

Visa student evicted from dwelling

By PAULETTE PEIROL

On the eve of the Chinese New Year, York visa student Christine Chu was given four days notice to vacate the single room she and her sister shared in a University City apartment.

Since last August, Chu had been subletting the \$300/month room from Patricia McAlister, who pays \$800/month for the entire three bedroom apartment which she occupies with her two children. On January 28, Chu received a letter from McAlister stating that as of February 1 she and her sister, Veronica, would be evicted.

In the eviction notice, McAlister wrote that "communication has been minimal" and that the sisters were "unsuitable roommates for (her) family." The letter also stated "due to early termination, there will be no refund of the (\$300) deposit."

Under the province's Landlord and Tenant Act, landlords must give tenants written notice of an eviction 60 days prior to the event. Landlords are also required to either reimburse a tenant's deposit upon eviction, or use it as credit toward the tenant's last rent payment. Only if a tenant has vacated the premises without sufficient notice (60 days), or has caused property damage, can a landlord withhold the deposit money.

Yet in this case Chu is not (in strictly legal terms) a tenant but rather a roomer, and roomers are not covered under the Landlord and Tenant Act.

After spending \$175 on consultation with a private lawyer, Chu went to York's Community Legal Aid Services Program (CLASP), which is now defending her case.

According to Chu, on the evening of January 28, a dispute about the eviction notice arose between her brother-in-law (visiting from Guelph at the time), and McAlister. Later that night, Chu said, McAlister broke the chain lock inside the

sisters' room, and also changed the front door lock.

The next day, Chu returned from school to find much of her property packed into boxes and stacked in the hallway outside the apartment. McAlister gave Chu half an hour to remove all of her belongings from the room.

Chu said that she then discovered many items missing, such as clothes, her stereo, television, and computerized typewriter. She immediately called the police at 31 Division, and two officers arrived on the scene. Yet according to Chu, the officers told her that since she was not a tenant, the matter was a "civil dispute," in which they could not interfere.

Staff Inspector Robert Kerr of 31 Division confirmed that officers attended the call, but said that no subsequent report was filed.

The Chu sisters are presently compiling a list of the missing articles, which they believe were stolen. Cliff Moss, one of the CLASP members representing Chu's case, said that they plan to lay a claim against McAlister for both the missing property and the \$300 deposit which was not refunded.

McAlister said that she kept the deposit as reimbursement for damage to the room's wall with a magic marker, an earlier flood in the apartment, the cost of changing locks, and for "the sheer trauma" the situation has caused her.

"\$300 is a low compensation for these troubles," she said. (Chu maintains that she never wrote on the walls and that she and her sister painted them when they moved in. Furthermore, Chu said that the flood was caused by McAlister's daughter.)

McAlister cited "gross infringement" of a previous agreement with the sisters as her reason for evicting them. She said that when the Chus moved in last August, it was "understood" that one sister would soon

move out, that no boyfriends were allowed in the apartment at night, and that there would always be one sister at home each evening to supervise McAlister's children while she was in night-school. (Since evicting Chu, McAlister said that she has had to quit school.)

Both Christine and Veronica Chu deny such an agreement. McAlister said that when she placed a rental advertisement for the room, it explicitly said that she was seeking "someone who would look after the kids." Christine Chu said that the advertisement they saw, in the Housing Services section of the Office of Student Affairs, made no mention of childcare.

McAlister said that on several occasions, the Chus were smoking drugs in their room.

McAlister claimed that on January 29, she called the police to report Chu's drug use. Officers searched Chu's room and confiscated drugs, but did not lay charges, McAlister said, adding that *Excalibur* "should not print this because Christine's visa could be revoked if anyone found out (about the alleged drug confiscation)."

When asked if such a call was placed by McAlister, Inspector Kerr said he could not confirm this, since most calls are placed through the central division. Kerr confirmed, however, that if drugs were indeed found, charges would likely have been laid.

Chu claimed that she has never smoked drugs or tobacco, and that she was never notified by McAlister or the police about the alleged incident.

Chu said she is fighting her case for the sake of all visa students. "It is very expensive to study in Canada, and Canadians have more protection with laws," she said. "I don't want anyone else to suffer from this again."

BABAK AMIRFEZ

ONE SIZE FITS ALL: This Friday is Condom Day. Students will be able to size themselves up with their favourite free condom, but they better get to Central Square early, for supplies are limited.

Free condoms coming to campus this Friday

By PAULETTE PEIROL

The old adage "better safe than sorry," will be [repeated] this Friday as 1,000 free condoms will be available in Central Square.

The "safes" have been donated by Julius Schmitt of Canada to help promote Condom Day, sponsored by the Lesbian and Gay Alliance group at York. "Safe sex awareness is not just for gay men," said William Pritchard, co-ordinator of Gay Alliance. "We're promoting it as a precautionary measure for everyone."

