

Food Ombudspersons retained and students keep their jobs

ADAM BRYANT

The University Food and Beverage Service Committee, in a meeting on March 7 decided to make the positions of Food Ombudsperson permanent. The service introduced last fall on a one-year trial basis, was deemed a success by the committee, which has rehired present Ombudspersons Eli Gershkovitch and Chris Lambert for jobs next year at the York and Glendon campuses respectively.

Gershkovitch, a second year political science student, says his position exists to "act as a liaison between students, food caterers and administration, and to answer to students' problems and needs." The office is based on a similar service at the University of Guelph.

Norman Crandles, Manager of Housing and Food Services and secretary of the UFBC, explains that Gershkovitch was the only applicant who responded to the advertisements posted at the beginning of the year. "He was known to me as he had spent a great deal of time in my office last year, showing a lot of personal initiative and interest in the food service."

When asked how he hopes to benefit from the job, Gershkovitch replied, "It's not so much what you gain, it's what you give. This job is one way of getting involved."

For his services, Gershkovitch receives a cash refund for the \$950 in scrip that resident students are required to buy. Commenting on the adequacy of the salary, he would only say "I did agree to the contract."

Gershkovitch does not believe the position should

be held by a volunteer. "The salary is important, because if the Ombudsperson is a professional, he is kept accountable for his actions."

The Ombudsperson's salary is paid out of the Director of Ancillary Services' budget. "The position is divorced from the food service department to ensure impartiality," said Crandles. "We do not want the Ombudsperson to be an apologist for the caterers and the administration."

To date, Gershkovitch has convinced the caterers to install \$6,000-\$8,000 worth of microwave ovens in the cafeterias for student use and has initiated the meal specials. For next year, he plans to "keep cross the board price increases under five per cent, initiate more innovations like "Spaghetti night", and basically ensure that the university and caterers react more to student needs." He added, "As this position is new, I have to do a lot of trail blazing to set down standard operating procedures for the job."

The food service here at York is "standard quality for most institutions" according to Gershkovitch, who, as part of his research into food

services, has travelled to other universities this year. "The Scrip idea here at York," he said, "is great, because it is flexible and caters to the individual. With this system, the small eaters aren't subsidizing the big eaters, which is the case at most universities."

Gershkovitch said his job requires 15-20 hours a week. His time is divided between meetings, phone calls and regular office hours. "I get about 15-20 calls a week. The most common calls are complaints about prices and food quality. People also phone in with suggestions, and the occasional personal problem like allergies."

The service is a valuable one, said Gershkovitch. "I'm the most direct and visible link between the students and their food caterers. I meet every two weeks with the food supervisors, who are very responsive. I'm very accessible, at both my office (Monday 2-3:30, Wed. 1:30-3:00 at Vanier 202B) and at my number, 661-3132, where I will guarantee an answer if called between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m."

"He has done a really good job for us this year," commented Crandles.

Executive body convened

Committee takes final look at Food Report

CAROL BRUNT

The University Food and Beverage Services Committee along with York and Glendon's Food Service Ombudspersons met March 7th to conclude voting on recommendations made in the Report on University Food Services.

The report was prepared by a UFBC sub-committee

and submitted last March to the Student Relations Committee of York's Board of Governors and to the UFBC. The committee's mandate was "to examine possible modifications to the resident meal plan" and 17 changes to Food Services at York.

Since the beginning of the fall term, UFBC has passed

six of the proposals, including the retention of the multicatering system and UFBC acquiring "a more active role in establishing food services policy".

Monday's meeting was hampered by the committee's inability to reach quorum. So it was decided that the three voting members present - Chris Summerhayes, Chairman UFBC and Chairman Complex 1 User's Committee; Judi Menger, Representative Masters Residence Council; and Norman Crandles, Manager of Housing and Food Services and Secretary UFBC - would form an executive committee to discuss matters before the committee. Eli Gershkovitch and Chris Lambert, York and Glendon Food Service Ombudsperson respectively were invited to be voting members in the newly formed committee.

Of the remaining proposals to be dealt with, No. 16 recommended that should there be any savings available by limited the number of cafeteria entrees, the saving could be passed on to students, then this policy should be adopted. According to Menger, the Masters Residence Committee would like to see the present choice of three or four entrees retained.

Crandles said that the caterers are "looking for variety not monotony" and they are not in favour of the reduction. He argued that the University would not gain anything by the move, and personally wants the caterers to expand their thinking and save money by means other than the reduction of entrees.

Summerhayes stated that there would possibly be a four per cent cut in prices if there was limited choice but this was not substantial enough to warrant the reduction, and the proposal was subsequently rejected by a unanimous vote.

