

Vanier resident angry about Marriott food service

by Morley Conn

There is no love lost between Ron Pethick and Winters College Dining Hall.

Pethick, a first year Vanier resident, has gone all out in voicing his displeasure with Winters' dining hall culminating with his appeal to fellow students to leave their trays out on the tables during a dinner on October 11 in a form of protest.

"Fifteen hundred bucks to be ignored? I don't think so. I could live a long time on \$1,500," said an irate Pethick. "The food services are set up for the convenience of Marriott, not for the convenience of the students."

All first year students in residence are required to have a meal plan, and for the 475 Vanier students on the plan, their dining options are Bethune or Winters dining halls. This arrangement

does not sit well with Pethick who claims he was never informed of such limitations. But Pethick's main beef pertains to the operations of Winters' dining hall, citing it as "inefficiently run, with gaping holes on the managerial side."

"Sometimes there's no napkins, no forks, no milk and we have to ask for them three or four times," said Pethick. "It takes a while for things to get done and it happens day after day."

The Vanier resident also takes offense to the long lineups which he attributes to managements' failure to run two food lines continually. "It's supposed to be all you can eat, but when you have to wait 45 minutes, it doesn't work out," said Pethick. "Time wasted waiting is time I could be using to study."

But Susanne Cullen, manager of food services at Winters Col-

lege, thinks otherwise. "Students come and talk to me with legitimate problems that are solved," said Cullen. "Anywhere you go, serving a large group, you're going to have people who are not happy." The Winters manager said the dining hall is serving a super group of students whom she has enjoyed getting to know on a personal basis and that the dining hall has received a lot of positive feedback.

"I've gone to management," said Pethick. "They just ignore me and nothing gets resolved." Pethick reportedly did confront Cullen with some of his complaints, but the discussion reverted into an argument. "I don't believe in getting in arguing matches," commented Cullen.

The feud continued with Pethick's "spontaneous" tray

protest a few weeks back. "If they don't listen, maybe doing something will get their attention," said Pethick. "The staff had to clean up the trays, but it will be cheaper to please the students." The reported number of trays left out varied from Winters management noticing little change to a victorious Pethick claiming, "Obviously I'm not the only one dissatisfied from the number of trays."

"Ron thinks we don't care, which is the only comment we take offense to. We care because if we didn't care, we couldn't stay in the business" said Cullen. "Why doesn't he chose a situation where we can work things out together? I'm here to sort out problems."

To management's credit, Ron has been known to voice his opinion on varied subjects. "Ron complains a lot," said Vanier res-

ident Rick Hopkins, "he's a bad ass." This reputation weakens Pethick's argument to some degree, but other Vanier students have expressed their dissatisfaction with the food services also. "They know we're upset, but Marriott's making a profit so they don't care" said Pethick.

We haven't heard the last of Pethick vs. Winters Dining Hall.

In other food related news, walled mashed potato remnants are all that are left of the October 15 food fight at Stong College dining hall. The melee broke out with one table of students pitted against another (apparently Stong residents against Bethune), and tapered off when the combatants ran out of food. "It was pretty wild," reported one student in attendance at the minor food flinging fest. The loser had to clean the mess up.

Economics of Israeli—Palestinian conflict often ignored

by Stephen Mitchell

Every struggle for national self-determination is a highly-charged and emotional political tug of war. Rarely do the economics of the situation come into question. In the case of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, however, the economic perspective is one Israeli journalist Joel Bainerman would like to see adopted more often.

Bainerman told a recent assembly at York's Jewish Student Federation portable that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict "is a political problem [until the politics are solved] — and then it's an economic problem."

The economic problem, as far as Palestinian nationalists are concerned, is the cost of estab-

lishing a homeland in the Middle East. Palestinian economist Dr. George Abed has estimated the price of independence at \$25 billion over a period of 10 years. Contributing to this fund, Abed claims, will be:

- * neighbouring Arab nations (\$7 billion)
- * official bilateral assistance from US and Europe (\$6 billion)
- * international financial and development institutions (\$3 billion)
- * wealthy Palestinians—millionaires, billionaires—worldwide (\$9 billion).

Bainerman was not confident that the first three agencies would come through with the money. The likelihood of funds coming in from wealthy Palestinians overseas, he added, was even less believable.

Bainerman, dipping deep into

the cauldron of irony, estimated that there were, at most, between 12 and 45 Palestinian millionaires worldwide. Furthermore, he ventured, "There is no such thing as a Palestinian billionaire."

Bainerman suggested that the desired funds alone — even if every penny made it into Palestinian hands — would not lift Palestine into independence. Even \$10 billion would go absolutely nowhere, Bainerman explained, if the Palestinians "didn't have an infrastructure to absorb it."

At the moment, this infrastructure extends out of the occupied Palestinian territories and into Israel, where approximately 110,000 Palestinians are working at restaurants, hotels, construction sites and textile factories. Bainerman suggested that most of these workers were unregistered, "so that they can take home

money at the end of the day, not cheques."

Money earned by Palestinians in Israel and then brought back into the territories presently accounts for 45 per cent of Palestine's total Gross National Product, Bainerman said. "Whether the Palestinians like it or not, their economic prospects are tied to Israel," he wrote earlier this year in *The Journal of Commerce*.

That the Palestine Liberation Organization's credit line is closely linked to the price of oil further lessens the possibilities of a stable future economy in Palestine, Bainerman added, quoting a senior researcher at the Jaffa Institute in Tel Aviv.

Although Bainerman conceded that propaganda was clouding the issues on both sides of the conflict, he felt the main distinction between the two was that Palesti-

nian leaders believed in their propaganda, while the Israeli administration saw its similar efforts as simply another form of necessary political manipulation.

While Bainerman supported the idea of the withdrawal of Israeli military forces from Palestine, he expressed concern for the danger of internal strife in the newly independent nation — the possibility of "Palestinians fighting each other" for power.

Palestinians, he said, "won't all put down their arms and run for the ballot box" on Independence Day.

"There won't be a thriving democracy" in the new nation, he predicted, "and people who say otherwise have nothing on which to base their opinions."

"The best we can hope for [in a united Palestine] is a strong dictatorship under [Yasser] Arafat."



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