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Scott Seymour collecting money for the African famine

Deplores apathy

Student aids famine victims

By J. W. BELTRAME

Scott Seymour is disturbed by student and government apathy over the famine in the Sahelian zone of northern Africa.

So decided to set up a booth in Central Square to collect money to send to the distressed African area.

"I felt that there existed a need that was not being met by anyone in this university," Seymour, a York political science graduate student, said in an interview Tuesday.

Conservative reports estimate that over two million people have already died from the famine caused by the five year-old drought. It has also eliminated an estimated 30 million livestock, ending the people's main livelihood.

"The fear is that more than a million people can die in the next few months, if relief is not increased," Seymour said.

No one knows for sure just how many people have died from the famine because of some countries' reluctance to report its extent. Ethiopia, one of the hardest hit nations, would not allow reporters in the country until 2 months

ago. It is estimated that as many as one million people have died in Ethiopia in the last year.

"One of the reactions from students is that this booth is only a stop-gap measure and that it does nothing to prevent this type of famine from occurring again," Seymour said. "But we can't ignore the suffering and starvation that is going on on a massive scale."

Seymour expressed concern over the lack of interest shown by York students about the famine. "Unless there is some massive change in the government's policy, there is no way that volunteer agencies will come anywhere near to meeting the crisis," he said.

In the first day and a half of operation, Seymour has collected only \$50 and four volunteers to help man the booth. "All the money we collect will go to the Canadian Red Cross which will in turn be channelled into the Red Cross in the particular countries," he said.

He also stated that the need for relief will continue well into the fall. The booth will remain open during reading week and till the end of the year "if enough people get involved."

Anyone interested is urged to contact Scott at 661-2446.

CUPE feud is intensified by administrative policy of attrition

By J. W. BELTRAME

The two year feud between CUPE workers and York was intensified recently by the university decision to contract out day cleaning at the Glendon campus, following a similar action regarding night cleaning last August.

CUPE president Ed Gorton told Excalibur Monday that the university has been carrying out a policy of attrition in order to reduce the number of union workers.

Gorton said that no regular employees have lost their jobs as a result of the action but, "retiring employees are not being replaced, and Glendon workers are being moved to the main campus, and their jobs are being contracted out."

The union has "grieved" the contracting out of night cleaning, and the case is currently under arbitration.

Gorton admits the university has a right to contract out work, but says it must give prior notification to the union.

Article 25-14 of the collective agreement states: "Three months prior to contracting out services normally performed by members of the bargaining unit the university shall discuss such matters with the union and all relevant facts made known."

Norm Noddle, first vice president of CUPE, said no prior discussion occurred and that the union had only been contacted by D. J. Mitchell, director of personnel, and told there would be contracting out. "To Mitchell, sitting down and writing to the union that there will be contrac-

ting out of cleaning services — that is a discussion," he said.

Mitchell said he had a meeting with the union business representative before the three-month period. "The whole thing was thoroughly confused — they didn't know what they wanted to know," he said.

Gorton said, "We want to see the contract and be satisfied that they really are saving money."

V. L. Berg, of the office of the senior administrator, said the university saved \$28,000 by contracting out the night cleaning. He did not say what will be saved by contracting out day cleaning, starting May 1.

Noddle complained that the university lost money through bad management and that money could have been saved by putting into effect union suggestions. "Our people were heavily supervised," he said. "There was a ratio of one supervisor per three workers, and they had lead hands that didn't do any work at all."

A. H. Bevan, in charge of managing CUPE workers at Glendon, denied they were mismanaged. "The supervisors had duties other than supervising workers," he said.

"We couldn't keep the place clean with CUPE workers," he said, "and under contract we are entitled to this change."

Survey reports

Versafood crumbling

By CHRISTOPHER GATES

Although Versa Food Services has a monopoly on supplying food at York, many coffee houses on campus sell food that does not originate from Versa.

According to Versa's contract with York, the university administration is supposed to ensure that coffee shops on campus sell only coffee, tea and doughnuts.

A survey of eight coffee houses at York revealed that seven sell prepared food of some sort. The Buttery in Founders is run by Versa and the Cock and Bull in Founders sells food that it buys from Versa so these two places are actually Versa outlets.

In response to a question on why college coffee houses are becoming so popular, the assistant manager of Absinthe in Winters, Denise Harris, said, "Coffee houses aren't an alternative; they're a last resort to what Versa offers in Central Square or the college cafeterias."

McLaughlin's Argh coffee house serves mostly coffee and doughnuts but after 9 p.m. they occasionally

serve simple sandwiches. Ken Smith, the manager of Argh explained, "College coffee shops are a service to the students. You can't get a bite to eat from the cafeterias after eight or nine at night and we feel obligated to provide at least sandwiches for the students."

Most campus coffee shops reported that someone from the administration had contacted them at the beginning of the school year to "ensure" that they stuck to selling coffee, tea and doughnuts only.

Calumet's Ainger coffee shop does a brisk business selling a wide range of food they prepare themselves. Ainger is used by Fine Arts and Atkinson students as well as Calumet students.

Lenore Ison, Ainger's manager, said that because Calumet has no cafeteria, Ainger is the only place Calumet students can eat within their college.

None of the coffee shops reported to be in it for the money. Most barely break even after salaries and operating expenses despite grants from their respective college councils.

CYSF supports food boycott

By ROSEMARY McCracken

The Council of the York Student Federation, (CYSF) passed a resolution Monday to force the administration to rescind the 10 per cent food price increase in the York cafeterias and establish a 10 per cent discount on cash sales in the bookstore.

Michael Mouritsen, CYSF president, opposed the motion, on the grounds that the recent university

budget cutbacks necessitate economy. "There are more people at the university than just students," said Mouritsen.

Dale Ritch, a student senator, said the university administration does not tell the whole story and "juggles the books." He said the duty of the student council is to fight the administration in their repressive anti-student policies.

Peter Selecky, president of the Graduate Students Society, objected to Ritch's assuming that the university is the students' enemy. He said he preferred to believe the university has been unobservant rather than in direct opposition to the students.

Selecky demanded removal of the bookstore manager for gross neglect

of his duties. The motion was defeated.

CYSF unanimously moved to demand that the administration guarantee that unused scrip be exchanged for cash at purchase value before April 30.

A resolution that CYSF organize a mass meeting for today to enable students to discuss the food increase, the bookstore discount, and scrip refunds was passed.

A motion to set up a scrip bank to exchange scrip for cash at full value and a motion to approach the college councils to provide alternate food services through their coffee shops were both referred to an ad hoc committee for study.



Students appear to be pondering possibility of future food boycott.

Mass meeting

on food boycott today
at 12:30 in the bearpit.