

# Excalibur

Vol. 9 No. 17

York University Community Newspaper

January 23, 1975

Oh God — another food story?

## Ethnic outlets may feed campus next year

By JULIAN BELTRAME

A plan to let one or two major caterers service the dining halls in the two college complexes, while a variety of ethnic food outlets service the rest of the campus, is the option most likely to be recommended by the university food service committee, when final votes are cast within the next month.

Paving the way for the committee's recommendation, the executive sub-committee reported in its January 17 minutes that the "university can no longer endure \$250,000 food service deficits and the continued shortcomings in variety, quality, appearance, and price of food available on campus", presently supplied by Versafood.

The sub-committee report goes on to state that in a "free market situation, food costs to the customer should not be substantially affected".

Acting on the sub-committee's recommendations, the food committee voted 8 to 0 on Monday to recommend that a new consultant's report be contracted, to "examine all the options available to the university".

The recently completed Johnston report excerpts of which were printed in last week's Excalibur conducted a study of the existing food service supplied by Versafood, but did not study the feasibility of a multi-caterer food service.

Committee chairman Peter Jarvis stated that the report recommended Monday should not take more than a couple of weeks to complete, providing the administration acts on the recommendation.

While several committee members

doubted a second report was feasible, given that Versafood's contract expires April 30, Jarvis pointed out that any problems arising from the committee's recommendation would not be the committee's problems, but those of the administration.

"If we believe this is the optimum choice, and if there are problems, then let the university state what problems there are," he said.

Jarvis added that any committee recommendation should aim for the best of available options, when formulating recommendations to the university administration.

Irrespective of which final model the food committee recommends, the model could entail either a fee for space contract, or a management fee (with no risk to the caterer) contract, similar to Versafood's present contract, which has resulted in \$250,000 deficits to the university over the past two years.

Jarvis said the university would be foolish to grant another risk-free contract, in view of the past results. He added that a fee for space contract, in which the caterer assumes total or partial risks, would not necessarily mean higher food prices.

"The people who get these contracts clearly can't price themselves out of the market," he explained.

However, any contract involving risk to the caterer would have to allow the caterer a freer hand in the everyday operations of his business, than is presently afforded Versafood, he cautioned.

Mike Hennessy, committee deputy chairman, added that the university would continue to demand at least minimum operating time quotas, and service standards, regardless of

the caterer's risk.

"Under no circumstances will this committee or the colleges give up all say on food prices and operating hours," said Hennessy.

Before adjourning, the committee empowered the executive to forward several concrete models centred around the basic multi-caterer concept to the committee at the next meeting on February 3.

The models are intended to incorporate the results of food survey, recently completed and presently being tabulated.

While the food service committee

has recommended that a consultant's report be struck and if need be that Versafood's existing contract be extended to allow the consultants time to complete their study before a decision needs to be made, no official response has yet been given by the administration.

Norman Crandles of ancillary services said Monday that the university intends to have the matter resolved by the May 1 deadline, imposed by Versafood's contract and the university's financial year.

Crandles offered March 1 as a reasonable date by which the univer-

sity might submit a final package to interested caterers. He did not comment on the committee's deadline for handing in final recommendations.

With several recommendations put forward by the committee still awaiting university approval, it was left to the administration to decide whether to commission another consultant's report or to enter into a new contract without a study of the options.

At press time, ancillary services representatives were unavailable for comment.



With 11 companies still recruiting graduates on campus, this customer, who walked in as an Afghan, feels confident that he can safely fill out "retriever" on his application form and bluff his way

through the interview. Head barber Fred Bizzarro of Central Square's Grooming Centre plans to sell the hair to flea circus owners for use as low-cost housing.

## Bearpit session flounders amid crisis of leadership

By AGNES KRUCHIO

Students have no one to blame but themselves if there are no more Bearpit shows, Rick Leswick, moderator of the weekly talk show sponsored by Radio York, complained this week. He said he has been drained of good ideas, and feels the need for more input from the students at large.

