

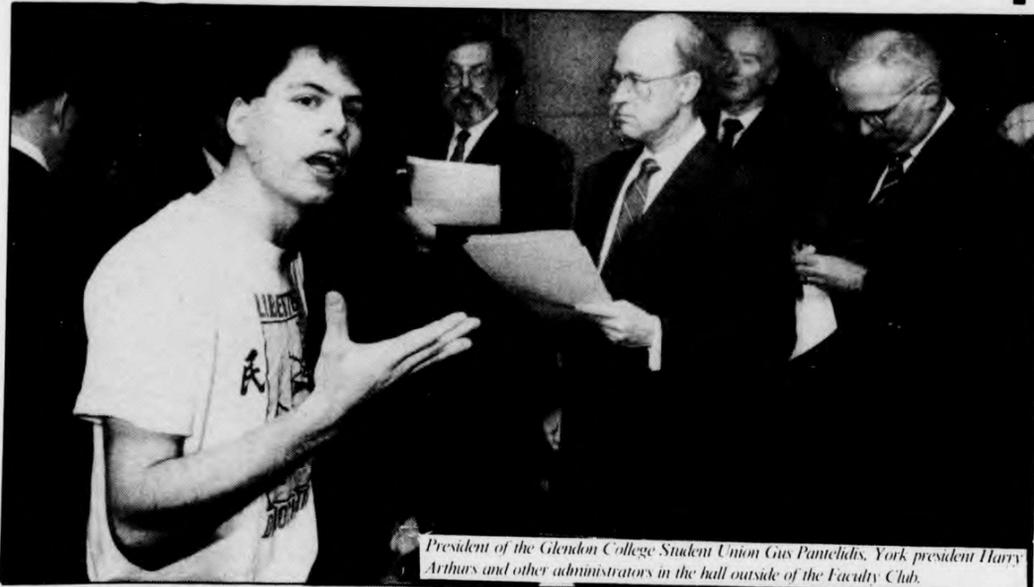
BOG rejects 19 meal-a-week plan

by David Tompkins
and Nancy Phillips

A student protest has resulted in the rejection of the proposed 19 meal-a-week meal plan by the Board of Governors (BOG). About 600 students gathered outside the faculty club in the Ross Building Monday, where BOG was having dinner, and demanded that the plan be rejected because it would cost students too much money.

Members of BOG met with the rallying students after dinner. The members were presented with the list of six alternatives to the proposed plan and Bruce Bryden, BOG chairman, was presented with a petition signed by over 1,000 students. The petition urged BOG to explore alternatives to the plan, which would have increased the cost of food either \$225 or \$475, depending on which plan a student was on this year.

The options presented by the students included a cafeteria user's fee ranging from \$100 to \$300 which would be sufficient for housing and food services to raise the \$500,000 needed operate in the black. The students' statement pointed out that a declining balance meal card at \$1,800, with a \$100 users



President of the Glendon College Student Union Gus Pantelidis, York president Harry Arthurs and other administrators in the hall outside of the Faculty Club.

Jason Schwartz

fee on top, would result in sufficient funds for the university and \$200 less of an increase for students. It was also pointed out that it would be possible to maintain scrip.

Bill Farr, vice-president (finance and administration), said, "The Board of Governors did some quick analysis of the options presented by the students and found that somewhere in the options there would be something workable."

"The '19 meal' meal plan has

been discarded," said Farr. BOG instead passed a resolution which states only that food services should break even, and does not outline any specific plan. Farr said the six options, presented by the students, provide the framework of a viable alternative.

Norman Crandles, director of housing and food services, said the resolution passed by BOG allows a lot of flexibility in how next year's meal plan will be drafted.

The university must have \$500,000 to cover overhead expenses before Marriott begins to plan its budget, Crandles said, and, "because students have offered to pay down this \$500,000, I will not have to ask for as much money from Marriott."

Crandles said the students' plan of paying down this \$500,000 has never been considered before because no one had previously thought of it,

and also because the option is "asking students to pay a poll tax." Crandles said he is extremely pleased that the students have offered to pay this fee because no one "was happy with the imposition of the meal card plan."

Caroline Winship, CYSF vice-president (internal), said, "We understand the budgetary constraints of the university administration," and for this reason the students have offered to pay a user's fee.

"The Board members were very impressed," said Farr, "with the strength of feeling, the strength of numbers, and the orderly way in which the options were presented." He said BOG was also impressed because the options are workable.

Crandles said he met with the Bethune College Residence Council before the rally and "the students lamented the '19 meal' meal plan."

It was at this meeting Crandles said he first discovered students would be willing to pay an upfront fee to offset the university's fixed expenses. "It changes the ball game right there," he said.

Crandles said he hopes to have a final draft of a new meal plan within the next couple of weeks.

Parking officers angry about new policy

by Anton Katz:

York's Parking Control Officers (PCOs) are incensed by a new ruling that requires they rotate between parking lots. Effective April 2, PCOs will no longer remain at a permanent booth. Said one PCO who wished to remain anonymous, "People don't want to change. You get to like a spot and don't want to leave it."

PCOs cite a number of reasons for their discontent. Many have been at the same booth for years, gaining familiarity and comfort with their surroundings. They explain that in remaining at one booth, they have been able to give expert directions. "People are always asking you where things are. You need to know the area, and where things are located," said one PCO.