Lesbian and Gay Alliance will be setting up a table in Central Square to hand out condoms and information on safe sex and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). As well, the AIDS Committee of Toronto (ACT) will be donating two condom costumes, including a "Captain Condom" suit for the event.

The club is focusing on the preventative, rather than contraceptive, aspects of condom use. The motive behind Condom Day is "to familiarize and desensitize" the York community to Condoms, Pritchard said. "We're not promoting sex, but rather saying 'here, have a condom.' People should get them and play with them," he added.

When used properly (condom malfunction is primarily due to human error), condoms are an effective preventative measure against Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD), such as syphilis, gonorrhoea, AIDS, and chlamidia. While AIDS is presently the most dangerous of STDs, there has also been an increase in cases of chlamidia, a vaginal infection which, if not treated, can result in sterility.

AIDS is now the number one killer

reported in Canada, according to the most recent statistics published by the Laboratory Centre for Disease Control in Ottawa (January 12, 1987). Of these cases, over half have died.

In Toronto, 222 cases of AIDS have been diagnosed. Yet Orr estimates that there are about 10 times that number of uninfected people who are carrying AIDS antibodies and can transmit the virus.

There is no proven cure for the AIDS virus, which knocks out the body's immune system, leaving it susceptible to infections, including some types of pneumonia and skin cancer. Over 20 drugs have been developed to treat the disease, however, some of which "seems promising," according to Orr. Researchers are attempting to formulate a drug which, while it will not kill the virus, it will bolster the body's immune defense system.

There is a medical test to determine if one has AIDS antibodies, however, Orr said that the test "cannot tell you about your medical condition." ACT does not advise people to take this test, since "it can be very stressful and damaging to mental health," Orr said.

AIDS is not restricted to homosexual men; 40 cases of females contracting the virus have been recorded in Canada. In New York, AIDS is the highest killer of both males and females in the 35-44 age bracket.

It is a fallacy that the virus is restricted to isolated segments of the population, according to Orr. "There's a false perception that only certain types of people (such as of Toronto men between the ages of 35-44, noted Kevin Orr of ACT. There have been 835 cases of AIDS

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Time for West to condone ANC violence against Apartheid: Saul

By JAMES FLAGAL

Western nations must come to grips with the reality that violence is the only way to successfully dismantle the apartheid system in South Africa, John Saul told an almost empty Bethune College classroom last Friday.

Speaking on "Violence in South Africa," the Atkinson Social Science Professor began his assessment of the situation in that nation by evaluating Prime Minister Brian Mulroney's recent visit to Zimbabwe, and his discussions with border state leaders. According to Saul, Mulroney went "farther than any of his predecessors" in expressing support for the African National Congress (ANC) by claiming to understand "the fact that ANC violence made some sense" in opposing South African oppression.

However, Saul said that Mulroney, like other ministers, is still "ducking the main issue," and Western leaders still find it difficult to accept violence as a means of change. Saul did add that at least Mulroney acknowledged that "dialogue is not advancing and the apartheid is not diminishing," which is something United States President Ronald Reagan still has not "admitted."

Saul cited two reasons for the Western countries' inability to

accept violence as a means to dismantle the apartheid system. Firstly, the West's racial tendency is to "identify better with white freedom fighters rather than black," Saul said. Secondly, Saul added is the "cynical way we pursue politics in the West with no heroic purpose. (In South Africa), people are prepared to die, something we find hard to understand."

Even though Mulroney and other Western leaders are still proposing sanctions as an alternative to violence, Saul claims that "there is no alternative to confrontation in ending apartheid." According to Saul, sanctions must become part of an instrument to fight the state, for sanctions can only "shorten the days of bloodshed by helping to weaken the state." Saul explained that people who fight have "reluctantly come to the conclusion that they must fight in order to realize their goals."

Saul said the South African government cannot hope to have the same "crushing effect" it had in ending the peaceful resistance movement in the 1960s by sending protestors into exile. Due to the failure of this peaceful movement, Saul said the ANC has resorted to violence to fight the system "that is resistant to change." The ANC is "carefully coordinating violence," he said, "(by) focusing on hard military

targets rather than soft civilian ones" to carry out their opposition. In 1985, the ANC moved from a propaganda stage to arming the people against the government by giving "the revolutionaries systematic mil-

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INSIDE FEATURES

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ARTS

FINE ARTS BLOWOUT: Last week's Fine Arts Festival captivated York's imagination with 20-foot murals, dancing through sleet and snow, and jazz bands wailing their wares. . . . Pages 15-17

SPORTS

BLOOD DOPING BREAKTHROUGH: Doctor Norman Gledhill, director of York's Physical Education department, played an instrumental role in the banning of blood doping in amateur sport. Sports editor Dave Bundas spoke to Gledhill about his research in this area. . . . Page 15