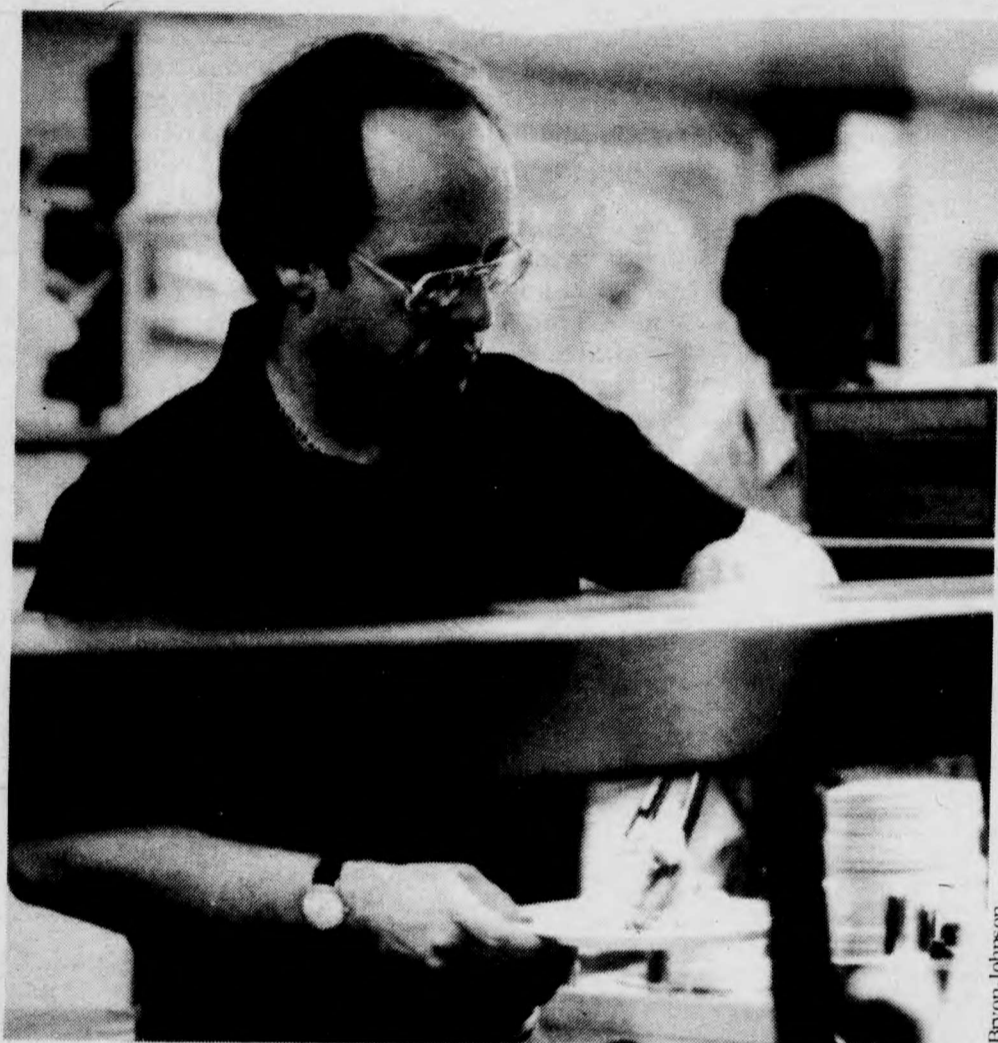


Excalibur

York University Community Newspaper

Vol. 14 No. 4

Thursday, October 4, 1979



Warren Rill. But can he take it?

Food feud heats up

James Carlisle

The continuing dispute over cafeteria food is turning into a struggle between Norm Crandles and the students' Food Users Committee, with Warren Rill caught in the middle.

"Rill seems quite conciliatory. Crandles is the only problem for Rill and for us," said Rob Bowman, a spokesman for the committee.

The dispute began last week with the presentation to Rill — caterer for Complex I and II — of 12 demands by an ad hoc committee of residence students and dons calling themselves the Ad Hoc Food Users Committee. The complaints covered all aspects of food service, but the main concern was the high cost of food. Rill agreed to try and meet some of the demands and to enter into further negotiations.

Norm Crandles, however — York's Food and Beverage Manager — instructed Rill to break off negotiations with the ad hoc committee because there is an organization set up to deal with such complaints: the University Food Services Committee. Crandles characterized many

of the students' demands as "ludicrous" and "absurd".

Rill has complied with Crandles' instructions stating, "I can only do what Crandles tells me to do." This past week, however, Rill voluntarily complied with several of the complaints — notably the reduction of prices at the salad bar. Rill has also spoken informally with individual students about their complaints.

The Food Users Committee, a student organization and an official part of the University Food Services Committee, will meet with Crandles next week to further discuss the dispute. Most members of the Food Users Committee are also members of the ad hoc committee.

