



Darrigo's shopper looks for bargains.

Produce price disparity due to store competition

By B.J.R. Silberman

Graduate residence students may be losing out on their vegetable purchases to the tune of six cents an item.

That's the added cost for nineteen fruit and vegetable items at the Dominion store on Four Winds Drive, compared to the Dominion at Jane and Finch, according to an *Excalibur* survey.

Items such as Red and Netted Gem potatoes were 10 cents cheaper per bag at the Four Winds branch. Products like green peppers and tomatoes were as much as 30 cents more per pound.

Asked the reason for the price disparity, Dominion Stores replied

their branch at Jane and Finch was under a special price program, because of competition from Darrigo's supermarket across the street.

The average price of a plant produce at Darrigo's was 16 cents less than at the opposite Dominion store.

In fact nearly everything was cheaper at Darrigo's. The exception: beets, which were on special at both Dominion stores at three bunches for 99 cents.

Darrigo's regular price was 39 cents a bunch.

There were large price differences in items like oranges, which sold for \$1.39 per dozen at Darrigo's and \$1.89 for a four pound bag of

approximately a dozen at both Dominions.

Cauliflowers were 30 cents less at Darrigo's. P.E.I. potatoes sold for seven cents per pound and a 50 pound bag was priced at \$2.99.




Despite the low prices at Darrigo's both Dominion stores were busy.

Shoppers apparently were interested in more than just the price of the product.

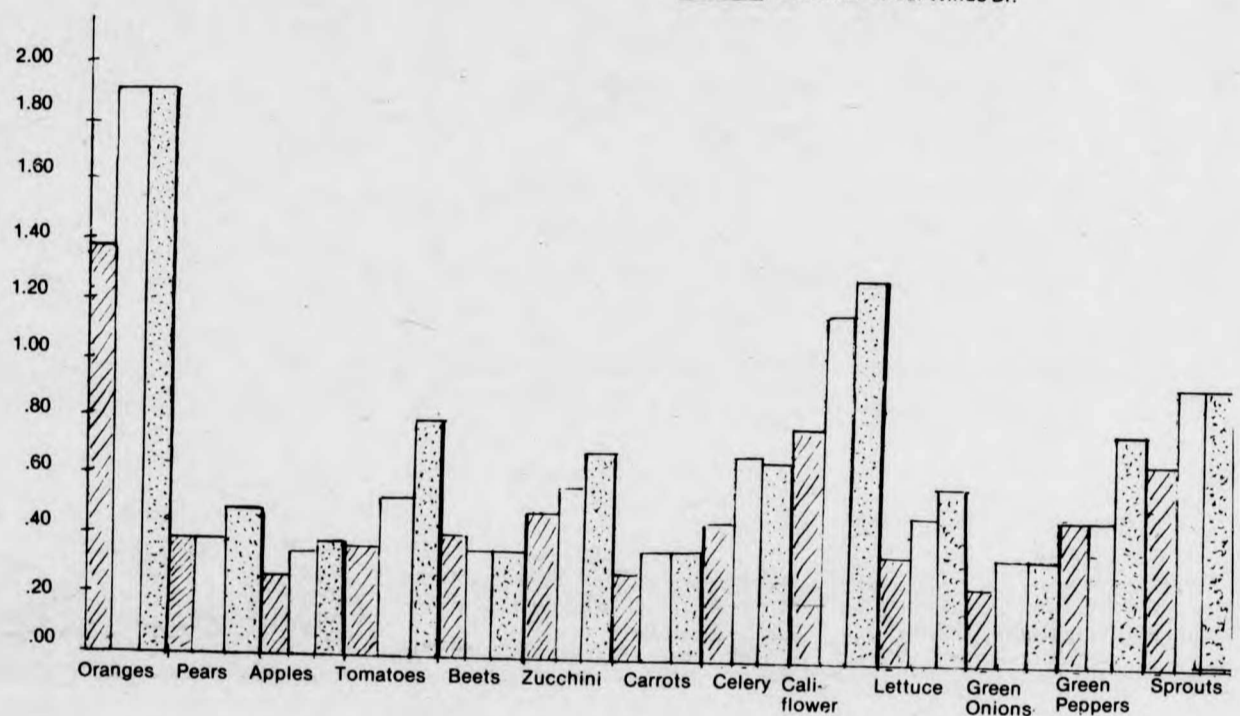
"The displays are appealing here and the vegetables look fresh," said one consumer at the Jane - Finch branch.

