

# Letters To The Editor

All letters should be addressed to the Editor, c/o Excalibur, room 111 central Square. They must be double-spaced, typed and limited to 250 words. Excalibur reserves the right to edit for length and grammar. Name and address must be included for legal purposes but the name will be withheld upon request. Deadline: Mon. 5 p.m.

## Caterer's food prices are 'unrealistic and inflationary'

"Inflation is a tribute levied by those who know upon those who don't."

The knower is Rill Food Services Ltd. The ignorant are the students. The issue I call public attention to is the prices the caterer exacts for its fresh fruit.

It sells oranges, apples and pears for 25 cents each. Oranges are plentiful and should be inexpensive. So should apples and pears, both of which are in season and being picked now at farms throughout Southern Ontario.

As a buyer with eight years buying experience with the Toronto Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Wholesale Marketing Association, I know that paying 25 cents for a single pear is ridiculous. I am convinced that the price is unfair, unrealistic and very definitely inflationary.

I demand they immediately reduce fruit prices to reflect a fair market price. If they choose to ignore this protest, I will urge students to take their five million dollars worth of buying power and buy their fresh fruit elsewhere.

There are many stores which sell higher quality produce for less money than is charged at the Vanier-Founders servery.

Operating in our economy entitles a corporation to make a fair and legitimate profit. I accept that. However, I do not feel a corporation has the right to gouge and extract "blood" from the public.

I do hope that President Ritch takes due notice.

Robert Hooahnessian

## Food blues

Notwithstanding the current controversy over whether or not the York administration should have replaced VS food services with five or six caterers which in some cases are operating non-union kitchens, there are a few issues in which errors on the part of the York administration's food services directorate should be pointed out.

That administration's 1975-76 brochure first of all erroneously

claims that vending machines selling cans of soft drink are sup-

plied at Osgoode. This is incorrect; moreover, the caterer

at the law school does not wish to supply such machines. I believe it

would be a good idea to have the machines, especially inasmuch as 25 or 30 cent can is a much better value than a 20 cent cup of soft drink.

## Opinion

### Windmill tilting can't improve York food

By PETER JARVIS

The CYSF-ULC statements about the food and food-workers "crisis" boggle the mind and should be seen for what they are — simplistic, opportunistic and confused.

To begin with, the notion is shallow indeed that raving in Excalibur, issuing ultimatums, demanding the heads of Administration bogeymen, calling for boycotts and other hysterical exercises can ever take the place of tough committee and staff work.

Where was the ULC last year while the University Food Service Committee (UFSC) and particularly its hard working and dedicated Subcommittee Chairpersons laboured and fought for the current six caterer posture that has produced considerable variety and competition in the food service, but above all that has produced the capability of dumping a caterer that doesn't measure up to the needs of the York community? Where was the ULC while the UFSC debated its strategy and the mandate it gave to the UFSC reps to the Caterer Selection Committee?

The UFSC is concerned with improving the food situation at York for 20,000 people, not protecting the jobs of 70 food workers. While we can be sympathetic toward some of them, should we bleed over the collective fate of all the workers, at least some of whom were surly, uncooperative and clearly didn't give a damn?

It wasn't Mr. Indifferent Versa and Mr. Faceless Administrator who were supposed to clean those filthy kitchens to protect us from ptomaine poisoning; it was the workers. CYSF-ULC cleaned out its house when it took office; should the caterers not have the same right?

Has CYSF-ULC got a plan for freezing spiralling raw food costs that effect me when I go to the supermarket, just as it affects the caterers when they go to their suppliers? Has CYSF-ULC forgotten that part of the reason for higher food costs is that the farmers and food processing workers are demanding and deservedly getting a better deal for their labours? Shall the University subsidize the cost of meals for the community?

That's easy when you come to think of it — we can fire the Library staff and do away with Harbinger and the Day Care Centre to find the money. Or we could vapourize Norman Crandles, one administrator who cares, who has worked hard to support the investigations of the UFSC and who rides the caterers' tails mercilessly.

Has CYSF-ULC not noticed that a lot of people are pleased with the food at Glendon, Atkinson and Marky's II? Sure food managers Warren Rill

and Bing Hoddinott have made some dumb insensitive decisions in the Complexes and at Central Square, but they are learning and are starting to react to the Complex mini food committees that are working with the caterers to sort things out.

Why doesn't the Ross crowd get one going too? With this kind of on-the-spot consultation and pressure and the selection of more concerned reps to the UFSC who are prepared to hustle in sub-committees, we can work it out.

So what is to be done? I suggest the following:

1. Recognize that the community demands that the caterers do the best they can in the way of quality, variety and price of food but don't tie their hands by requiring them to hire 100 per cent of the old food workers.
2. Don't blame Commercial Caterers President Farkas for the Federal Government's inability to slow down inflation and spiralling food costs.
3. Give the mini food committees a chance to light the appropriate fires under the butts of the caterers. If they don't react, the UFSC will recommend they be dumped. (The UFSC has a pretty good batting average in getting its recommendations implemented.) Fortunately, with the current setup we won't starve while we find a new caterer if it is proven necessary.
4. By all means lets investigate alternatives to the current food catering posture. Nobody pretends that the two years work by the UFSC has so far resulted in any miracles. The idea of a non-profit, University-run food service overseen by a democratic committee is hardly new and may be the next logical step. Perhaps CYSF-ULC will help the UFSC conduct the study? Perhaps the highly touted Media Collective will help do the research and staff work?

I imagine that by now you have guessed that this is addressed to you, Dale. If I may presume to say so, Bethune and possibly the UFSC likes elements of your programme but your style is getting tedious. Windmill tilting, riding off in all directions at once and headline grabbing are all very well but reasoned analysis and sensible structured proposals are better. I know you are in a hurry, so am I, but its going to be a long haul. And I promise to be as political as I have time for.