Lately, the dispute has widened to other issues. "We want to know who Crandles answers to, whether he can make arbitrary decisions, and how he can be removed from his job if necessary," stated Bowman. "We will be after Norm Crandles even when this dispute over Rill is settled."

Meanwhile, U. of T. residence members boycotted their dining hall last Thursday at University College.

According to U. of T. Varsity newspaper reporter, Kathleene Scherf, "This year students pay a lump sum and a new computer deducts the cost of each meal from the amount of money left in the student's meal fund. A member of the food committee (a newly-elected student food committee, similar to York's Ad Hoc Food Services Committee, protesting high food prices), replied...the students did not accomplish their goal of lower prices. Students organized a depression-style soup line in front of the dining hall. Students were asked to donate one dollar for a meal of unlimited soup, sandwiches and fruit."

Out of batteries

Barb Mainguy

York's Computer Services Department is facing a crisis situation. In the words of Jim McCallum, Chairman of the York Computer Users group: "Unless we do something immediately - in the next month - Computer Science basically can't get through the year."

At the meeting yesterday, members of the faculty, administration and student body voiced their concerns about problems in the department, terming the situation "chaotic", and calling for total reorganization of the structure and its computing function.

There is an apparently hopeless lack of accessibility to the main computer. The problem is not a lack of terminals, of which there are a surplus, but, rather, a lack of computer ports reserved for students, and a lack of hours of time available to complete assignments. With only one assignment due so far, the DEC 10 is already congested.

The situation was anticipated back in 1977, when a report was issued by the President's Commission on Goals and Objectives. It stated that there was an "urgent need for immediate reappraisal and evaluation of the uses which are being made of these services." The report recommends the university establish "planning-budgetary processes which relate to York University's computing requirements."

But, according to faculty, this has simply not happened. They say there have been "at least four years of poor judgement and ill considered economics," resulting in bad decisions, high costs to the university, which have placed them in their present predicament. The Hewlett Packard computer, removed to save the university \$30,000, lost them 15 ports, which are worth approximately \$75,000 per year. And with 15 fewer ports available on the DEC 10 this year, there doesn't seem to be much hope of lightening the workload.

What's being done about it? A

computer science student, Wayne Shannon, has initiated the York Computer Users Group to discuss the difficulties. He has prepared a formal grievance and sent it to President Macdonald.

Meanwhile, another meeting of the Computers Users was held to discuss their own solutions. Figures were presented which showed that, based on present usage, there is about a 50 per cent chance

of getting a terminal at rush time—for instance in December, when assignments fall due.

If the situation stays the same, McCallum estimates a loss of 50% of the enrollment in the department (due to York's increasingly bad reputation on computer studies), not to mention the loss of prestige to the university.

Who's minding the mint?

Mark Monfette

Excalibur learned this week that the Presidential Discretionary Fund grew by over \$200,000 during the summer without either the approval of the Board of Governors or the knowledge of the various deans.

The deans were informed of the increase, and of how the money had been allocated, during a policy meeting with President Macdonald last Tuesday, Sept. 25. Decisions on the dispersal of the \$232,150 were made between June 26 and Sept. 19.

The President's Discretionary Fund (approximately two per cent of expected revenues) and all increases to it, are normally approved by the Board and discussed with the deans. The fund allows the President to finance new initiatives that had previously not been budgeted for.

Dean of Arts, Harold Kaplan, hesitant to discuss the issue, conceded that there had been some dissension among the deans, himself included.

Dean Kaplan expressed concern at the meeting "about the procedures for presidential allocation of funds" and about "the inability to obtain updated budget statements."

"Money at York," he said, "tends to be allocated in a vacuum."

Dean Stan Beck, of Law, stated that there was "some feeling" in the policy meeting with regard to the increased funds, but he defended the President's decisions.



President Macdonald

"The President is not misusing his authority," said the dean. "There is nothing improper in this. I think that if there is extra money available it should be allocated."

He noted that the President had used the money to comply with requests made earlier in the summer by the deans. "It's simply a question of what is the preferred process for allocating funds," Dean Beck added.

The Chairman of the Faculty Association, Al Stauffer, when informed of the situation by Excalibur, commented that "this is typical of the way the university operates."

"This is another example," said Stauffer, "of the way Macdonald and Bell allocate funds without university approval. It's obvious that they control the budget here. The Board doesn't seem to have even been consulted."

The \$232,150 is the product of estimated new income from fees (\$124,650), reallocation of debts (\$25,000) and recoveries from the Department of Computer Science on their rented equipment (\$27,800), according to George Bell, Executive Vice-President.

"If the transactions don't operate as forecast," said Bell, "there is a potential negative effect of \$40,000."

Bell pointed out that if the money had not been spent it would have curtailed new initiatives and potential growth, and that "all projects granted support had been submitted by deans, principals or chairmen of departments."

"I don't see any of them returning the money," he observed with a smile.

Bell indicated he would inform the Board of Governors of the adjustments around the end of November, one month after the current fiscal quarter ends.