

Letter says Food and Beverage Committee's effectiveness is being undermined by Food Services Mgr.

Carol Brunt

In a letter to university President, H. Ian Macdonald, members of the University Food and Beverage Services Committee say the failure of Housing and Food Services Manager, Norman Crandles, to inform them of negotiations with Beaver Foods, the caterer at Glendon College has undermined the committee's effectiveness.

In the October 18th letter, committee members say Crandles has been in negotiations with Beaver Foods since April 1982 to subsidize renovation of the servery at Glendon, on the condition Beaver receives a five year contract. According to *Pro Tem*, this would mean an approximate gain of \$300,000 to the university. Beaver Foods has been the caterer at Glendon for the past eleven years, and their current contract is due to expire in April 1983 to an article in the Glendon newspaper, *Pro Tem*.

Three meetings

The letter goes on to say that Mr. Crandles had not advised UFBS as to these negotiations therefore leading the advisory committee to question its very existence. "At no time during any of the three meetings (Friday September 24, Wednesday September 13 (should read October 13)) was the Glendon proposal brought

to the attention of the committee. We believe these circumstances are undermining the effectiveness of the committee". Mr. Crandles refused comment on the letter, saying that it was "more appropriate to speak the Chairman."

Chris Summerhayes, present UFBS Chairman and previously Chairman Complex I Food Services Committee and an endorser of the October 18th letter could not be reached for comment.

"Being undermined"

Griff Cunningham, Master of Bethune College, and an endorser of the letter, said that the question is of "which is paramount--quality of food or quality of decor. Beaver doesn't care about the food quality. It's not an issue for them. The University proposal is concerned too much with hardware and not enough about quality of food."

According to Mr. Chang, who recently resigned his position as Director Internal Affairs and Chairman of the UFBS, the committee is "being undermined" and Mr. Crandles "doesn't want our help." As author of the letter (his name is absent from among the undersigned), Chang is upset by the fact that UFBS had not received a copy of the memo outlining

the Beaver proposal and had learned of it (Beaver proposal) from the Glendon representative Robert Mawhinney. Crandles sent the memo dated September 24th to Professor Ann McKenzie, Assistant Principal of Glendon College and J.A. Becker, Assistant Vice-President of Employee and Student Relations and acting as Dean of Students. The memo includes references to servery renovations and acknowledges that "the general standard of food quality and service at Glendon is not as good as the York campus." To rectify this, the memo advised removal of "all the present servery fixtures and (to) replace them utilizing modern "state-of-the-art" design techniques and up-to-date equipment." This statement led to the proposal by Beaver Foods, received by Mr. Crandles September 20th. The caterer insisted that their contract be accepted by October 15th so that preparations could begin for a Christmas renovation.

Members opposed

At the UFBS meeting October 13th, one of the last items was the initiation of discussion on the Beaver proposal "but members were opposed to this, due to lack of information". The decision deadline on the contract was moved to October 22nd.

Through the initiative of

Glendon students, the Glendon contract has been lent to tender, a motion seconded by Grandles at the UFBS meeting October 20th. He reports that "interest has been expressed by other catering companies in bidding on the Glendon contract." According to Eli Gershkovitch, Food Services Ombudsman at York Main and a York student, the contract will last for an initial year except if Beaver Foods wins the contract. It could then last for the duration of either five, three or one years. Beaver Foods has not enjoyed wide popularity in the past and the "students feel they have better alternatives," said Gershkovitch.

Possible modifications

The allegations of the October 18th letter come at the same time as the committee completes examination of recommendations filed by its subcommittee in March 1982. The Weston report was the result of a year's work "to examine possible modifications to the present resident meal plan" led by John Weston, newly elected representative to the Board of Governors. According to Mr. Grandles, the "recommendations of the UFBS are currently being studied by the administration for recommendation to the Student Relations Committee of the Board of Governors."

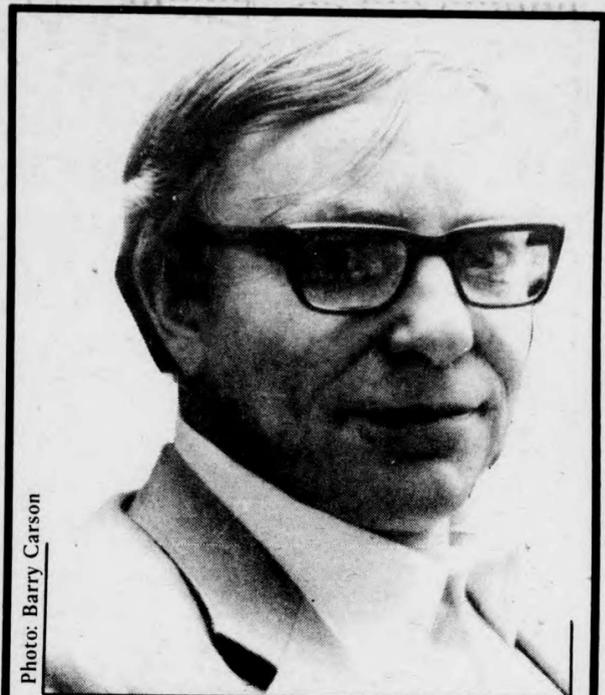


Photo: Barry Carson

Professor of Philosophy: Donald MacNiven

FACULTY FOCUS Unites practise and theory

Eric Meslin

Donald MacNiven, associate professor of philosophy, is trying to make a contribution to education rather than merely go through the motions. His classes in moral philosophy and ethics are as much the manifestation of search for the resolution of a fundamental philosophical problem as they are an attempt to introduce students to the world of *practical philosophy*. While the personal journey will, no doubt, continue to evolve, MacNiven's attempt to present normative (practical ethics) to York University has been an unqualified success.

