

# FEATURES

## The great York University food fight

Ian Bailey

The York campus is dominated by two food merchandising outlets, the *Black Creek Food Co-op* and *Oasis Convenience Store*. Only one other such outlet occurs anywhere near York, and that's the *Dominion* store on Sentinel Avenue. Of the three, *Dominion* and *Oasis* are, perhaps, the closest together in style, with their bright interiors and brand names. At the other extreme lies the *Food Co-op*, less-ordered but no less appealing in food style and variety.

For the purpose of comparison, a shopping list was assembled and prices and quantities noted at all three establishments. The items were chosen to reflect a wide variety of food goods. (Any references to food comparisons in this article can be made by glancing at the chart. —Eds.). Because *Dominion* and *Oasis* differ only on matters of scale, price analysis at both was straightforward. With its less packaged, somewhat non-conventional approach (as well as its avoidance of brand names),

prices at the Co-op were far more difficult to obtain for comparison. Thus, though a picture of the Co-op exists, it's a bit more vague.

The shopping list was examined in relation to all three stores. At times, there is emphasis on brand names in order to establish common factors between the three.

The familiar *Oasis* store in Central Square is owned by the *United Cigar Store* chain, and is managed by Mrs. Joan Hill. The store is based strictly on demand by its primary customers—students. What sells is recorded and earns a place on the shelf a second time when new orders are made. What doesn't sell quickly vanishes, never to be seen again. The *Oasis* has no storeroom, thus, the food is placed directly on display the minute it arrives.

Upon comparing items between *Oasis* and its *Dominion* counterpart, it was discovered that *Oasis*' bill was \$3.91 higher than its *Sentinel* neighbor. This, however, comes as no surprise, as Mrs. Hill personally

	DOMINION	OASIS	FOOD CO-OP
CORNFLAKES	\$1.06	\$1.06	N/A
2 PERCENT MILK (LITRE)	.81	.91	.91
1 LOAF WHOLEWHEAT BREAD	.69	.91	\$1.25
1 DOZEN LARGE EGGS	\$1.26	\$1.38	\$1.50
1 POUND BUTTER	\$2.11	\$2.31	\$2.35
1 BOTTLE ORANGE JUICE	\$1.89	\$1.25	.85
1 (200 g) TIN OF TUNA	\$2.07	\$2.43	\$1.53
TIN OF CHICKEN NOODLE SOUP	.47	.50	.72
1 KRAFT DINNER	.59	.59	N/A
1 (113 g) DECAF. COFFEE	\$3.85	\$3.95	\$2.95/pound
1 (1 pound) PACKAGE OF WEINERS	\$1.98	\$2.29	\$2.20
1 TIN OF MIXED FRUIT	.25	.25	N/A

undertook a price check between her store and *Dominion* with similar results. Apparently, there is one major reason for the price difference: due to its corporate size, *Dominion* has the ability to purchase in larger quantities directly from the manufacturers, whereas *Oasis* must buy from wholesalers. By the principle of its operation,

the Co-op is entirely opposite to the *Oasis*. After all, it is a Co-op rather than a store. The Co-op was created several years ago in response to two concerns in campus food: firstly, that campus food was of poor quality, and, secondly, that it was overpriced. There are concerns over the source of food,

the type of company which manufactured it. The Co-op is essentially a natural food store. Therefore, it stocks such items as apple cider, bran, barley, carob chips, rye flour and granola. In its pursuit of minimal processing, non-perishable items are stored in plastic drums.

The Co-op has 195 members to date, with the price of membership being a \$15 loan, which is returned in the event of resignation. This token sum only covers a minimum of the total cost of being a member. To accept the membership, an individual must agree to work at least 2.5 hours per month at one of the seven required jobs in the store. Members are also expected

to purchase their groceries at the Co-op, the responsibility for which they receive a 12 percent discount.

The Co-op is a difficult store to peg in regard to its streamlined counterpart (in proximity), the *Oasis*. The Co-op places its emphasis on minimal processing and this is reflected in a make-shift quality to displays, as well as in an avoidance of brand names. Additionally, it should be noted that several of the items utilized in the survey were not available at press time.

If there is any conclusion that can be drawn from the analysis, it is that the stores on campus require balanced use. Each store is unique in its own way. If one uses the Co-op, he or she must be prepared for less convenience. A few prices are higher here, but they, perhaps, can be justified by being healthier due to a lack of processing and chemical additives. While the prices at the *Oasis* are higher than *Dominion*, they are offset by the convenience of the *Oasis* location.

## Bob and Doug want you!

Lloyd Wasser

Hello there, fellow Canadians. I'm very pleased to have been allowed this rare opportunity to introduce you to some interesting gentlemen, the infamous Bob and Doug Mackenzie—the Great White North Brothers. As conceived by Second City comedians Dave Thomas and Rick Moranis, these bumbling, inebriated buffoons represent all that is sacred in our great land. Is it any wonder, then, that Trudeau is Prime Minister? Bob and Doug are familiar to all of us. They're the official yahoos of Anytown, Ontario (be it Barrie or Smith Falls), and their comic antics never cease to amuse us when their show, *Great White North*, appears on SCTV each late Friday night.

I'd like to introduce them to you now, so without further ado...



BOB: Good day, eh?

DOUG: Good day.

