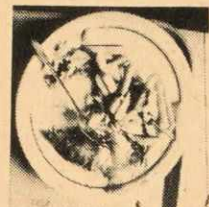


Canteen manager says:

"It's kind of unpleasant to eat there I guess"

By LINDA GILLINGWATER
Managing Editor
and
JOHN BRUCE
Editorial Assistant

made that close study. . . however, I will say that we are very particular about what we buy and we pay the top dollar for it."



Students are being shafted by Versa Foods.
Mr. Todd, district manager of Versa Foods Limited should be given the understatement of the week award for his penetrating analysis of the canteen situation: "It's kind of unpleasant to eat there I guess."

Todd concedes that the situation is so bad that "We're lucky that we get as much business as we do." They should get none; students should boycott the canteen until sweeping changes are made.

Sanitary conditions are almost non-existent. John Graham, council administrator, said that he had never "seen things as filthy as they are now. Last week I went in around four in the afternoon and found dishes that hadn't been touched since noon."

Todd claims that the canteen is a lot cleaner than it had been; "we have two Portuguese ladies who run around cleaning up."

In addition they have changed their cleaning schedule. In prior years floors were cleaned once a week; now they are "wet mopped" every day.

Perhaps, as Todd claims "I've done a lot of thinking about it". His thoughts have not sparked much concrete action.

Coffee cups are invariably stained.

Forks are usually dripping with egg.

The floor is always littered with garbage.

Dirty dishes are left on the tables for hours.

Todd although he claims to make daily visits to the canteen, said that he had seen a little untidiness but no filth. "Students throw things around", he commented.

Prices charged in the canteen are higher at Dal than at any other Halifax university.

Mount Saint Vincent has a large clean dining area. A full meal costs .75. Juices and desserts are a dime. Sandwiches cost only fifteen or twenty cents. Students who were questioned felt the food was good and often excellent.

Nova Scotia Tech students also consider their food to be "reasonably good." They pay a quarter for a hamburger or hot dog. Green salads are twenty cents.

The Dal Canteen doesn't offer salads at any price. Prices are higher and quality is lower. When asked if he felt this was a fair comment Todd said: "I haven't

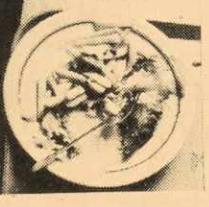
So do the students. In fact what we pay usually tops local restaurant prices. We pay fifteen cents more for a hot hamburger deluxe than at the Tea Room on Quinpool Road. Regular hamburgers are five cents less there, than at the canteen.

Two donuts or two bran muffins cost .15; at Dal we pay .20. Fish and chips are a nickel less at the Spartan restaurant. For a dollar you can have a pork chop dinner with juice and dessert. A hamburger, french fries and cole slaw cost .50, a quarter less than our horrible hot hamburgers.

Of the four restaurants checked not one sold hamburgers or milkshakes for more than the cafeteria.

At any restaurant you are served immediately by a uniformed waitress. At Dal you can wait anywhere from half to three quarters of an hour during the rush hour.

Mr. Todd claims the canteen is overstaffed. Presumably the reason for the elimination of the hot sandwiches does not stem from the fact that the staff (all four of them) can not cope with the volume of business. Of course we should take into account that "the labor cost is more than we can afford already."



My aesthetic sensibilities aren't particularly stimulated by the Tea Room's Bluenose. The pink tile tables in the Steak Centre don't particularly grab me. But the canteen's crap makes me vomit. The temperature is never below 400 degrees. "It is a little humid" Mr. Todd conceded. Picking up my own filthy flatware is much less satisfying than having a glass of water and cutlery brought to my table in a restaurant.

The Steak Centre recently featured roast leg of young pork with apple jelly; the canteen admittedly did offer peanut butter



and jam all week for .20.

Our choice of foods is severely (to put it charitably) limited. Often the few choices are not available; twice last week I was "too late for soup; it's all gone." There is no service and the quality of food is often below standard.

Why should we be paying as much or more than local eating places?

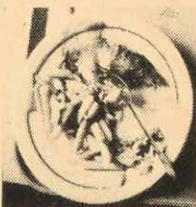
Versa Foods has a staff of dietitians in its head office. They plan menus for cross country distribution. We are paying, Todd said, "for all this technical know how." One wonders how many post graduate degrees are required to slap a hunk of cheese on a piece of bread. Maybe they had to take Packaging 303? Perhaps there is only one university in the world that teaches "Olive placement on salmon sandwiches" and we had to pay to have the dietitians flown there.

Secondly Versa Foods has trouble keeping staff, and "this increases our costs, having to train new people all the time. Would it be ridiculous to suggest that they consider paying their staff more than the minimum wage so that they could keep them and thus eliminate constant training programs; and increase the quality of food just as naturally as Todd says it is decreased

by a constant staff change.

The canteen only operates thirty-two weeks a year but, Mr. Todd noted, "we have to pay the phone bill for fifty two. All these things have to be charged to the unit."

Besides he added "prices are the same as last year." Possibly, just possibly prices were too high last year too.



Although he "doesn't know all the details" Todd "doesn't see any reason why we have to charge more than the outside businesses." "What we want to do is to satisfy the students and to break even." A random sample of "satisfied" students provided the following comments:

"I generally try to avoid eating here."

"There's rust in the coffee. I have no complaints about the food because I won't eat it."

