

# NEWS

## Atkinson study room replaced by offices

by Anton Katz

The removal of student study space in Atkinson college by the Atkinson administration without student consultation has students upset. In July, Room 251, the college's traditional study area for the students was officially reallocated as an office for the graduation department of Atkinson's

student programmes.

The graduation department needed a new location after losing its basement room to a new computer lab over the summer.

Both moves were taken by the college administration without consulting the Atkinson College Student Association (ACSA), which has angered ACSA president Anna Segal.

She said she learned about the loss of study space by chance on

May 19 from "an anonymous student" who told her the room was going to be renovated.

Segal said that ASCA does not disagree that the computers would be beneficial to the students or that Atkinson staff deserve access to space, but she felt that Atkinson students should have been consulted.

Had ACSA been consulted earlier on the issue of the computers, she said, it might have given the

displaced graduate department part of the space in the study room.

The placement of computers resulted from work done by the Dean's Advisory Committee on Computing. The lab is intended for student use, yet, as Atkinson associate dean John Parkinson admitted in an August 22 letter to ACSA, "a significant omission from the membership of this committee has been the stu-

dents."

Parkinson said that he and outgoing dean Stephen Griew did not consult the students because there was no time, since the college was offered a provincial grant in February to get the computers and had to have a room ready by March to get the money.

He said consulting the students would have stalled matters and might have cost the college the grant.

Following the reallocation of the study room, Parkinson offered ACSA the Atkinson conference room (room 282) as new study space, but ACSA rejected the offer in July since students would be only one of many groups using the room.

In a July 13 letter to ACSA, Parkinson stated that "the main purpose of this room is to accommodate official Atkinson College business meetings" and offered the room to students on an "as available" basis.

He has promised to post a notice of scheduled bookings for the room but has not yet done so.

As of the end of the first week of the term, Atkinson students still do not have a study room to replace room 251.

Segal said that these incidents were not the only examples of the college administration taking space away from students without consultation.

She said that in May 1990, room 253, formerly used by the students as a discussion room, was converted into a professor's office, with no consultation with ACSA.

Parkinson declined to comment on this incident.

## Student starts up "Fun Club" with Jello toss

by Daniel Wolgelerenter

If getting back to school has you a little depressed, you may want to try slinging some jello at a fellow student.

That's what fourth year biology major and York University Biology Society president Sheldon Bergson invited passers-by to do last Friday afternoon when he dressed up in an orange garbage bag and goggles and set up shop in the field between the Farquharson and Steacie buildings.

At \$1 for three shots — to "give a loony to a loony" as his sign read — students were encouraged to pelt Bergson with jello.

It was all part of the membership drive for his new club, the University Life Appreciation Organization (ULAO), also known as the Fun Club which Bergson hopes will "end apathy at York once and for all."

The one dollar went towards a one-year membership in his club, which received the approval of Student Affairs last Wednesday after submitting a constitution and a list of ten initial members,



OH SHIT, HERE COMES THE JELLO: "Fun Club" president Sheldon Bergson waits to be pelted by edible slime.

as per Student Affairs regulations.

Bergson claimed to have 29 members by Friday.

Bergson's club has yet to be recognized by the York Federation of Students (YFS), which would entitle it to apply for funding that Student Affairs does not

provide. The YFS requires similar stipulations for official club status as does Student Affairs.

Clubs commissioner Ziad Hafez said YFS' major stipulation is that the club not be racist, sexist or homophobic.

Bergson said that the club is

open to all members of the York community and has applied for official standing with YFS.

The club, however, has one central rule: everyone must have fun at its events. If a member is not having fun within one hour of attending, they will be thrown out, he added.

The one dollar membership — "we wanted to keep it affordable," Bergson said — will be fully refunded if each member does not have a good time during at least one of the club's functions.

Bergson was not worried about a run on his treasury because he said most people had fun just bombarding him with the jello, which he said was donated by General Foods.

Among the other events Bergson hopes to hold are a macaroni and cheese eating contest (with donated food), a Big Brother and Big Sister day for children waiting for Big Brothers and Sisters, a fundraiser for illiteracy, and a campus clean-up day where all the garbage on campus would be put in one big pile and photographed.

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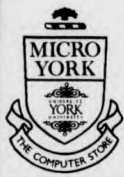
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