

Boycott heralded as success

Mike Guy

Both members of the student government and the university administration have characterized last week's food boycott, which kept thousands of students out of dining halls for one dinner meal, as a success.

John Chang, the Council of York Student Federation's representative to the University Food and Beverage Service Committee, said that last Thursday's one-dinner boycott in Complex One and Two, "was extremely successful." Ross Dawson, manager of Ancillary Services, agreed with Chang, saying that "the boycott was good because it shook things up."

The student representative to the Board of Governors, John Weston, said, "The boycott was extremely successful in that it focused the administration's attention on the issues that concern students." He explained that he and Chang have worked with the Residence Meal Planning Subcommittee and they had received no notice until the boycott one week ago.

Last Monday, BOG decided to have the Student Relations Committee, chaired by Dr. Lino Magagna, look into the report prepared by the RMPSC.

Weston asserts that "Chang's work was exceptional, and the boycott shows that students can do things in an organized fashion."

The associate owner of Rill Food's, Lenny Levitsky, who did

not want to comment on the success or the failure of the boycott, because he does not involve himself in political matters said, "York students are getting a deal since Rill's Food services can compare with other universities in price, quality, and portion of its meals."

He added that the residence students may be "complaining because they expect \$850.00 of script to buy seven month's worth of food, as it did six years ago." Levitsky also said that while the cost "the cost of food and operating has doubled, the price of script has increased only 30 percent." According to

his raise saying, "Rill has offered years of healthy service to York, and had he been left to lose money he might have had to leave York. We cannot afford to lose him—another caterer may not be as good. Rill is the best." Vice President Bill Small, in charge of University Services, explained that only thirteen responded to the university's advertisement for new caterers, several years ago. Of those thirteen only six were seriously considered. "Rill proved to be the most qualified."

Crandles said that the boycott which "served only to hurt Rill should not have occurred. It was brought about because I did not contact the UFBSC, and I don't have to inform them as they do not monitor food prices; the User's Committee does. I did contact Chris Summerhayes who is the chairman of Complex One's User's Committee."

He added that the higher food prices did not change the image that the York community has of him or the university. He said that the residence students "may have an unfavorable image of the university as a result of the higher price, but that is because they are the ones who have to eat three meals a day in the same dreary place, and I certainly would not want to go through that experience."

Crandles went on to say that while he can understand why the residence students are angered, they should try to understand that since its inception the university has been subsidizing a deficit which exceeds \$1.5 million. "This deficit is due to the high cost of providing a 7 day a week full meal services."

With respect to the whole issue, Small said that "It was unfortunate that the UFBSC had not been notified of the request from Rill and given the opportunity to make recommendations."

As for Chang, he is in the process of negotiating with the administration to put an end to all mid-year increases of food prices. Also he is working to establish a subcommittee which will look into the causes of Rill's losses.



Vice President William Small.

Levitsky, expenses such as these cause Rill to approach Norman Crandles, the Manager of Housing and Food Services, for an increase in food prices.

Crandles emphasized the university's reason for giving Rill

No Copping out

Marcia Johnson

Sheila Copps, 29, would like to know why voters have a problem accepting her as an MPP, when the equally youthful Bob Rae, at 30, was the Federal Finance Critic.

Arriving twenty-five minutes late for a York lecture yesterday, Copps spoke of her ultimate dream which is to defeat the provincial Conservatives. This enthusiastic statement is characteristic of the ambitious MPP. In office for only a year, she has been meeting her goals.

One such aim was undermined when she lost in the recent provincial leadership election. Copps feels she miscalculated her opponents strength and as a result her second place finish was disappointing.

In her new position as Health Critic in the Liberal shadow cabinet, Copps is submitting many positive suggestions. She supports both equal pay and equal treatment for work of equal value. In the past, she campaigned to have those principles included in the Human Rights Code. And she proposed establishing a daycare centre at Queen's Park, thinking it's something "we cannot afford not to have."

Copps entered politics in 1977 by osmosis. While still a reporter, Copps was asked by the Liberal party to parlay her father's name (he was once mayor of Hamilton) and run for office.

Once she agreed to run, Copps faced a riding that "no one would touch with a ten-foot pole". Copps surprised everyone though, coming within fourteen votes of winning. Two years later, Copps was an MPP, winning a difficult Hamilton seat. But when she tried to run for the Ontario leadership, she met many reporters and party members who warned her of the

'Flora Syndrome'. That is, delegates voice support that doesn't materialize in votes. But Copps is not worried about it.



Liberal MPP Sheila Copps.

