

NEWS

Caterer leaves Winters, sues York for lost profits

by Grayson Levy

Marky's, the former kosher caterer in Winters College, is taking legal action against York University after a dispute with the administration which led to the termination of their contract.

The 15 year on-again, off-again relationship between York and Marky's finally ended in June 1990, when the University Food Services Committee terminated Marky's contract.

"Marky's had a one-year trial with a five-year option depending on certain specific obligations. The University was unable to agree with Marky's on some of these specifics," said Norman Crandles, director of Housing & Food Services. Crandles refused to release details of the obligations.

Crandles would only say that "service was not the reason they went".

However, Erez Karp, who was proprietor of the now-closed campus Marky's told *Excalibur* "we're suing York University".

"It [the lawsuit] involves what we think we're entitled to under our contract," Karp said. He would not comment further due to the pending legal battle. Cran-

dles confirmed the lawsuit, but would not go any further.

Excalibur was unable to obtain a copy of the contract between York and Marky's because of University policy which Crandles said prohibits the release of sensitive business information.

Harriet Lewis, York's legal counsel, said that Marky's was "claiming for damages based on an estimate of their lost [potential] profits over the next four years."

Lewis stated Marky's was in breach of their contract because they withheld the RTU (return to University) monies they owed to York. According to Lewis, Marky's decided not to pay the RTU in early 1990 because they claimed that changes to the scrip meal programme would affect their business. After several failed negotiations, York terminated the contract and Marky's sued the university.

According to Lewis, Marky's claims for damage cannot be substantiated because the scrip meal plan has been revised again since Marky's originally had difficulties with it.

Marky's previously had their contract terminated by the University due to complaints about

food quality and service after the 1987-88 school year, but reopened with a one-year probation in September 1988. After the one-year trial period ended, Marky's was awarded a five-year contract.

"They [Marky's] have passed the stringent requirements we had of them and come through with flying colours," said Crandles at the time.

Student opinion, however, is not as kind to Marky's as Mr. Crandles is. "I ate there several times, I really didn't like it that much. I know a lot of people that didn't find it that good," said Caroline Winship, York Federation of Students Vice-President Internal, and added "I'm glad they [Marky's] are gone".

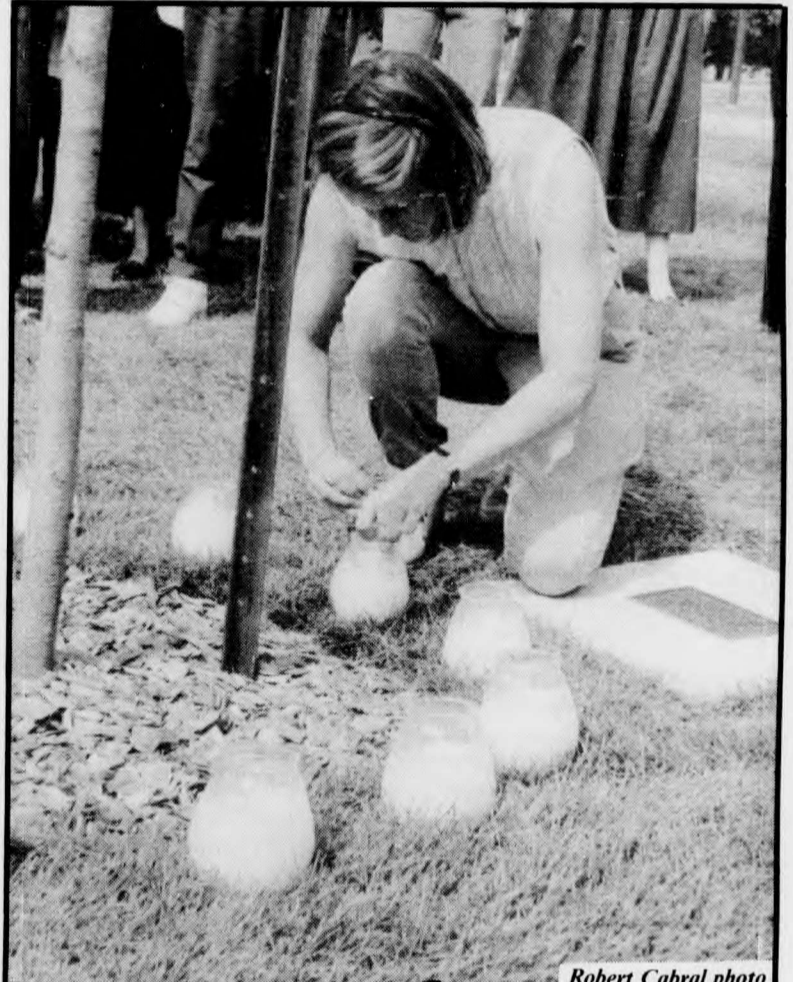
Students may rest easier, though, because York's new kosher caterer has already been selected, and Malmar Fine Foods will be open for business in early October. "Marky's food wasn't great, but I, like most people, was grateful to have hot kosher food on campus. We're excited about having a new place" said Menahem Neuer, Program Director of the Jewish Student Federation.

When asked why the University Food Services Selection Committee chose Malmar above the

other applicants, Neuer, who liaised with the committee, stated "they impressed the committee as being very professional and very intelligent in their marketing plan. They were committed to consistent customer satisfaction". Says Caroline Winship "The new caterers [Malmar] are really good. They offer a huge selection, they're totally service oriented, and the owner is a chef,

not just a cook".

All applicants were evaluated on the following: quality, prices, RTU, menu, variety, operational style, investment, and attitude. Malmar was unanimously selected over the other five applicants: L'echaim Caterers, Racheles Catering, North Y. Cafeteria, Migdash Chaim Restaurant.