Recommendations 2, 9, 13, 14, which collectively form a set meal plan for first-year students were also rejected unanimously. "If it (York University) was structurally and geographically different it (the meal plan) would be possible to implement," but deemed it patronizing to first-year students.

According to Gershkovitch, the meal plan has a number of disadvantages for the students and the colleges. The problems arise because with a set meal plan a missed meal cannot be redeemed and it is impossible to sell portions of a meal plan (possible with scrip).

Scrip would be retained for the use of second, third, and fourth year students would be mandatory for first-year students to purchase the meal plan. This would invite divisions between students because separate dining halls would be necessary for security reasons. Lambert harshly criticized the proposal calling it a "decadent" idea.

The possibility of scrip redemption at the pubs as outlined in recommendations 12 and 17 was unanimously rejected. Due to the absence of the Glendon representative, no report was available and the Chairman could only assume that there was no recommendation. It had already been deemed impossible at York Main.



Photo: Mario Scattoloni

International entertainer, Uhuva, performed during "Israel Week".

Israel Week celebrates culture

BARB BENCH

The Israel Action Committee which includes the Jewish Student Federation presented 'Israel Week' at

York's Central Square from March 14 to 17.

On Monday, a Jerusalem Cafe was set up in the Ross Bearpit, and there was

musical entertainment accompanied by belly dancing. Pita sandwiches, salads, coffees and Israeli delicacies were served.

Tuesday was dedicated to "science and technology." Video presentation from the Weizman Institute and several Israeli banks, including Bank Leumi and Bank Hapoalim, provided York students and visitors with information on Israel's currency system and economy as well as advertising the services of the Toronto-based banks.

The highlight of the week was Tuesday night's 'An Evening in Jerusalem', which featured singing, belly dancing and a small cafe in the Bearpit. There also was a fashion show of beach and lounge wear. For 40 minutes a cheering audience of nearly 200 people packed the west corridor to view colourful bathing suits, caftans, suede and leather skirts.

An Israeli market or 'shuk' was set up Tuesday night and Wednesday afternoon. Flowers, paintings, jewellery, vases, York sweatshirts in Hebrew, and assorted foodstuffs were sold.

Today, the bathing suit fashion show with Gortex fashions, Gideon Oberzon and Bege-Or can be seen in the Central Square and Israeli cosmetics will be available for sale. The fashion show will begin at 12:30 in the west corridor, near the Scott Library. Information on Israel's tourist industry will also be available.

Cybelle Srour, of the JSF said 'Israel Week' is a non-political event. "It is meant to show people the culture, not the politics."

.....NEWS FLASH.....

Late last night CYSF voted to allow a referendum in which York students will be asked to contribute \$1 from their activity fee toward the operation of Excalibur next year.

Canadian Federation of Students sponsors March protest rally

The Canadian Federation of Students will be holding a mass student demonstration at Queen's Park on Wednesday March 23.

The demonstration will be

part of a campaign calling for jobs, greater accessibility to higher learning and an end to what the organisation calls "the erosion of Ontario's post-secondary

system."

The Council of York Student Federation is a member of CFS-O, which lobbies on behalf of 230,000 students from 34 post-secondary institutions.

At the CFS-O Winter Conference, the Final Plenary Session adopted a report that criticised the fiscal strategies of the federal and provincial governments. Wage controls, high interest rates, social service cuts and private sector tax concessions were all said to have failed miserably.

According to CFS-O Chairperson Helena Mitchell, "since provincial general expenditures have risen at a much faster rate than post-secondary expenditures, the government's contention that the pie is limited is false. Post-secondary underfunding for the past five years is over \$350 million. Clearly, this has been a political choice, not an objective need."

For information about buses to Ryerson, where the march to Queen's Park will begin, contact CYSF at 667-2515.

Upcoming student referendum

CYSF approves questions

JOHN P. SCHMIED

At a meeting of the Council of the York Student Federation (CYSF) last night members passed motions allowing two referendum questions to appear on this year's election ballots, despite having defeated the same motions last week.

After a discussion of an hour and a half, council members voted to approve a question asking York students to contribute \$4.50 of their student fees toward the creation of an Ombudsperson's office which would require approximately \$50,000 a year - \$30,000 for the Ombudsperson's salary, \$20,000 to run the office. If passed by the student electorate this year, the office would not come into operation until the fall of '84.

Council members also continued discussion on the Radio York referendum. A discussion of the issue at the last council meeting ended when McLaughlin representative Randy Dobson walked out in disgust, forcing the loss of quorum. Yesterday, a further hour of discussion was required allowing Radio York to ask the student body to allocate one dollar a year in student fees for the next two years to 'fund and improve the University radio station'.

The three similar referendum proposals which were turned down by council two weeks ago involved the founding of a campus Multi-Cultural Society, and funding for the Excalibur and Voodoo newspapers.