"The food's lousy. Sandwiches are stale and I wish that they'd shell their eggs before they make them into sandwiches. There is something wrong with the coke;

Mr. Todd's belief that "we'd be better off if we didn't operate the thing" seems to be shared by the students.

Their second desire - to break even, has a happier ending. During the past six months Versa Foods of Canada netted a profit of three hundred nine thousand eight hundred and eighty-seven dollars.

The onus of the blame doesn't fall upon Mr. Todd nor even upon Versa Foods. The above figure represents national profits, not a canteen clean up.

Mr. Todd is actually worried "about the lack of communication" with the students. He is doing a little more than just putting up Air Canada travel posters. He has offered to bring canteen prices into line with local restaurants.

In addition he has promised to listen to all student complaints, and will try to rectify them. All beefs should be dropped into the Gazette (we mean that more in a literary sense than really).

Mr. Todd has been working from twelve to fourteen hours a day "trying to make things as good as we can."

They're sure not very good; but the room itself isn't conducive to pleasant eating. Todd

wouldn't use it for a storage room. Neither would the administration; they are letting it be used for a cafeteria instead. We move to the new Student Union Building next year. Because of this the Administration won't cough up a decent dishwasher; they'd prefer us to be poisoned instead. Todd's genuine concern is evident even to a rank reporter; the administration's isn't. We are paying the same fees that next year's students will. We are tired of doing without things for this new SUB building. Things have to be changed THIS YEAR in that canteen.

Immediate practical measures can and should be implemented:

- 1) purchase of a decent dishwasher.
- 2) immediate reduction of a number of prices.
- 3) more care taken to make the food palatable.
- 4) introduction of a wider variety of foods.

It is just as easy to have a bakery send up a number of cakes each day than to continue putting those stupid stale buns out for the students. 10, is an exorbitant price; the French Pastry has twelve different cookies and squares for less than a dime.

employment of two more Portuguese Ladies; these two obviously can't keep up with the mess.

Students too should be crapped on; the temptation to turn the canteen into the hole that it is is very strong. It must be resisted. Students can stop stealing cutlery (maybe that is increasing the prices we pay for food) and return their dishes to the washer before leaving.

address all complaints to the Gazette. They will be forwarded to Mr. Todd and rectified "immediately." Better service and lower prices are imminent.

MIX AND MATCH
LADIES' SPORTS WEAR LTD.

Quality Sports Wear
with the
Accent on Youth

10% Student Discount

MIX AND MATCH
LADIES' SPORTS WEAR LTD.

6281 Quinpool Road, Halifax
423-7600

GOING HOME FOR CHRISTMAS??

STUDENTS GROUP DISCOUNT RATES AVAILABLE FOR TRAVEL BY AIR OR RAIL

CALL OUR OFFICE 454-0653

NOW IS THE TIME TO MAKE THAT IMPORTANT RESERVATION

USE OUR TICKET BY MAIN SERVICE FOR SPEED AND CONVENIENCE

ANNAPOLIS TRAVEL LTD.

1090 QUEEN ST.

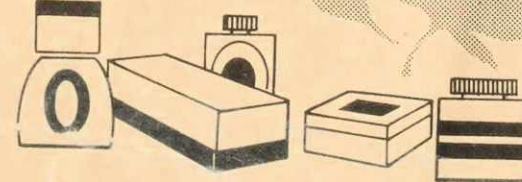
SOBEYS SHOPPING PLAZA HALIFAX

O'Brien pharmacy

Delivery Service Available
PHONE 429-3232

SAVE ON

FALL DRUG NEEDS



FIRM HOLD OR REGULAR \$1.98

ADORN SPECIAL
HAIR SPRAY NOW **\$1.69**

family size SPECIAL
TOOTH PASTE \$1.19 for **99¢**

CURL-FREE

For the Girl with naturally Curly Hair who desires a smooth, sleek Hair-Do, Curl-Free smooths, relaxes Natural Curl! Retains Natural Body! Gives lasting Control!

PRICED AT **\$3.75**

BUY ONE GET ONE FREE
TOOTH BRUSHES **69¢**

6199 COBURG ROAD
ACROSS FROM DALHOUSIE MEN'S RESIDENCE
HALIFAX

• PUT YOUR PRESCRIPTION IN OUR HANDS •

The
Gazette needs
Typists
Writers Artists
and many
others

call 429-1144

HAVE FUN—BE IN FASHION TOO WITH



Glenayr

Kitten

Walk into fashion in this exciting new machine-washable English Botany full-fashioned raglan shoulder pullover . . . with dome fastenings at neck front, roll collar, new Continental band and cuffs.

To complete the pretty picture, team it with this pure wool worsted skirt, woven from superfine English Botany. It is fully-lined, dry-cleanable, and dyed-to-perfectly-match all bright new Kitten sweater colours.



PURE VIRGIN WOOL
Look for the Woolmark on the label

5645/690

Without this label it is not a genuine KITTEN.

It **PAYS**
to advertise
in the
Dalhousie Gazette
429-1144

booklon PROTECTS
YOUR BOOKS* FROM
ANYTHING! . . .

SELF ADHESIVE
clear
plastic
film

*Also Maps, Drawings, Magazines, etc.

Easy to apply
No glue or sticky fingers
Just use scissors
Washable, never yellows
Repairs and strengthens

From only 75¢
Variety of widths and lengths.

DEPARTMENT, STATIONERY AND BOOK STORES OR WRITE:
Ben Sanders Company Limited, 375 Midwest Road, Scarborough, Ont.