

opinion

# Marriott's greed questioned

by Andy Marshall

**L**isten! I want to know what you think of Marriott.

Who is that? Marriott is the company that controls the food and beverages for most of the dining halls on campus. No, this is not a survey about the quality of its food. Rather, it's a look at the policy it has with York to provide all catering services for any event which takes place on campus that requires food or beverage.

Marriott has a monopoly on the catering services here at York, and the causes it to act a little unrealistically at times. Did you know that if you wanted to sell pop at any event you're having on campus, you must buy that pop from Marriott? Did you know that Marriott sells you that pop at 80 cents per can, regardless of the amount you order from them?

Simple mathematics show that you pay \$19.20 per case of 24 cans. Would you, in your right mind, go to a grocery store and pay \$19.20 for a case of pop? In Toronto, the most expensive place to live in Canada, you can

buy a case of pop for under \$10 providing you go off York's campus.

Suppose your event was to raise funds for the operation of your student group. You can't resell pop for more than \$1 and expect people to buy it. That means you're making a 20 cent profit per can. That means you've got to sell 100 cans to make \$20 — that's just over 4 cases of pop. You could probably walk down the street asking people for money and make \$20 before you sell 100 cans of pop. Add to this that Marriott refunds your money only on unopened cases, not cans, and you begin to realize that the hassle doesn't justify the pain.

However, with pop, at least you can make a marginal amount of money. If you decide to sell liquor, you definitely lose. Marriott has to provide the liquor, sell the liquor, and then it collects the money and takes it home. Furthermore, you have to pay for the liquor license (unless, it seems you're Crandles and the boys — the administration apparently doesn't have to follow the rules), and you have to pay

for at least six Security officers if you rent one of the dining halls. So you see, liquor is a charity proposition.

Obviously Marriott has a good business deal. It can't lose because it sells all its products at retail prices, regardless of quantity, regardless of who's buying. It's nice to make money, but it gets me just a little upset that they make so much money off of us students, and York's administration encourages them to do so.

Why can't we students be at least on the same level as consumers in the world outside of York University? You would think that being a student at York may bring some advantage to you when planning student activities. After all, on campus groups provide as much an education for their members as professors do in a formal lecture. It's hard to comprehend why the administration allows these silly obstacles in our efforts to educate.

If you feel the way I do, write a letter to the editor of *Excalibur*. Who knows, we might get the administration and Marriott to actually try to be a little human in their policies. Bamma.

# Cheap metropasses a possibility: Merrick

by Cynthia Ruhnke

**T**he Metro Universities and Colleges Caucus (MUCC) a post-secondary school lobby and information group, are working on a Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) metropass discount for students. MUCC and TTC commissioner Lois Griffin are scheduled to meet in mid-October for further discussion.

On August 22, MUCC originally met with Griffin to discuss the possible discount. As a result of the meeting, a TTC metropass photo facility was set up in Central Square on September 26 and 27, giving students an alternative to the Sherbourne station facility.

According to CYSF vice-president (external) Peter Merrick, over 500 students had their photos taken. He added that on August 22, Griffin had said a cheaper metropass would be possible if student response to the photo facility was good.

Merrick had also met with MUCC on a weekly basis during the summer and led a letter-writing campaign for a cheaper metropass.

"We're working toward \$10 off the monthly pass, which we hope

will be implemented by January," said Merrick. He added that 25 of 34 Metro Toronto councillors have responded favourably to a student fare reduction.

Merrick acknowledged the difficulties facing MUCC in its attempt to secure the discount, particularly York's lack of photo identification. "Ideally, it would be best for students to buy the special pass at the ticket booths by showing photo ID," explained Merrick.

He added that a 1987 survey indicated a potential \$2.3 million loss of TTC revenue if the student programme was implemented. Despite this possible financial loss and the current slowdown, Merrick insisted the TTC's response has been positive.