Robert Cabral photo

A member of the Women's Centre lights a candle in memory of one of the 14 female students slain at L'ecole polytechnique in Montreal.

Initiated by the Women's Centre collective, the September 13 ceremony to install a memorial plaque was well supported by members of the York student body, faculty and CUPE. We will not be silenced. We shall overcome.

College Councils divided over beer material in orientation kits

Excalibur staff

College councils are divided over the inclusion of beer company material in their orientation kits, disagreeing on whether it promotes the use of alcohol at university.

Several colleges have included Molson and Labatt's promotional material in packages sold during September, while others have made a conscious decision to avoid associating alcohol with orientation.

Stong College's \$25 orientation package included a college T-shirt, coupons and pamphlets, club passes, Yeomen game tickets, an events pass, a Labatt's poster, a Molson key chain, Labatt's and Molson key chains/bottle openers, a Molson coaster, an Arrive Alive sticker, and an alcohol awareness pamphlet.

"Student organizations allow a medium for corporate advertising without adequate compensation."

**YFS president
Jean Ghomeshi**

It was distributed in a plastic bag featuring the Molson logo.

YFS president Jean Ghomeshi was surprised by Stong's orientation kit, and called it "a propaganda bag" and "a contradiction" by including both alcohol awareness and beer company material.

Ghomeshi added that he doesn't support corporate sponsorship of orientation events, and that YFS "stayed clear" of it.

"Student organizations allow a medium for corporate advertising without suitable compensation," he said.

YFS is currently working on a blacklist of companies it won't deal with "on the basis of things they stand for and the actions they take," Ghomeshi said. Molson is one of the companies on the list.

Founders College also included Molson material — a key chain, coaster and plastic bag — in its orientation package. The beer company also sponsored the Northern Pikes concert held at the college last week.

Markus Fairbairn, Founders' council chairperson, said he doesn't think the beer company's presence in orientation promotes alcohol use. He said the materials were included because of a financial decision.

"We just asked for bags to put everything in so we wouldn't have to pay for them," he said.

Fairbairn added that Molson threw in the coasters and key chains at no cost, and he included them in the package "because they were given to us."

He also said Founders College Council hadn't heard about the YFS blacklist.

Bethune College's orientation package, which sold for \$35, included an Arrive Alive sticker, a Canada's Wonderland pass, a pen and ruler, a YFS magnet and button, club passes, pamphlets, student handbook, an events pass for underage of licensed events, an alcohol awareness pamphlet, a Bethune T-shirt and pair of shorts, and a test tube with a coffee coupon for Jacs, the college's pub.

Sarah Payne, president of Bethune, said the test tube was meant to be a "joke" referring to the college's science affiliation, and the college council is not encouraging students to use them for shooters.

"There is the Jacs ad," she said. "The coupon stuffed inside the test tube says, 'Jacs Coffee Shop.'"

Payne added that Bethune College had received promotional material from Labatt's, but did not use it for the orientation kits, because "there was already enough stuff and we didn't want to promote drinking. We want

sponsorship from companies with integrity, and we didn't want (alcohol) in our profile."

Vanier College did not include alcohol-related material in its package.

Michelle Hughes, social/cultural director of Vanier College Council, said the college put forth an effort to "deemphasize" drinking during orientation. She added that Vanier knew about and followed YFS' Molson boycott.

University community hopes NDP will address post-secondary issues

by Daniel Wolgelerenter

In the wake of the surprising NDP majority win, student leaders and university administrators are only cautiously optimistic about the new government's commitment to problems facing colleges and universities.

Many members of the Ontario university community were disappointed to learn that post-secondary education was not a priority for any party during the recent provincial election campaign. This has left many in the Ontario university community fearing that colleges and universities might be low on the NDP's list of priorities.

York president Harry Arthurs said he was disappointed that the NDP's main policy document from the campaign, the *Agenda for People*, did not deal specifically with post-secondary education but he was hopeful that the NDP would provide some relief from chronic underfunding.

"They [the NDP] have a long and costly social agenda and I hope that they can find room for [colleges and universities] on that agenda," said York president Harry Arthurs.

He said that provincial operating grants over the last three years have been cut in real dollar terms because they were not indexed to inflation. This meant budgets themselves could not be indexed to inflation during a time of increased enrolment.

"We'd like to have lots of things but its all comes down to increased funding," Arthurs said.

"I'm optimistic in that I'm sure their heart is in the right place," he added. "We'll try all the harder to lobby because we'll hope that we'll have a sympathetic ear listening to us."

He said he thought the NDP may end up disappointing many people because there won't be enough revenue available in the upcoming recession to fulfil the party's entire social agenda.

In a separate statement of policy on education the party did pledge to increase post-secondary funding to cover increased enrolment, renovations, library renewal and pay equity programs. As well, it pledged to "improve accessibility through increased student assistance and affirmative action programs."

The party also promised in the *Agenda for People* to spend \$1.5

billion on education over two years, but did not detail how much of that, if any, would go to colleges or universities.

York Federation of Students (YFS) president Jean Ghomeshi said he hoped some of that money would go to post-secondary education. He added that relief under an NDP government from chronic underfunding and accessibility problems related to tuition and the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) would take a long time in coming, if it ever arrived at all.

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**York president
Harry Arthurs**

"Now that the NDP are in power, it doesn't mean that we have reached Utopia," he said. "The lobbying is certainly not over."

He said the YFS will work with the Ontario Federation of Students (OFS) and the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) to ensure that the NDP keeps its promises. The student groups

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