Lack of respect for seniority is another factor that angers the PCOs. One PCO cannot believe that after many years of dedicated service, he will be lowered to the same role as newer PCOs. "I've done my portion of work. I know the routine. Now they treat me as if I have just arrived."

Parking enforcement officer and union steward for parking, Anna Abballe, said little could be done on the seniority issue. She said union attempts to make placements permanent brought no result, as PCOs are 'assigned' to booths, rather than 'posted'.

The new ruling allocates each PCO to a different lot every month, on a random basis with little advance warning. Interim director of security and parking services, Pam MacDonald, explained the rotation proposal was outlined in an August 15, 1988 internal audit report. Her predecessor, Mike O'Neill, agreed to it and, since that time, MacDonald

and the parking union have worked towards its implementation.

Director of internal audit, Phil Kusharsky, said the move was devised to gain better control over parking income. Differences in revenue can be assessed by comparing trends for separate individuals at the same lot, said Kusharsky. He added there have been instances in the past where people have been convicted for pocketing money.

MacDonald said she understands PCOs will be concerned, but explains matters could have been worse. She said Kusharsky had originally called for a weekly rotation; the monthly rotation is a compromise. In the long run, she said, PCOs will be better equipped to do their job, having worked in a variety of lots.

But one PCO is less optimistic. He explained that by the time he completes a circuit of the booths, two years may have elapsed. By then, he added, he won't recognize anybody and will have to reacquaint himself with the area. In responding to allegations of theft pointed at the PCOs, he said, "You should be left [at your lot] until it's proved you can't do your job. The people who have cheated have all been fired."

Some elder PCOs addressed health concerns related to moving from quiet lots to busy lots. Abballe said people with health problems will be accommodated, provided they show a doctor's certificate. MacDonald added that special training would be given to those needing it and, in special cases, PCOs would not have to undergo rotation.

An important issue that needs addressing is customer service. MacDonald said she hoped employee morale would not suffer as a result of the move. However, as one PCO said, "It is possible that rapport between customer and PCO will deteriorate, as PCOs will care less for their job." Another

PCO said he felt de-personalized and wondered what would happen to the acquaintances and friendships he had made in the past.

One relatively new PCO welcomed the rotation scheme. He said financial control is important, and could only be administered via the proposed system. He explained his position: "I have no

relation to people; my association is to the sticker." The presence of the sticker, or parking decal, is precisely why Kusharsky feels PCOs are still required. He said machines cannot replace the PCOs as PCOs are needed to check the vast majority of cars containing parking decals.

In spite of the administration's reasoning, PCOs still feel slighted.

Universities everywhere

compiled by Donna Mason

Health Plan Vote

The Alma Mater Society (AMS) at Queen's University will present a student health and accident programme in a spring referendum. The proposed plan will add \$67 to students' fees and will cover all prescription drugs including oral contraceptives.

The Green Shields proposal was picked over the Blue Cross programme provided for by the Canadian Federation of Students. Scott Nowlan, president of the AMS, said, "I didn't want to become another notch in the belt of the CFS programme. I want the Queen's programme to be considered separately."

Besides York, Western and Carleton University have included oral contraceptives with their drug programmes. Nowlan believes the referendum will pass.

Queen's Journal,
Queen's University

Low Application Year for Western

The number of applications to the University of Western Ontario has dropped 6 per cent, the lowest point in five years. The

decrease is a reaction to trends which began last year, said Rob Tiffin, director of administration in the department of admissions and academic records.

"It is probably due to students looking at the cut-off average and being scared to apply because they won't get in. It is a concern with all universities that applications for the sciences have been on a steady decline for the past few years."

The application decrease means Western will not have as many first year students as it did last year. This may not be necessary but if the applications continue to decrease, the entrance cut-offs may have to be lowered, indicated Tiffin.

The Gazette,
Western University

Shortage of Professors

The University of Alberta will face a crisis in faculty staff shortages in the 1990s. According to UofA president Paul Davenport, the situation is near the crisis level. "With the cutback restraints, we are not able to hire new staff as we should." Many professors hired in the 1960s are scheduled to retire soon.

Davenport not only sees a

"Our job is like anyone's job. You get used to your office and the people who come by," said one PCO. In spite of this, MacDonald said the decision is final and will be "as permanent as anything can be."

Abballe said she has told the PCOs to try it out and see what happens. "Management has the right to do this," she said.

problem with underfunding, but a problem with the lack of PhD graduates. The UofA is looking at strategies to attract students, though underfunding makes it difficult. There is competition from Alberta's colleges which allow people to finish their degrees at colleges, and all universities are competing to get professors before the need becomes critical.

The Gateway,
University of Alberta

Peanut Butter and Sheep

A fraternity is sheepish over charges that it abused pledges and sheep in an initiation rite (*National On-Campus Report*, Feb. 19, 1990). The U. of Washington expelled Theta Xi from the Interfraternity Council after police discovered scantily clothed peanut butter-coated pledges and two sheep. Now TX faces are even redder, following the appearance of "Sheep Dip," an X-rated song about the incident from a new Seattle band called Sheep Aid. So far, local radio stations have refused to play it, but the song was an instant hit on dorm play lists.

courtesy of
National On-Campus Report