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YORK UNIVERSITY'S COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

## Glendon students fight against homophobia

by Ed Drass

**D**warfed by violence occurring thousands of kilometers away, a protest at Glendon College on Thursday dealt with violence closer to home.

Members of Glendon's Gay Lesbian and Bisexual Alliance (GLABA) brought to a cafeteria crowd the reality of specific instances of homophobia at the college. Aided by the African-Caribbean Club, the Glendon Women's Centre and the Student Christian Movement, the group cited a poster that called for the "extermination" of lesbians and gays.

The offending poster was a copy of one advertising an upcoming GLABA meeting. It included a falsified student union stamp and a statement "B.Y.O.B.: Bring Your Own Bullets."

The protest was prompted by this incident, which came just a week after the anniversary of the massacre at the Ecole Polytechnique in Montreal.

A letter from Metro Councillor Anne Johnston was sent to York President Harry Arthurs expressing concern about the incident.

It was a difficult to tell how many came specifically for the rally. A filled cafeteria was present including students, professors and a chaplain from UofT. Student Ian Tully-Barr described some recent graffiti threats that he took from bathroom walls in York Hall: "Help a fag give head, kick him in the teeth" and "Give gays their rights —and a few lefts."

He linked homophobia, misogyny and racism as equally offensive.

This was echoed by most of the speak-

ers. They were alarmed that homosexual men and women were under attack at Glendon, as well as members of all minorities.

"I thought things were getting better," said Glendon professor Bob Wallace. "But in some ways I think it's getting worse."

Wallace stated that for the first time he felt obliged to wear the pink triangle, a symbol of gay pride, at Glendon. He told the crowd that "the process of coming out never stops."

Student Karine Morin drew parallels between the problems faced by minorities in general by describing her experiences as a black person.

Tanya Gulliver, another speaker and co-organizer of the event, read statistics describing the violence directed at all women.

UofT United Church Chaplain Eilert Frielichs spoke of how he came to the "peaceable kingdom" of Canada in 1956, and how this idea disappeared with the multinational attack on Baghdad the night before. He described the insults and "dirt" that he has endured as a gay man in Canada.

Thursday's cafeteria audience was very attentive, as speeches are usually drowned out by conversation.

"It was really good to see so many people speak," said Vickie Ho, after hearing the speakers.

"It was true what they said about the violence and negative attitudes," said student Nicole Labonte. "I hope it opens some eyes. The more people come to these things, the more there will be positive peer pressure for support."



Clive Cohen

An employee of Deena's Pantry arranges what the Jewish Congress of Canada says is not kosher food. Owner Deena Schaffer hopes the matter can be resolved with the help of the students

## Dilemma at Deena's Pantry

By Jessica Goldman

The only kosher deli on York's campus may soon be closed down by the Canadian Jewish Congress.

Deena's Pantry, owned and operated by Malmar Foods has been accused by both the Canadian Jewish Congress and the Jewish Student Federation at York (JFS) of improper kosher practices.

The restaurant located between Winters and Maclaughlin colleges, opened in October to better serve the York students on kosher diets.

Now however those students wishing to purchase kosher food are again left with no options.

For a restaurant to be technically kosher, a special Rabbi called a mishgeach must come on a weekly basis to give proper certification. Deena's Pantry does not have enough financial resources to pay for this essential service.

"There should be no question as to whether the food is kosher or not and without certification there might be some doubt," said Claire Sookman of the JFS.

Both the JFS and the Jewish Congress agree that the food at Deena's pantry is kosher, but the fact that it is not certified has angered some.

"The whole situation is like false advertising," Sookman said. "I am really disgusted by the whole thing."

Menahem Neuer, program director of the JFS sat on the committee that granted the food contract to Malmar Foods. Neuer maintains that Malmar foods was fully aware that they would have to be certified and if money was a problem it should have been brought up at the negotiations.

"Malmar is shirking their responsibility and selling out Jewish tradition for profit," Neuer said.

According to Deena Schaffer, owner of Deena's pantry, all supplies for the Pantry came from Malmar's kosher kitchen where there is proper certification. Because the Pantry is separate from the kitchen the Jewish congress is demanding that Malmar pay for a separate certification at the Pantry.

Shaffer feels the Congress is slandering her name because she cannot handle the bill for certification.

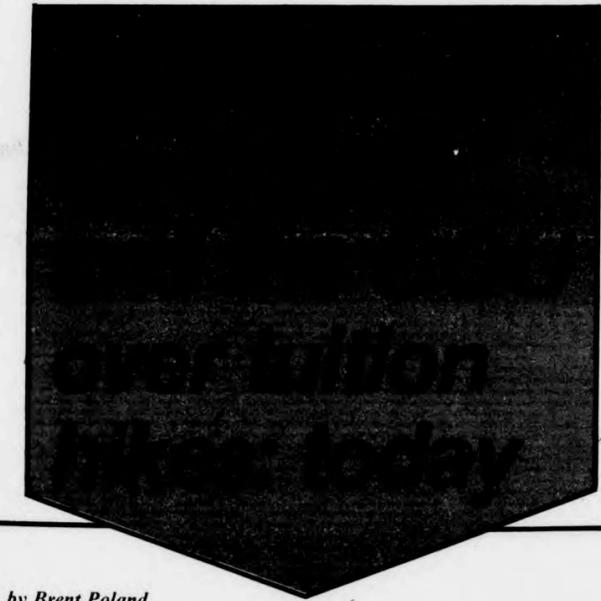
"The Congress is more interested in jeopardizing us rather than providing facilities for kosher students at York," Shaffer said.

Shaffer claims that the Congress presented them with the bill after the pantry was already set up. Deena's Pantry will continue to fight what they feel is unfair treatment.

York University food Services is backing Malmar foods and their position, but their contribution seems to be doing very little to break the position of the Congress.

The Canadian Jewish Congress would not comment on the situation.

"The bottom line is that kosher students have a right to be served at York," Schaffer said. "We need the students to stand up to the Congress and demand that these services be provided"



by Brent Poland

Harry Arthurs, president of York University and Jean Ghomeshi, president of the York Federation of Students will participate in a live debate on Jan 23 in Curtis lecture hall M at 12:00 noon.

The debate centres around the Council of Ontario Universities recent paper proposing a \$550 increase in students' tuition.

The YFS has countered the proposal by releasing its own press release arguing against the suggested increase.

Arthurs, who chaired the COU last year also participated in the construction of the paper, called the "Recovery Plan." The COU argues that lack of government support has forced the quality of universities' programs and equipment on a down slide.

In order to rebound from this lack of capital the COU feels it is necessary to impose a considerable fee on students and has stated that "Students and government are being asked to make considerable sacrifices"

The COU has stated that out of the \$410 million needed for recovery, students should bear one third of the cost, since they are the "primary beneficiaries of improvements in the quality of education."

The YFS countered the COU proposal with a press release of their own which opposes any more increased levies upon students.

According to the YFS press release, the tuition increase will only result in decreasing the level of accessibility for students, which will have a direct result on enrolment.

YFS believes the Recovery Plan cannot work because OSAP is already overloaded and any overhaul of the current system would not be enough to handle the new increases.

The YFS release argues against the increases, but gives no substantial alternatives, with the exception of a call to introduce other taxes such a net wealth tax, a corporate tax, and a revision of the sales tax.

YFS is also opposed to a contingency repayment plan which they state would leave a graduating student with an average \$10,000 debt after four years.

The debate between Arthurs and Ghomeshi should give students a chance to understand and challenge the new recommendations by the COU.