Being the only woman in the Liberal caucus has its advantages, though. She notes that her voice tends to "stand out in the crowd". She has ignored the Minister who told her to "go back to the kitchen", and the note from some backbenchers attempting to guess her weight. In fact, she had some revenge when she detailed her Queen's Park experience in a Toronto Star Column.

Copps intends to make changes as Health Critic. She believes that doctors should charge OHIP rates if they have access to public facilities (hospitals, etc.). "There are many ways of developing alternative methods in health care that have not even been considered, such as home paramedic care and other less expensive ways which exist currently."

Copps' positive attitude and impressive five-year political career leave little doubt of a bright future. Losing is not a sign of failure to her. "If I ran a good race and lost, people would recognize the fact that I ran a good race."



Alex Wolosewycz

Faculty Focus: Dan Baum

Ian Bailey

Professor Daniel J. Baum had just finished his book *Warehouses of Death* when he attended a Gerontology convention to speak about retirement homes. Just as Baum was preparing his speech, an esteemed gerontologist approached him and proceeded to berate him, for being a non-specialist daring to speak to experts.

The conflict between specialist and non-specialist has marked Baum's writing career. A professor at Osgoode Hall, Baum has written over 100 articles for such publications as the *Harvard Review*, and has completed a dozen books. His books have dealt with such unrelated topics as the legal profession and teenage pregnancy. Forthcoming is a book on unnecessary surgery and a collaboration on a six volume series on an American citizenship law program. Baum asserts, "I'm not an expert when I begin researching a subject but by the time I finish I am sensitive to it and I have something to communicate."

While he recognizes the value of hardcore academic writing, Baum prefers to write for the average intelligent reader. "I felt that there was an important place for simple writing about important subjects to fulfill important goals," says Baum. "I like the idea of simply expressing complex ideas so that discussion can be generated."

Baum's first experience as a writer came as a part-time reporter for the *Cincinnati Enquirer*, where he was demoted to writing obituaries after he protested the newspaper's sale to the Scripts Howard Company. He fondly recalls that years later he worked with the Justice Department on an anti-trust action that eventually broke Scripts Howard's control of the *Enquirer*.

Baum has served as a trial attorney, as the Advisor to the American Federal Trade Commission, and as a labour arbitrator. During the mid-sixties, he helped to find homes for low-income families who had been displaced by government action. Later he moved to Toronto, where he spearheaded a citizenship law program for high school students.

Presently on sabbatical, he says, "I like mixing my activities as a teacher and a writer and getting involved."

Selfishness vs. egalitarianism

Berel Wetstein

A capacity crowd of about 550 watched a very civil debate between economics professor John Ridpath and political science professor Harvey Simmons, yesterday.

At the start the crowd was completely behind Ridpath, if initial applause can be used as a yardstick, but by the end the audience's support seemed to be equally divided.

Simmons opened the discussion by stating that the debate's title, *Individualism vs. Collectivism, the Role of the State*, actually meant "organized selfishness vs. organized egalitarianism". Ridpath agreed, "I believe in organized selfishness. I believe that no person has the right to use the state's monopoly of legal force to make you give your wealth to others."

Simmons countered that in western nations people have the option of turfing out unpopular governments and that if someone does not like the idea of taxes, that is tough luck. He also argued that most decisions come from consent and not force. Ridpath, by contrast, stated that the choice of giving

one's wealth to others is that of the individual and not the state.

It was the audience's questions and not Simmons' debating style that seemed to turn the crowd. Asked what would happen in an individualistic society, if rich people were unwilling to help starving earthquake victims, Ridpath calmly replied, "They would starve to death, but I don't envision this happening."

Simmons answered questions on specific issues with statements on the larger picture. In reply to a query about the state's role in imposing the metric system, Simmons said that regardless of the question before it, the government has the right to impose its will and people have the right to vote out a government.

A third year business administration student stated, "Ridpath convinced me. The goal of individualism is the one to strive for. I think he easily won the debate." However, a second year economics student now doubts Ridpath because, "I realize that to accept Ridpath's views means that only the rich deserve to decide the qualities of life."

Cutbacks

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unavailable to comment on the failure.

President Macdonald was to have delivered the key-note address and a draft of his speech was made available to *Excalibur*. Ironically, the speech calls on students to take up the issues, "not only here in this forum, but wherever you may support the cause of post-secondary education."

The government speakers included NDP education critic, Tony Grande, his Liberal counterpart, Bill Wyre, and an unidentified representative from the Ministry of Colleges and Universities. David Aaronovitch was present to represent the British National Union of Students.

Election party

The eagerly awaited CYSF election results will be announced March 18 at the MS Musical Medical Show Concert Dance Marathon. The rock 'n' roll/country band, Sagebrush, will entertain at the dance which will be held in Founders Cafeteria.