

## Disputes force caterers resignation

By JAMES FLAGAL

After six months of continuous disputes over how much control a caterer should have in running his business, the manager of the Osgoode cafeteria, Eddie Haag, decided to resign last week and sell his operations to another company.

Haag's resignation follows a long-standing debate in Osgoode Hall on whether or not the caterer gave three cafeteria employees fair treatment or if working conditions forced them to quit.



BABAK AMIRFEIZ

**HIS LAST PIZZA?** Osgoode caf manager Eddie Haag resigned after working conditions dispute.

Osgoode Professor Michael Mandel, who is representing the women, wrote in an *Obiter Dicta* article, "Haag put the screws on and applied them so hard that within weeks, Rosa, a cheerful employee of 17 unblemished years under various managers had fled in tears." Norman Crandles, Director of Food and

Housing, says that certain Osgoode members who opposed Haag "made his life so miserable that he wanted out."

The controversy started after Osgoode's Legal & Literary Society (the student union) decided to give up the cafeteria since they were making only \$6,000-7,000 profit annually, and felt that a private caterer could offer better service and food. After bids were made by both Versa and Harvest caterers, Legal and Lit, with the help of the University Food and Beverage Service Committee (UFBC) chose Haag's company.

Renovations on the cafeteria began in early June, and according to Dave Thomas, President of Osgoode's Legal & Literary Society, Haag mortgaged his house in order to cover the \$175,000 capital expense. Haag was offered a 10-year contract in the cafeteria and, as Crandles points out, the university only requires that the new caterer offer the cafeteria employees their old jobs first, but they are not required to meet the same compensation levels of the past employer. Mandel feels this places the university in a weak position, "giving all the power to this guy that had no experience."

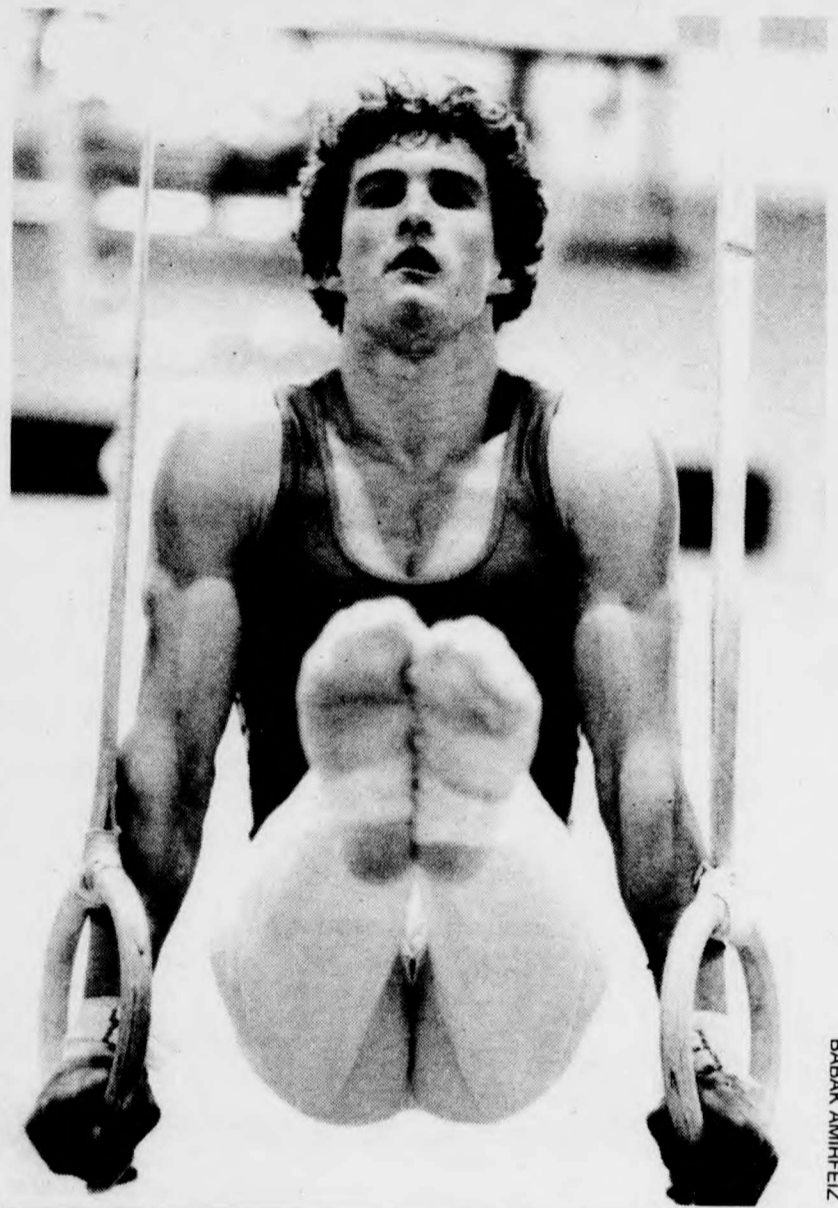
Haag did hire back the old cafeteria staff, but at a \$2.00-\$2.50 per hour pay cut. According to Crandles, the employees were being paid far above market value, and Haag could not afford to meet their previous compensation and still make a good profit in order to start paying off the expensive renovations costs. And, as Thomas points out, Haag was getting applications on his desk for \$4.50 per hour while these ladies

demanding that they receive their old wage of \$8.00 an hour.

