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Crandles to move into residence

by Susan Vanstone

Director of housing and food services Norman Crandles has accepted an invitation from students to live in residence for one week.

"I'm looking forward to it," said Crandles at the February 21 open forum. "I fully expect to learn a great deal which I plan to put to good and effective use."

Crandles agreed to the offer after being presented with CYSF-prepared letters of invitation from students stating, "The objective . . . is to allow you to experience for one week what we must live through all year." He said he plans to stay in as many residences as he can during the week.

"It's wonderful," said CYSF vice president (internal) Caroline Winship. "It's the first step in the administration realizing the existing plight of residence students. It's one thing for them to [sympathize], but it's another to experience it."

Also present at the forum were vice-president (finance and administration) Bill Farr, housing operations manager Peter Ridout, director of physical plant operations Khursh Irani, superintendent of caretaking Norm Noddle, assistant vice-president (business operations) David Homer and Glendon College business manager Leon Wasser.

They faced questions and criticism from approximately 70 students.

CYSF vice-president (external) Peter Merrick said the administration has turned the university into a business and it should go back to basics by looking after students. "The priorities are to make money and, as students, we shouldn't allow them to take that stance," said Merrick.

Glendon College student union president Gus Pantelidis questioned the proposed residence fee increases. "The university is becoming unaffordable," he said. "If I wasn't president, I'd be \$3,000 in the hole."

Undergraduate residence fees will increase by 250 per cent in the next 20 years, compared to a 100 to 120 per cent rise for apartments covered by *The Landlord and Tenant Act*, he said.

Pantelidis also said increases will put residence living out of reach of Quebec students and single parents. Out-of-town students don't have time to come to

Toronto to look for off-campus housing, he explained.

He suggested that York follow President Harry Arthurs' *White Paper*, which, he said, would decentralize and humanize the university.

Pantelidis also suggested residence students should decide themselves what repairs should be made to their buildings.

Vanier College president Kate Collins surveyed the crowd and noted that the major concern of students attending the forum was food services.

Crandles said a decision has not yet been made whether scrip will be discontinued in the future. One of the problems, he said, is that \$750,000 of scrip goes to non-Marriott campus caterers, and thus does not go toward the company with the responsibility

Marriott is not losing money this year because all first-year residents must buy a meal plan which can only be used in the Marriott-run college cafeterias, he added.

Crandles also said York Lanes and the Student Centre will have a negative effect on Marriott business.

Students complained about food quality and service. One resident said, "I don't even eat there anymore. I'm fed up with complaining to the managers."

Darrin Nowakowski, a Vanier resident, noted there were incidents in the Winters cafeteria of insects in food and a possible food poisoning occurrence. (More on these issues will be covered in future issues of *Excalibur*.) Crandles said York has had four residence caterers in five years because the York account is a difficult one. Marriott is working hard, he said.

In reference to food quality, Crandles told *Excalibur*, "I don't buy into the argument that [Marriott serves] routinely bad food. It's institutional food aimed at being inexpensive." He also said he eats Marriott food at least three times a week.

Glendon students told physical plant staff about problems with residence heating. One side of the building is too hot, and windows must be opened, while the other side is freezing, they said.

Ridout said the heating system does not have the ability to distribute more heat to one side of the building. There are other

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Abbey Road à la York . . . construction begins on the Entry Pavilion east of Ross

Budget likely to inflate tuition

by Josh Rubin

Despite federal government assurances to the contrary, it is likely that students in Ontario's colleges and universities will be facing tuition hikes in the upcoming fiscal year.

With officials in Ontario Treasurer Bob Nixon's office estimating the loss of federal transfer payments to Ontario at \$500 million dollars in the 1990-91 fiscal year, Ontario Minister of Colleges and Universities Sean Conway would not rule out anything, including higher tuition fees.

Some observers, such as York economics professor Meyer Burstein, believe Wilson is merely sharing the burden of the national debt with those responsible. Burstein, though, is pessimistic about the chances of Ontario universities avoiding any cutbacks or tuition increases in the near future but feels this is necessary for a sense of fiscal responsibility. "People will be faced with a more realistic perspective of the (Canadian) economy," he said. "Responsibility should rest with the provincial governments as well."

York's administration's response to the budget was some-

what muted. Vice-president (finance and administration) Bill Farr says the impact of the budget isn't yet clear, but believes university funding for the upcoming year is already "pretty much set and not likely to change."

Farr's sentiments were echoed by York president Harry Arthurs, who feels the province was expecting a tough federal budget. "Nixon anticipated Wilson's budget by announcing these [three per cent university budget cuts] in November. Governmental cuts have already hurt York."

Arthurs is resigned to more cuts in Ontario's next budget, however this time around, they won't be as much of a shock as the first time around. "I can't believe they're going to do any worse than before," he says.

According to Arthurs, federal funding to universities virtually stopped in the mid-'70s, and universities had to deal with provincial governments, who as it turns out, have not done a much better job.

Most student groups, on the other hand, are outraged by the cuts in federal transfer payments. Says Edith Garneau, chair of the Ontario Federation of Students (OFS), "The [federal] govern-

ment is talking out of both sides of its mouth. Mulroney talks about improving education in one breath, and a few months later tables a budget which freezes support for post-secondary education. We find this extremely hypocritical."

Garneau believes this past week's budget is continuing a trend set by last year's bill C-33, attempted by the federal government to restructure the funding of Canadian education and health care, which she claims will cost the provinces \$3 billion through 1994-95.

The Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) also says last week's budget will hurt both the accessibility and quality of Canadian university education.

Some observers agree with the CFS, and believe the announced annual cap of \$1,500 on Registered Education Savings Plans (RESPs) will affect some families' ability to provide their children with an adequate post-secondary education.

The CFS also has some harsh words about the state of Canadian university funding in general. "The crux of the problem is the lack of an accountability

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