The popular noon-hour sessions, which featured a weekly variety of topics and guests, have been discontinued since the holiday break.

He said he was really "pissed off" at Bill Eggertson, director of information and programming at Radio York, for cancelling the show this week, because, he said, he was sure he could rustle up someone" for yesterday's show. The guest scheduled for the show, Gerald Ledain, was unable to appear because of a death in his family.

"If we bomb one week, it takes three to four weeks to regain our audience and our credibility," Leswick said. "We were fortunate to have had good Bearpits before Christmas, so this didn't happen."

"It's just a case of people being lethargic; the show is still going to go on."

Eggertson, the man directly responsible for the Bearpits, said the show was "indefinitely cancelled" as far as Audio-Visual, the department

which sets up the equipment for \$16 per session, was concerned. He added that the two producers for the Bearpit sessions were tired of doing all the legwork and not getting any credit for it. Bob Goodman and Hirsh Sobel are still involved with organizing possible future Radio York events including an 'event' with Xaviera Hollander, but have become disenchanted with the Bearpit sessions, he explained.

"Leswick, who has prime responsibility for guests, has only been in twice (at Radio York) since Christmas, Eggertson said. "When I asked him whether he is doing any work, he said, 'I don't have to do anything; I am the voice.'"

"Eggertson is full of shit," said Leswick in a telephone interview. "I do not consider myself, I never considered myself, nor will I ever consider myself the voice."

He declared that he had no responsibility for getting guests, but added that since Christmas the producers have been drafted for other work, and he has effectively been a "one-man organization".

"One week Eggertson tells me that I'm doing too much, next week that I'm not doing enough," he continued. "Right now, I have some things to deal with, and the Bearpit is very low on my list of priorities."

## Grad contract could violate act

By OAKLAND ROSS

"Cheap and dishonest" were the words used by GAA president Mark Golden to describe the refusal of the York administration to provide vacation pay for York's more than 700 graduate assistants.

In a letter sent to vice-president of administration Bill Small in December, Golden criticized the administration for its stand on the issue of vacation pay, which would amount to \$100 annually for each graduate assistant. Last week, Small replied by refusing to alter his position.

According to Golden, York's graduate assistants were presented last fall with a letter of agreement informing them that they would be paid up to \$2,400 for their work (a raise from the previous ceiling of \$1,800). The letter stated that this "compensatory arrangement provides for full payment of any statutory holiday, vacation, overtime or termination".

Golden felt that this "seemed to be an assurance that benefits would

be paid in addition to the \$2,400 sum mentioned." He added that, since the letter was not presented until immediately before the graduate assistants were to take up their duties, it was "virtually a contract signed under duress".

Vice-president Small was unavailable for comment, but vice-president for finance Bill Farr admitted that, in places, the wording of the letter could have been "more felicitous".

Golden also charged that, by lumping vacation pay into the \$2,400 compensatory package, the administration was violating section four of the Employment Standards Act, which stipulates that "any agreement, arrangement or understanding by an employee with an employer...that results in the whole or any part of the wages of an employee being retained by, returned to, or accepted by the employer, either directly or indirectly, is null and void."

According to Farr however, the administration has been assured by

its lawyers that its position is "legally defensible". He added that "we had enough trouble finding the funds to raise their (the graduate assistants') pay from \$1,800 to \$2,400."

Golden himself admitted that the pay raise was "laudable". However, he noted that a letter of agreement similar to the one presented to the assistants was offered to some part-time faculty members, many of whom refused to sign. According to Golden, this lack of uniformity was the reason the administration decided to provide vacation pay for part-time faculty this year.

Since a "significant" number of graduate assistants also refused to sign, Golden felt that the same decision should have been taken in their case.

Farr conceded that there "seems to be an unfortunate discrepancy" between the treatment accorded part-time faculty and that accorded graduate assistants. But he added that, as far as he knew, the administration considered the case closed.