BOB: I'm Bob Mackenzie, and this here's my brother Doug.

DOUG: Hey, how's it going, eh?

BOB: Yeah, like we've got a topic.

DOUG: Right. Our topic today is, like, about Baseball, you know? Like, how come you don't get beer at the games, eh?

BOB: Yeah, it's a rip. (long pause). Hey, Doug...

DOUG: Yeah? (He opens a beer).

BOB: Like, that's not our topic, you know? That's next week's topic.

DOUG: Take off, eh!

BOB: You take off, ya hose!

DOUG: Hey, like it's my show and I get to pick the topics, okay?

BOB: Well I'm walkin', eh? Good day!

DOUG: (In disgust) What a hoser!

BOB: (Walking back) Whaddiyah say, porkbrain?

DOUG: (Smiling) I said, like, that if you stay I'll, like give you some of my back bacon, okay?

BOB: Okay, eh. Now let's tell 'em the topic.

DOUG: Right. (pause) What is it?

BOB: The contest, you hoser, the contest!

DOUG: Oh, right. Well, like we're havin' a contest with the *Excalibur* folks, and, well, we want you to, like, participate, right Bob?

BOB: Right, eh. Like, ya gotta write an essay...

DOUG: Like in school, you know?

BOB: Right. And it's gotta be about 1000 words long, eh? (slight laughter).

DOUG: Boy, those hosers really got a load, eh? Think they can do it?

BOB: I dunno (pause). And, like, it's gonna be all about What Canada means to all you hosers out there, you know?

DOUG: Right. Canada, eh? Like beer and *Star Wars* and lumber jackets and everything, okay?

BOB: Whaddayah mean, *Star Wars*? They aren't Canadian!

DOUG: Take off, eh!

BOB: Hoser (pause). So, like, the topic is, like, Canada, eh? And you can do all kinds of stuff, like...

DOUG: Yeah, like an essay in school, eh, but without all them talks about history and things. We wanta hear about the real Canada, you know?

BOB: Yeah, stuff like *Sunshine* girls and the CNE and Bill Davis, okay? And, like, we want ya to work hard on these, so's we can pick a winner, 'cause we've got all kinds of neat stuff to give away, you know? Like beer!

DOUG: (whispering) Hey, Bob...

BOB: Hold on, eh? (pause) Like, we wanta see one of you guys clinch the prize, you know? Like...

DOUG: Bob...

BOB: What?

DOUG: I...I drank it.

BOB: Drank what?

DOUG: I drank the beer (he belches). Sorry, eh?

BOB: You drank it? All of it? You hoser! You hoser! That's it, eh, I'm walkin'. That's it! Good day! (He walks away, leaving Doug alone).

DOUG: Good day.

The Mackenzie Brothers Essay Contest is open to all York students, faculty members and employees, with the exception of *Excalibur* staff. Essays must be typed (double-spaced, please), and between 800 and 1000 words in length. The topic is "What Canada Means to Me" and all essays must be composed in the unique Mackenzie style (lots of "like's", "eh's" and "hosers"). All entries will be judged by the *Features* editors (Lloyd Wasser and Howard Shulman) and must be submitted no later than Thursday, November 19, 1981.

First prize will be a case of beer, with the first runner-up receiving a genuine package of honest-to-goodness Canadian back bacon. So get writing, you hosers!



Bob and Doug: waiting for Godot.

### Security report....

## Crime on campus

Mike Guy

"Much of the crime that occurs at York can be avoided," claims George Dunn, who has been Director of York's Safety and Security Department for 12 years. "York students are too trusting — they leave their purses, containing enormous amounts of money, resting on a desk in the library, thus, they get stolen. Carelessness is at fault here.

"Thirty-thousand people attend York," continues Dunn. "We are located in an area which has the second highest crime rate in Metro. Considering the number of people at York and our location, the crime rate is not that bad."

Dunn emphasizes that criminal offences are serious, however, they must be examined proportionally. For example, in 1979, 55 thousand dollars worth of merchandise was stolen from York, as compared to the 47 thousand dollars worth stolen in 1980. It must be remembered that the dollar figure does not represent the number of individual theft. For one they may steal \$13,000 worth of electrical equipment, as was done in the Behavioural Science Building last year.

"Because York has so many forested and grassy open spaces, the campus is almost perfectly conducive to rapists to come in and commit their acts undetected," says Dunn, obviously concerned about this problem.

"Over the summer there were two cases of Rape at York. People phoned me complaining about excessive amounts of rape when the fact is that in both incidents the attacker and the victim did not attend York. In one York incident of rape, which occurred five years ago, a man walked onto the campus and proceeded to rape one of our students. Cases of rape involving only York students usually turn out to be false. Such an incident happened at Bethune College a few years back. When we investigated the crime, we found that it wasn't a rape, but a case of breaking and entering."

The most prevalent crime at York is indecent exposure. Over the course of a year there are as many as 14 cases of indecent exposure. That's an average of more than one per month. Psychiatrists say that "flashers" are peaceful people, who get their thrills by exposing themselves.

The incidents of rape that Dunn speaks of are reported incidents. Various women's groups say that there are hundreds of rapes that go unreported because the attacker is a York student, so the girl will not tell the police.

"The group that we worry about are those that commit assault. We have about 10 assaults here during the year. However, the majority of these

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