In the meantime I say to hell with the boycott. I'll be at the Rally today to speak against it. So will a lot of other.

Paul Trollope

## History made

I protest the fact that you have not found the space to print the material provided to you on York's newest full time student service — the York International Student Centre. The Centre's permanent establishment on September 15 and the appointment of Susan Miller as Co-ordinator (there were over a hundred applicants for the position), crowned two years of effort by some concerned people and was significant event in York's short history.

Apart from this your first two issues this year have been great.

Peter Jarvis

## On Campus

### SPECIAL LECTURES

Thursday, 2 p.m. — Public Lecture (Graduate Studies, physics) "Mass Spectrometer Studies of Electron Surface Interactions" by Gary Richard Floyd, candidate for the Ph.D. degree — 317, Petrie

7:30 a.m. - 10:30 p.m. — Innovative Approaches to the Helping Relationship (Centre for Continuing Education) "Primal Therapy" by Tom Verny — general admission \$6; \$4 for students — 107, Stedman

Friday, 10:10 a.m. — Guest Speaker (East Asian Studies) a seminar discussion "Japanese Patterns of Communications and Internal Relations" will be led by Professor Tsurumi of Sophia University (Tokyo) — Senior Common Room, Founders

Tuesday, 4:30 p.m. — Chemistry Seminar Series — "Thermochemistry of Metal Polyamine Complexes: The Macrocyclic Effect" by Dr. P. Paoletti, Università di Firenze - 320, Farquharson

7 p.m. - 10 p.m. — Slide Show-Discussion (Latin American and Caribbean Studies) "The Politics of Genocide Against the Indians of Brazil" presented by the Brazil Studies group — Senior Common Room, Founders

Wednesday, 3 p.m. — University of Toronto-York University Joint Program in Transportation — "Innovations in Transit: Myth or Reality" by Dr. R. Soberman, Vice-President, Planning Urban Transportation Development Corporation Limited — Faculty Lounge (S872 & S869), Ross

7:30 p.m. — International Women's Year: Lecture Series (Arts, York Colleges) "Biblical Ideas of Creation" by York Professor Bezalel Porten — Junior Common Room, Bethune

### FILMS, ENTERTAINMENT

Thursday, 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. — Demonstration (Music) of "The Atmosphere of Arabic Music" with the violute, a new instrument, featuring Mohammad Maher Akili — 017, Winters

Friday, 8:30 p.m. — Film (Bethune) Agatha Christie's "Murder on the Orient Express" — general admission \$1.50 — L, Curtis

Saturday, 8:30 p.m. — Film (Bethune) "Lenny" (Dustin Hoffman) — general admission \$1.50 - L, Curtis

Sunday, 8:30 p.m. — Film (Bethune) see Saturday's listing at 8:30

8:30 p.m. — Entertainment (Absinthe Coffee House) featuring Ron Baumber, folksinger — 013, Winters

Monday, 10:30 a.m. — Storytime Theatre — presents "Tramps", a new musical for children of all ages — Junior Common Room, Bethune

Tuesday, 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. — Japanese Film (East Asian Studies) "Harakiri" (Masaki Kobayashi) — L, Curtis

Wednesday, 8:30 p.m. — Performing Arts Series (Fine Arts) featuring the Dancers and Musicians of the Burmese National Theatre — tickets are \$3 for students, \$4 for staff and \$5 for general public — Burton Auditorium

### CLUBS, MEETINGS

Thursday, 11 a.m. — Development of Teaching Skills — "Student Opinions of Teaching at York University" — an open discussion with concerned students — 108, Behavioural Science.

Friday, 7 p.m. - 10 p.m. — Badminton Club — Upper Gym, Tait McKenzie

Monday, 12 noon — Development of Teaching Skills — "The Changing York University Culture and its Effects on My Teaching" with Dr. Harvey Mandel, Department of Psychology — 108, Behavioural Science.

Events for On Campus should be sent to Department of Information and Publications, S802 Ross. Deadline is Monday, 12 noon.

7 p.m. — Hatha Yoga Club — new members and beginners meet at 7 p.m.; intermediate level at 8 p.m.; and advanced at 9 p.m. — fee is \$14 for eleven classes (payable at this meeting) — for further information, call instructor Axel Molema at 742-0878 — 202, Vanier

7:30 p.m. — York Bridge Club — will meet every Monday — Founders Dining Hall

Tuesday, 12 noon — Development of Teaching Skills — "Our Responsibility to Students Headed for Failure — Spoonfeeding?" with Professor Ed Haltrecht, Teaching Award Recipient, Department of Psychology — 108, Behavioural Science

7 p.m. — Self-Defense for Women — 106, Stong

8 p.m. — York University Homophile Association — will meet each Tuesday (same time, location) until further notice — 215, Bethune

Wednesday, 11 a.m. — Development of Teaching Skills — "Teaching and the Open University" with Simon Nicholson, The Open University (England) — 108, Behavioural Science

### MISCELLANEOUS

Sunday, 7:30 p.m. — Roman Catholic Mass — 107, Stedman

Monday, 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. — President of the University at Glendon — to meet with members of the Glendon College community; for an appointment call Mrs. Goodman at 667-2223 — President's Office, Glendon Hall, Glendon

### COFFEE HOUSES, PUBS

For days and hours open, please call the individual coffee houses:

Absinthe Coffee House — 039, Winters College (2349)  
Ainger Coffee Shop — North Entrance, Atkinson (3544)  
Argh Coffee Shop — 051, McLaughlin College (3606)