

# Season's Greetings

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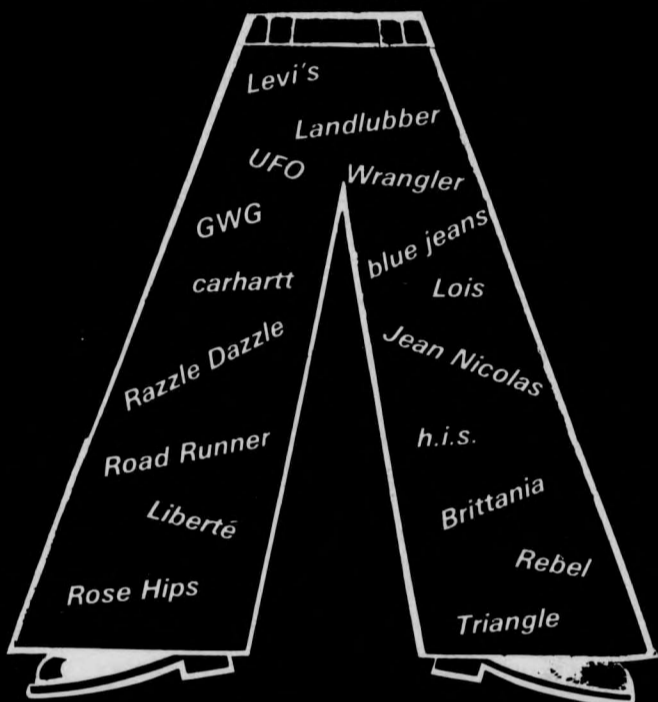


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## York food committee demands termination of catering contract

By PAUL KELLOGG

In a landslide decision, the programme of the Food Action Committee (FAC) was overwhelmingly endorsed by the York student body in last week's food referendum.

The mandate comes as the cafeteria scene in Complex II becomes increasingly gloomy. According to Steve Dranitsaris, Residence Secretary for Stong College, close to 30 students, twice as many as this time last year, have left Stong residence, most of them sighting the impossibility of the food situation as the major reason.

"The students are simply fed up with the university's food service. They can't eat Commercial's food and they can't pay their prices," said Dranitsaris.

### GROWING CLAMOUR

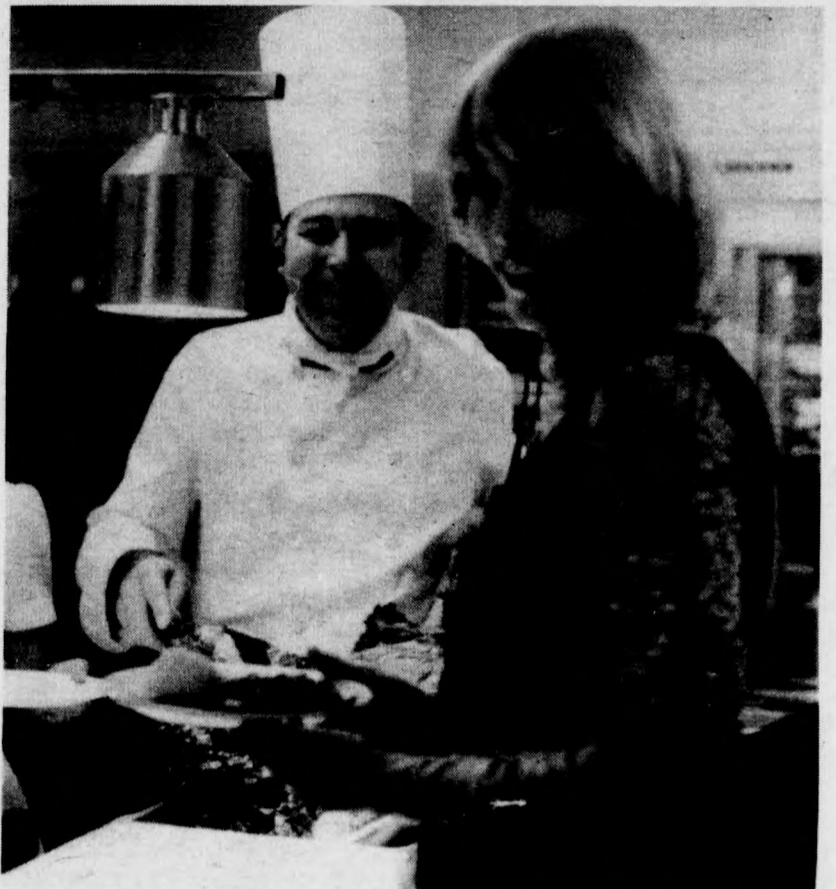
In response to the growing clamour against Commercial Caterers, the University Food Services Committee (UFSC) took a position at last week's meeting in support of the Bethune and Stong demands that Commercial Caterers be removed. UFSC sent a letter to Bill Small, vice-president in charge of administration, demanding that "the contract with Commercial Caterers be terminated in Complex II" and that Small meet with the UFSC to immediately find alternate arrangements for the students in Stong and Bethune.

The UFSC position differs from FAC's on one important point. UFSC considers the possibility of replacing Commercial with another caterer. FAC rejects that possibility out of hand.

### NO SOLUTION

A FAC's programme approved in the referendum and endorsed by CYSF and Bethune College Council, argues that to replace one caterer with another is no solution. Their claim is that the university should run the cafeterias without caterers and without profits, with the York community having real control and final say over all decisions in food services.

The idea finds general acceptance in principle, but most people involved in food services question its feasibility for the immediate future.



Complex II is threatening to terminate Commercial Caterers' contract. Rill Foods may be asked to take over the Complex.

### DAMNED IMPOSSIBLE

"It would be damned near impossible to implement FAC's proposal next term," Bethune master Ioan Davies told Excalibur on Tuesday. "It's something to consider for next year, but we need some more concrete proposals."

However, next year may be too late. Caterer for Complex I, Warren Rill, has often been suggested as an interim caterer for Complex II until the mechanics for establishing a university-run service can be worked out. Rill, however, categorically rejected that idea in an interview with Excalibur.

### BUSINESS MAN

"Listen, I'm a business man. I'd only take on Complex II if I also got Central Square and a long-term contract," said Rill. "To go in for four months and be kicked out so Dale Ritch could take over would only be a waste of my time and money. That's true for any caterer."

"I think it would be fun to watch Dale Ritch run the place. I


honestly don't think he can do as good a job as Commercial. In fact, the prospect of Ritch running Complex II cafeterias makes me worried for the kids. It would be a disaster.

### NO PROFITS


"The FAC doesn't realize one thing. If you had a caterer who was told to run things on a non-profit basis, it just wouldn't work. The caterers would simply disguise profits by distorting real costs. The apparent real costs can be jacked up very high and no one can tell," concluded Rill.

In the failing light of Commercial's cafeterias and the aftermath of a heated Stong residence council meeting, which gave serious consideration to the FAC programme, a member of the council summed up the looming food crisis.

"There's a lot more militancy here than there was in September. We all have our own horror stories about high prices and piss-all quality. Commercial has got to go and if it means a boycott, the picket-lines will be awfully crowded."



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