault charges against third year Osgoode student Dean Adema were dropped by the Crown after Adema agreed to enter a one-year peace bond. The Crown subsequently dropped charges against security officers

Rachid Ennaffati and Edward Ciamtar, said the pair's lawyer, Robert Blakeley.

Blakeley said Adema's lawyer Bryan Heller made the offer that led to both sets of charges being dropped.

Under terms of the peace bond, Adema must keep the peace and not have contact with the two security guards for a period of one year. If Adema breaks the terms of the bond, he would be liable for a fine of \$500 and charges under any new offence.

The charges stemmed from an incident last September when Ennaffati and Ciamtar responded to a noise complaint at Adema's residence at 4 Assiniboine Rd. Adema was arrested and charged with two counts of assault for allegedly assaulting both officers.

The officers alleged that Adema assaulted them. Adema alleged that the two had harassed guests leaving his apartment from a party. Adema also alleged that he was physically threatened

by one of the officers after protesting against the treatment of his guests and then arrested when he would not stop protesting.

Adema later filed charges against the two officers.

Adema, Ciamtar and Ennaffati were all unavailable for comment, while Heller refused to comment on the case.

Interim director of security Pam MacDonald said she was not surprised the charges were dropped against the officers

since security's investigation found they "acted in an entirely proper manner."

She said she prefers the deal to following through with the charges and that the peace bond gives the security department assurance that the incident won't happen again.

"Happily, the outcome is more positive than it looked like it would be for a while," she said. "We don't want our students to have criminal records if it isn't necessary."

## Students may pay more for gov'ts under CYSF plan

by Daniel Wolgelerenter

The CYSF has come up with a plan to substantially increase funding to student governments. The plan would provide more services for students by keeping pace with inflation.

The plan, announced by CYSF vice-president (external) and chair of the CYSF research and development committee Peter Merrick, would see overall funding to student governments rise from \$9.20 to \$17 per course by 1994-95 school year over a four year period.

Merrick said the last time the student fees for government increased was 1980, and that current funding to student governments has not kept pace with inflation.

Under the proposal, total governmental fees will rise from \$46 per full-time equivalent (FTE) student to \$85 by 1994-95. From full members, the CYSF's revenue will increase \$18.50 per FTE student to \$31.50 while college governments will collectively receive \$53.50 instead of

the \$27.50 they currently receive.

Associate members who currently do not give any money to CYSF will contribute \$25.00 per FTE to the CYSF by 1994-95. Associate member councils will receive \$60 per FTE student instead of the \$26 they currently receive.

The plan also calls for the indexing of the governmental levy to inflation at the end of the four year plan in 1994-95.

The fee restructuring proposal was presented in two reports, one for full members and one for associate members of the CYSF. The college governments and the Faculty of Education Students Association are full members while Osgoode, Glendon and Atkinson student governments are all associate members of the CYSF.

The proposal for full members needs the support of the majority of the CYSF constituency committee in order to go to a referendum. The second proposal for associate members needs the approval of individual associate members' councils before Glendon, Osgoode and Atkinson stu-

dents can vote on the proposal in a referendum.

The CYSF has tabled the proposal until its next meeting on January 31, while waiting for reactions from full and associate

member governments.

The proposal states that a referendum should take place this March in order to give the administration time to implement the new fee structure in 1991-92.

## Admin nixes Naosaki's plea

by Jacob Katsman and Nancy Phillips

The Commonwealth Games have started without Maasaki Naosaki.

The university administration has denied the York University Faculty Association's (YUFA) request for an expedited hearing, shutting out any remaining hope for Naosaki. YUFA made the request in the hopes of overturning the decision to not let him go to the Auckland, New Zealand Games.

Naosaki, a physical education professor, was denied leave to attend the Games to coach gymnast Curtis Hibbert. Hibbert is a York student who has trained with Naosaki for 12 years and

could sweep the medals for Canada.

"Under the labour law, both sides had to agree for an expedited arbitration," explained YUFA chair Brian Abner. "We had an independent arbitrator ready to hear the case on Friday. It is inexplicable why the university did not agree to hear the case."

York vice-president (finance and administration) Bill Farr said he personally was not involved in the matter, but he believed the university's action was consistent with the decision that Naosaki was not to go to the Games.

York president Harry Arthurs still refused comment regarding his conversation with Canadian Gymnastics Federation (CGF) director John Brookes in which

he told Brookes that the university would consider letting Naosaki go if the CGF would absorb \$8,000, or one-third of Naosaki's term salary.

With a tight budget and no previous arrangements with York, the gymnastics federation could not respect Arthurs' request, said CGF men's technical director Rob Paradis.

Despite the university's decision, Naosaki is continuing his grievance through YUFA and is determined to set a precedent with his case. "I am continuing to fight," said Naosaki. "It is very important to have this matter cleared up before the 1991 World Championships and '92 Olympics. I don't want to have these problems again."