After Haag refused to meet the wage rate, the three employees, Rosa Friscioni, Maria Laurenza, and Gina Bizzario, approached Mandel to appeal to Haag and the UFBC in order to get back their old salaries. After a lengthy debate, Haag and the UFBC agreed that Haag would meet the wage demands as long as he was allowed to raise food prices by 3%. Thomas saw this kind of intervention on the part of the university as totally unfair: "Haag didn't know he would have to work under these restrictive financial parameters when he accepted the contract."

But the grievances from the women didn't stop there. They felt that the working conditions were unbearable under Haag, so they decided to leave the cafeteria in late October. According to Friscioni, "Before the staff was like a family, but under Haag supervisors would always spy on you and tell the boss everything, making it very uncomfortable." But supporters of Haag felt that he had the right to run his business as he saw fit, especially after the investment which he made into the cafeteria and the improvement in food and service.

According to Crandles, Cosmos Catering took over Haag's contract on February 1. The manager, Franz Heutschi, is currently in negotiations with Mandel and the women, and is considering taking back the employees under certain conditions. But Mandel feels that even with the new caterer many issues remain unresolved, and conditions are still going to have to change before the women can return to work.



BABAK AMIRFEIZ

**HANGING IN THERE:** York gymnast John Eccelston shows us the form that earned him a third place finish on the rings at last weekend's York Invitational. Both the men and the women emerged victors. For details, see page 19.

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YORK PROF ROBERT ADOLPH  
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## CYSF unveils constitutional reforms

By STACEY BEAUCHAMP

"The Presidential Committee on Constitutional Reform (PCCR) is proud to present a package of Constitutional amendments that will give CYSF a fighting chance against the inherent problems at York University," says CYSF President Drew McCreadie in his By-Law Proposal Synopsis. A summary of the amendments was presented at a reception held at Stong College's Senior Common Room this past Tuesday, where student representatives met with the CYSF executive.

The reforms will include reducing the size of the Executive from seven Vice-Presidents to three, who will be responsible for Internal, Financial and External services. This is necessary, says McCreadie, since the present departments overlap. Instead of the eliminated positions, commissioners will be appointed to answer directly to one of the three Vice-Presidents. Also, it has been proposed that the money saved by eliminating these four positions could be used to pay the Vice-Presidents full-time during the summer. McCreadie reels that this will ensure "that the summer planning shall have the full participation of the entire Executive."

As well, the amendments will define the role of each of the student governments, through a clear statement of jurisdiction. As a protective measure, CYSF will have a Constituency committee comprised of the

President or Chair of each constituency government at York. The Committee, acting as a senate, will possess the right to veto council proposals affecting their constituency. The committee must also approve of all future amendments on the CYSF By-Laws.

Another "watch-dog" of the CYSF will be a Governmental Affairs Tribunal, which will act somewhat like a Supreme Court. This "impartial" body, appointed by the CYSF and the Constituency Committee, will consist of five people who will determine whether the Council is acting within its jurisdiction. This will "be a court of final appeal for any student or student government

when they believe that CYSF has not lived up to its obligations to the other student governments on council," says the PCCR.

The By-Laws will also guarantee that each constituency government has some level of autonomy from the other governments, including CYSF. As well, this will provide "a strong central forum" for each of the constituents, including Bethune, Calumet, and Osgoode who will become part of CYSF. The PCCR feels that this will ensure that "students shall be properly represented on central issues, while at the same time, each constituency government retains the right to represent their constituents on local matters."

Finally, the reforms will ensure that each member of the Council will play an active role in policy formation. This will be accomplished through a system which will be comprised of five "continuously running committees" who will possess "specific functions, responsibilities, and powers." This will change the present structure, which allows most of the work to be done by the CYSF Executive.

The amendments were tabled at last night's CYSF meeting, but debate will not take place until the following meeting to be held on Wednesday February 24. A final vote on the proposed By-laws will take place at the meeting following the debate.

## Grad residence rents jump 10%

By MARK HUNTER

On January 29, the York Housing Committee delivered its budget and according to Alan Greenbaum, President of the Graduate Tenant's Association (GTA), graduate students and other residents of the graduate buildings, which includes married under-graduates, can expect to pay 10% more for rent next year.

The 10% hike, according to Greenbaum, is "substantially more" than it has been in recent years. Greenbaum notes that while annual increases have come to be expected, they are usually in the 4%-6% range,

and that in his opinion, the cost per student will probably continue to rise annually at or around 10% for the next decade. The increase is attributed to the hiring of more staff, capital expenditures needed to upgrade older buildings, and for construction of new graduate residences. GTA is planning to verify these reasons through their own investigation, says Greenbaum.

The GTA has no say over how the budget should be structured. Their role is to review the budget and report problems or disagreements they have with it back to the Housing

Committee.

Last year, the GTA rejected the proposed budget because it included a plan to produce a surplus of \$150,000. That money would then be given to the York University General Fund, giving no direct benefit to the graduate students who paid it. The GTA's rejection was subsequently rejected itself by the Housing Committee. The same planned surplus is included in this year's budget as well.

The Graduate Tenants Association reaction to this year's budget will be announced in two week's time.