

Excalibur

Everything secret degenerates; nothing is safe that does not show it can bear discussion and publicity
—Lord Acton

Excalibur, founded in 1966, is the York University weekly and is independent politically. Opinions expressed are the writer's and those unsigned are the responsibility of the editor. Excalibur is a member of Canadian University Press and attempts to be an agent of social change. Printed at Daison's, Excalibur is published by Excalibur Publications.

News 667-3201

Advertising 667-3800

Would you buy a food operation from these caterers?

While the university is patting itself on the back for the "professional" way it has approached the food-tendering exercise this spring, one has to wonder if the administration has, in fact, done such a good job.

There have been two surveys to help them along — the recent York food survey and a faculty survey — and one consultant's report. But the study most crucial to the issue has been rejected out of hand.

When the food service committee, whose job it is to consider all the options and recommend the most viable ones, recommended that Johnston Associates be hired again, this time to study the feasibility of a multi-caterer operation on campus, the administration responded with a flat

no.

What they said in essence was, "We don't need a consultant's report to tell us what is feasible; the caterers' bidding on the contracts will tell us if a multi-caterer operation is feasible."

The problem with depending on other people for information — especially if those people are trying to get the best possible deal for themselves — is that they are liable to give you the information best reflecting their particular interests.

We are all aware of how a statistician can use whatever statistics are available to suit his purpose and only his purpose.

The fact that five caterers, each with the same goals (to get as much as they can out of their contract),

show similar figures, doesn't prove a thing. It just means they've all done their homework well.

The food service committee has asked for an extension of 10 working days past the present February 6 deadline for an agreement between the committee and the university. But for the third time in a row, it appears that the members will be turned down.

Committee chairman Peter Jarvis has a point when he says that if the university doesn't decide in

specifics what it wants, the large caterers will show figures that tell us what we can have, and hence what we want.

It may be too late now to commission a proper consultant's report, but it certainly isn't too late for the university to decide that yes, we want this particular type of food in Central Square, as well as vending; yes, we want Italian, Chinese, or Kosher food in the Deli, which will stay open to midnight; yes, we want a quality restaurant in

Atkinson, or any other place suitable; and yes, we want any number of other alternatives on top of regular three-times-a-day, seven-days-a-week dining facilities in the college dining halls.

These seem to be the minimum answers the university must have before opening tenders.

Surely we can all eat Versafood for an extra two weeks, if this gives us a better chance of getting the type of food service students voted for in the survey.

I'm sorry, Jim's tied up — please leave a credit card

What do you have to do to get an interview with James Auld, Ontario's minister of colleges and universities?

Nobody quite knows, but there is strong evidence that being able to show a bank balance of six or seven

figures helps immensely.

Chris Harries, information officer of the Ontario Federation of Students, said last Friday that the OFS has been trying to arrange a meeting with Auld since November 18, when Auld announced levels of university support for the coming year.

Only recently has the ministry acknowledged the request, stating that a meeting will be "completely impossible until the current legislative session ends" — in about two or three weeks.

Excalibur has also been seeking an interview with the elusive Auld. Between January 3 and January 27, we made no less than six telephone requests for a meeting.

Unfortunately, on each occasion, the minister was out of his office for the day.

Finally, on January 29, one of Auld's assistants returned our calls, and told us that the minister "would be delighted" to meet with us — after the current legislative session.

By contrast, some weeks ago, a committee composed of the chairmen of boards of governors from several Ontario universities were able to obtain an appointment to see not only Auld, but Premier William Davis as well, within two or three days of their request.

Money, it seems, talks.

Fond memories

It seems like only December that President Macdonald outlined the priorities of the university administration in no-nonsense detail.

"To look after staff and faculty jobs," he told the Burton audience at the budget moratorium. "To ensure a fair and economic progression in terms of salary. To retain and enhance academic quality. And to preserve our financial integrity."

Well, all good things must come to an end. In his address to the senate two weeks ago, the president spoke of a "trade-off" among those priorities — shipping one or two of them to the minors, so to speak.

"As we work our way through this situation," he said, "there will be no alternative to facing squarely the fact that these objectives cannot be maximized with income chronically deficient."

All priorities are equal, of course. But some, it would seem, are less equal than others.

**Staff meeting today at 2 p.m.
in Room 111 Central Square.**

Editor-in-chief
Managing editor
News editor
Photo editor
Entertainment editor
Sports editor
Graphics
CUP editor
Opinion editor

Warren Clements
Doug Tindal
Oakland Ross
C.T. Squassero
Agnes Kruchio
Paul Kellogg
Peter Hsu
Gord Graham
Bonnie Sandison

Staff at large — Alan Risen, Ted Mumford, Steve Hain, Bob Livingston, Ian Balfour, Shelley Rabinovitch, Julian Beltrame, Frank Giorno, Bob McBryde, Steven Brinder, Jim McCall, Anna Vaitiekunas, Dale Ritch, Paul Stuart, Marg Poste, Alan Shalon, Thomas McKerr, Greg Martin, Michael Hollett, Anne Camozzi, Ralph Ashford, Anthony Gizzie, Debbie Pekilis, Keith Nickson, Cathy Honsi, Mira Friedlander, P.T. Puhl, Jeffrey Morgan, Paul Wassman, Neal Humby, Dara Levinter, Dorothy Margeson.

Business and Advertising

Jurgen Lindhorst



"PLEASE SIR... NO MORE!"

EXCALIBUR '75