For Graduate Residence students who shopped at the Four Winds store proximity was the key attraction.

KEY

 Darrigo's - Jane & Finch
 Dominion - Jane & Finch
 Dominion - Four Winds Dr.

PRICE



Normal hours for libraries

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Other students pointed out that Osgoode Hall's library is the best in the country and that many lawyers from the city also use it on weekends for their own work. Some said Osgoode, in order to succeed, should fight to keep only their own library open.

A student asked the reporter from *Excalibur* to invite students from all parts of the university to use Osgoode's library should it be open and others closed.

The meeting was later attended by an impressive array of York brass: Harry Knox, vice-president (business operations), George Bell, executive vice-president, William Newman, acting director of libraries, and John Becker, assistant vice-president (student affairs).

From the introductions on, Bell took over the meeting, fielding almost all the questions from the floor. Only Newman answered the odd question, and was interrupted once by Bell when one questioner asked, "If these drastic changes are the result of only a 2 per cent budget cut, what will be the result of the proposed 12 per cent cut?"

During the meeting, students were told that cuts in Friday hours between 5 and 11 pm would result in a savings of about \$1,400 to \$1,600 between now and the end of the school year.

Students asked why such a small sum could not be found in York's entertainment budget.

A student said, "We are paying more in tuition this year, yet we are getting less. What is really upsetting," he said, "is that this discussion is taking place after the decision to close the libraries on weekends has already been taken."

Many speakers from the floor were critical of what one student called "unimaginative management" by the university administration, and were told that the problems the university has to cope with now are miniscule compared to what it has in store in the future.

The decision to rescind the reduction in library hours was made in the president's policy committee meeting last Thursday. The students meeting with the administration was held the day before.

Murray Miskin, a member of the executive committee of Osgoode's Legal and Literary society, said the change in the administration's attitude came as a result of a "combination of bad publicity for having made a completely irrational decision and the threat of further bad publicity coming from the planned occupation of the Osgoode library."

He said, "Last week's developments were a victory for

students, and made it clear that if students care about something that is being done to them, whether by the local administration or the government, they can stop it."

Miskin told *Excalibur* the planned occupation was to have been very orderly, and plans had been made for student-supervised security to ensure nothing was stolen.

Plans had also included reasearch of a possible class action suit against York for breach of a collateral contract.

He said students had come to York university with the understanding that services, such as libraries be maintained.

Newman, when asked by a reporter whether or not the student's protest had "something to do" with the policy committee overturning a previous decision, he replied, "I wouldn't be surprised."

But he said some of the \$18,300 the library would have gained as a result of the curtailment of business hours, (mostly by cutting parttime, i.e. student, help) may still have to come out of the library's budget.

The library has hitherto cut about \$16,000 in operational expenses, about \$4,000 in renovations, \$5,000 in new furnishings, and about \$29,400 in books, Newman said. At approximately \$16 a book, this means a reduction of about 1800 new books that the library can buy this year alone.

The total budget for purchasing new material is about \$639,700 for 39,981 books.

David Atkinson, assistant to Bell said in an interview earlier this week it still is not known where the \$18,000 will come from.

"If the library cannot do it (manage the cut) we will have to get it from somewhere else," he said.

Newman said there would be even more serious cuts next year.

He said while he has not been given a firm figure for next year's cuts, the library is now conducting an enquiry to determine what a 10 per cent cut would mean.

"We do not want to be caught off balance as we were, to some extent, this time," he said. "We have to have some impression, informations."

In taking a 10 per cent figure, he said he was going on a "gut feeling" and past experience to guess what the library's share of the \$5.7 million to be cut from next year's budget might be.

He estimated a library will be affected by next year's cuts.

"It is almost a case of closing your eyes and stabbing the dark," he said. "One has to decide which one of the two areas can stand cutting more - materials (i.e. new books) or hours of service."

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