The personal journey began in Northern Ontario. MacNiven's home where a devoutly Catholic mother and an atheistic father provided him with the ideal setting for examining conflicting moral and ethical dilemmas. He decided on the advantages of a university education to augment his developing interest in the social and political issues of the day. "My father was a follower of the English intellectuals, many of whom were Darwinists; my mother was the religious one. And it was only at university that I discovered the possibility of religious intellectuals" says MacNiven. To this day, MacNiven still identifies a "deep sense of affinity with religion", while pursuing his intellectual travels.

Those travels brought MacNiven to Oxford where, he resolved a personal intellectual conflict over his dislike for analytic philosophy as the mechanism for answering philosophical questions. Discovering R.H. Hare's moral neutrality was the first step that MacNiven took in reassessing his academic goals. In the back of his mind, MacNiven confessed that he "always believed philosophy was connected with personal wisdom." Shunning analytic philosophy, MacNiven has worked his way through ethical theory so that Mill and Kant are now second nature to him. It seems as if the early development of an existential philosophy in MacNiven helped to direct him to the historic problem of the deadlock that exists between ethical theory and ethical practice.

MacNiven now feels that, "everything that I've been doing since then has been an attempt to express the new marriage of ethical theory and ethical practice. It is impossible to do one without the other; we must get out of the ivory tower". To be sure, technological innovation, especially in such morally, politically, and ethically charged fields as medical ethics has created, "an enormous gap in technical and moral problems". This 'moral lag' is perhaps one of the negative outcomes of technology. If one considers issues like abortion, or genetic engineering in the medical field, it is very difficult to look at these issues on a purely technical level, and this point is as valid in areas of business ethics, or moral education, or politics. In these cases, the technology may be a human one, rather than artificial, but MacNiven contends that, "we have to start now by putting as much time and money into moral and social problems as possible". As a moral philosopher MacNiven feels that there is special obligation "to address this moral lag in society where man is, by nature, a technological creature".

MacNiven's most significant contribution to the York curriculum has been his introduction of the Moral Studies Programme. This interdisciplinary programme which has yet to receive official support, combines the advantages of many faculties so that students can complete the theory-to-practice circle. At present, there is partial support from Administrative Studies for students to pursue business ethics, and overtures have been made to Social Science and Education. Although tacit support has been given to the programme, little concrete support has been offered--a fact which confuses MacNiven: "York is a natural place for this programme because it's naturally interdisciplinary. You want to have as many people involved in the programme as possible; the more the better, so there's no reason why it couldn't be inter-faculty."

"Very undemocratic, ill-planned move"

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(Doxey) felt that strongly he should have come and talked to us first."

Both she and Dobson said they were given no warning and were in "total shock" when they read the letter.

While Keshavjee agreed that their college constitution is vague and has given council problems concerning many topics he felt the resignation of the director of external

affairs would have "cooled a lot of tempers."

Fareed Khan, director of external affairs, admitted he had made a mistake and had told the CRO false information but feels council had resolved the situation which is now "totally out of proportion."

"To me it is very upsetting that such a small issue like this should be blown so much

out of proportion."

He said that while he was advised by both Keshavjee and Doxey to resign he was still thinking it through when council was dissolved.

Kahn said he was warned by Keshavjee that if he did not resign of his own accord Keshavjee would resign his position of speaker and lead the fight to have him removed from council.

Keshavjee admitted the statement was a partially true

but said he resigned on principle.

"I had a bad feeling in the way council was run," he said. "And the way they handled certain issues."

He said he agreed with the decision of the Master.

"The main reason was because of the election," he said about Doxey's action. "He (Doxey) had been students."

Dobson said he felt the dissolution was "a very undemocratic, ill-planned move" and had drafted a petition to reinstate council and plans to collect signatures around the college.

"I'm not going to give up," said he. "I'm going to go to the students."

In his letter to McLaughlin students, Doxey said he had no alternative but to dissolve Council and call for "fresh elections." He is calling a General Meeting of all McLaughlin students Nov. 17 at 7 p.m. in order to give everyone involved "an opportunity to explain themselves."

He is planning new and stricter election procedures and is hoping new council elections will be held during the first week in December.

"I still feel that even if we were having problems we should have been given a chance," she said. "If he

Rockers in search of a son?

David Chilton

For some York community members there is no need to head for Florida in search of a son. Spectrum, a non-profit association formed in Saskatchewan in the summer of 1980, presented its multimedia show, In Search of a Sun, last week in Curtis Lecture Hall I.

The show, brought to York by Keith and Jenny Martin, and sponsored by the Council of the York Student Federation, Student Christian Movement, York Catholic Community and York Inter-University Christian Fellowship uses rock music and a split screen to prompt audiences into reflecting on human values.

The show's message has

elicited a response which is "primarily very open", according to Jon Fuller, a member of York Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship, and the show's York coordinator.

Cathy Moffat, General Secretary of York Student Christian Movement, thought that the show was important as it prompted discussion about "meaning in life". However, she expressed some reservation about whether the show would "really address the problems it exposed." SCM has in fact declined to sponsor Spectrum's second show which will be in Curtis I Friday and Saturday, 12th and 13th of November.

The second presentation uses a similar format to the first, although there is

perhaps less emphasis on rock music and more narration.

When both Cathy Moffat and Jon Fuller were questioned about the appropriateness of using rock music to further the Christian message, the former agreed that it was indeed a "hook". The latter said, "rock and folk musicians are prophets of today."

Eight minute clips of the first film were shown in the Bearpit last week. Rockers heard on the show's soundtrack include Pink Floyd, Queen, the Police and Santana.

Bruce Cockburn, well known for his Christian beliefs, ends In Search of a Sun, by asking "if it is really worth going on."