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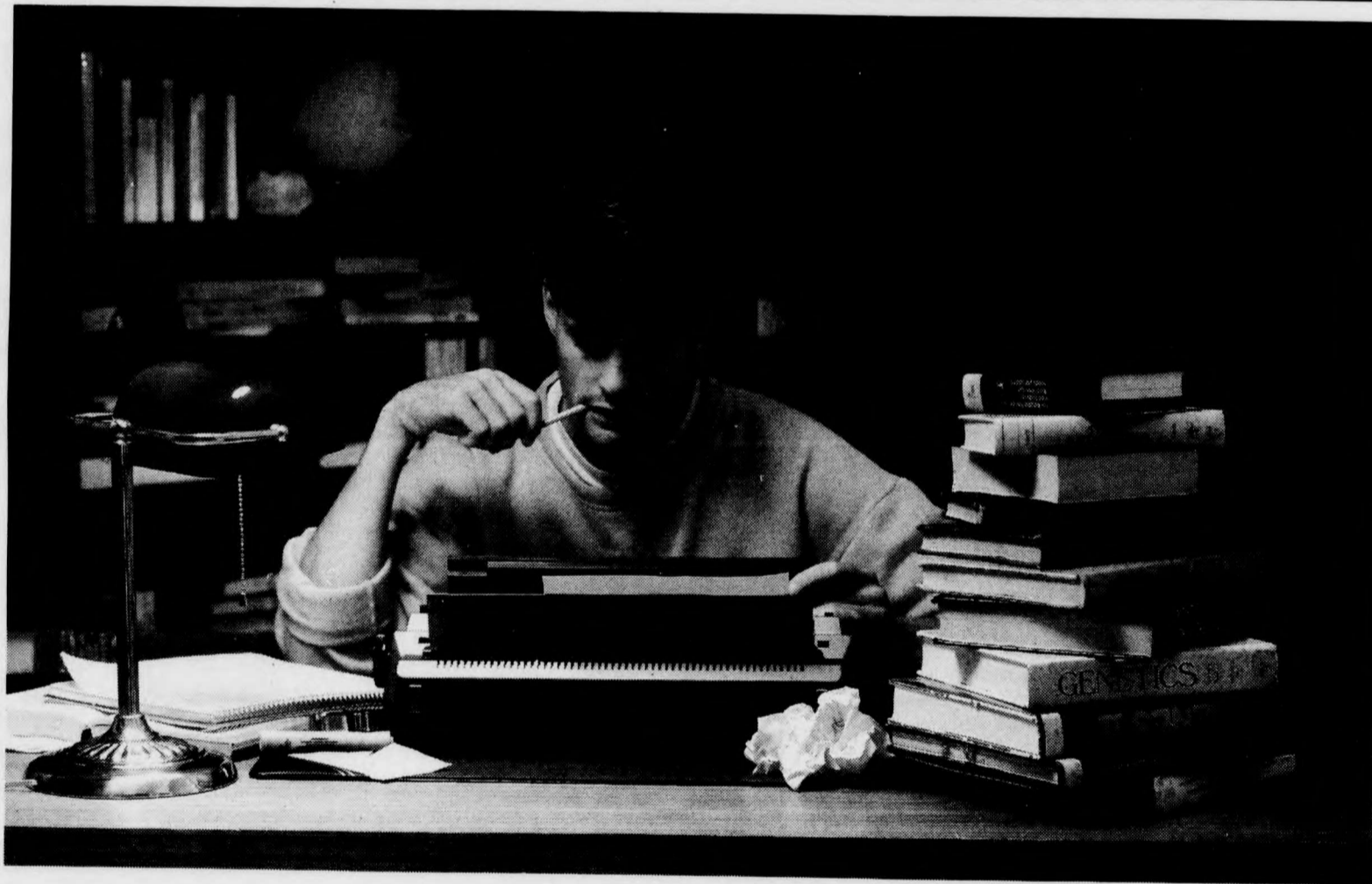
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