

## editorial

York is just one big mess this week and it all stems from bad planning and communication failure.

North York fire marshal David Gazey has prohibited display tables in Central Square as they constitute a fire hazard. He actually informed York's fire marshal of this two years ago, and the university decided to ignore him.

When Gazey received a call from director of housing and food services Norman Crandles, who inquired about where he could place a hot dog stand, Gazey realized his ruling had been ignored. As a result, the vendors and clubs who used the tables lost them.

There is a rumour circulating, however, that a second phone call was made to the North York fire marshal specifically to complain about the crowding of tables in Central Square. Even though Gazey denies this, provost Elizabeth Hopkins and vice-president (finance and administration) Bill Farr still were looking yesterday for the person who made the mysterious call. Director of student affairs Cora Dusk will also not confirm if there was a second call made or not.

It is obvious that no one from the administration has called Gazey to find out if he received a second phone call, or even to confirm what he spoke to Crandles about. Believing that there may be a second phone call after Gazey has denied it is in effect calling the North York fire marshal a liar.

This is ridiculous. Gazey would gain nothing from withholding information, as he has no personal stake in Central Square or York's clubs. His only interest is to protect York students from injuries caused by fire.

Many people also believe Crandles called the fire marshal on purpose to clear out Central Square to make more room for his hot dog stand and Tim Horton's doughnut shop. Crandles said this is "completely absurd. I called at the request of [York's fire marshal] John Colpitts. I thought that I called the fire marshal to negotiate the spot. The tables have nothing to do with me."

Crandles has nothing to gain from the removal of tables from Central Square. He lost his hot dog stand and its revenue, just as the clubs have lost their space. Also, no tables were ever placed where the Tim Horton's stand now sits. Who would want space in the smoking corridor anyway?

What Crandles is guilty of is extreme naivete in thinking that making a call to Gazey would not have the implications that it did. Crandles should have consulted with his boss Bill Farr and with the provost. Saying that Colpitts told him to call is no excuse. He should have thought things out before listening to Colpitts.

Then we get to the protest itself. The clubs have set up in Central Square in defiance of the ruling, they have held meetings and yesterday had a rally. Student activism is sorely needed at York, and the protest is generating a lot of positive interest in student activities and some basic problems facing the York community.

Students have a right to be angry that a solution to the fire regulation problem was not reached through negotiations that should have started two years ago with the fire marshal's ruling. Student affairs, which allocates space in Central Square, decided to bend the rules, instead of looking for a mutually satisfactory solution. The department, by not dealing with the situation reasonably, perhaps by having meetings with the clubs and the CYSF, was looking for this problem. They should have foreseen it.

There is, however, much more to this protest. Its focus is always changing. On Monday, the clubs and the CYSF were angry at Crandles and his department. An information sheet released by the CYSF said in one paragraph, "They have set up donut and hot dog stands in Central Square (further exploitation of the already financially saturated student body)." In a following paragraph they say, "We don't disapprove of donuts and dogs being sold in Central Square."

Brilliant.

On Tuesday the topic of student protest was "York not Yorkdale." The day's release said, "Business revenues have been earned at the expense of students and chronic government underfunding has intensified this trend." Translated this seems to mean that students are being forced to buy hot dogs and doughnuts they do not want, which is making it harder for them to pay their tuition. Underfunding is an extremely serious problem, and students should rally and protest about it, but what does a hot dog stand have to do with it? Is Tim Horton's responsible for tuition increases, large class sizes and decreasing government grants?

And, the issue of the fire regulations has been lost.

The situation must be clarified. York fire marshal John Colpitts and director of student affairs Cora Dusk have been breaking the law (and potentially putting lives in danger) for two years in order to accommodate clubs and vendors. They did this in the best interests of students. Crandles, and housing and food services, are not out to destroy the club system at this university in the pursuit of money.

What it all comes down to is that Captain Gazey did his job in enforcing the law. Why wasn't Colpitts doing his?

Underfunding and overcrowding are serious and pressing problems, as is the fact that clubs were not consulted in order to find a solution to the space problem. Instead of protests that are dividing the university, the administration and the students should be protesting together against both the provincial and federal governments.

It all comes down to them.

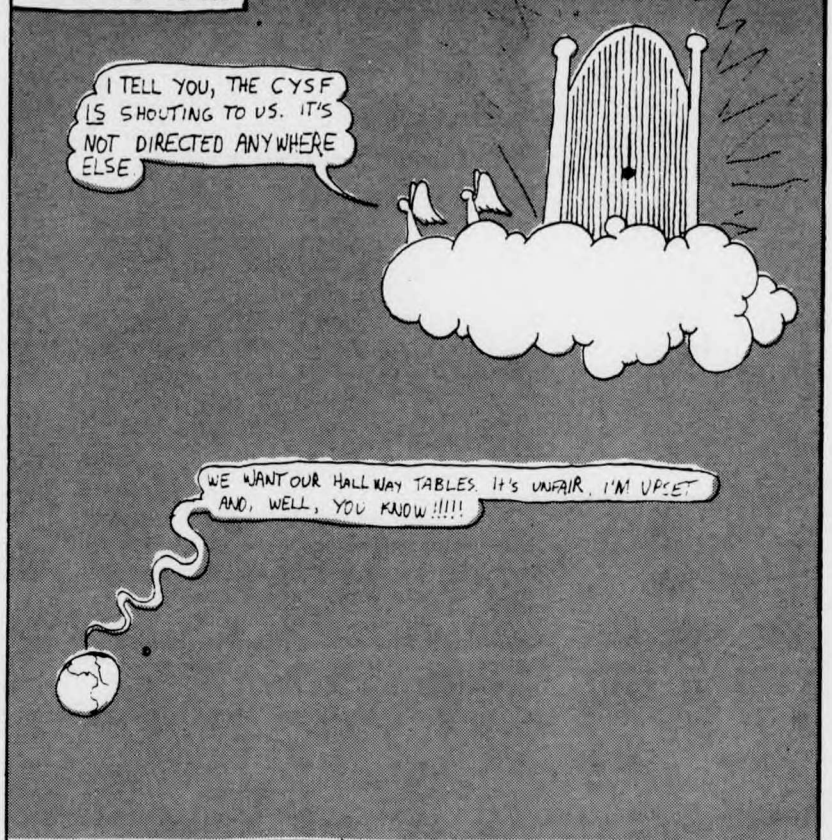
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## OUR World...



## letters

### Councils beef about Marriott's service

This letter is directed to Marriott's Food Services Director Eric Cameron.

Dear Editors:

I am writing with regard to the food service offered by the Marriott Corporation at York University on behalf of the undersigned.

It has come to our attention that both the service and many of Marriott's new marketing policies on campus have been highly unsatisfactory and on a steady decline. Whilst some improvements in overall organization and staffing have been noted, we have found the following areas to be of particular concern:

1. Food Quality: On numerous occasions since Marriott commenced food services at Complex 1 and 2, food quality has been below an acceptable level. It is clearly evident that taste, nutrition and presentation of your product is extremely poor and complaints pertaining to these fundamental areas have been brought to my attention repeatedly.

2. Meal Plans: Whilst recognizing the need for Marriott to have a guaranteed financial income from which to work, we feel that at the same time this income must (as with any business) be earned. This is only possible through a concerted effort to please the majority of customers.

The meal plans currently

employed at York are, we feel, being unfairly imposed upon all first year undergraduate residents. They offer absolutely no choice in dining, and in no way provide incentive for Marriott to such lack of flexibility means students are reluctant to eat in, or in many cases go without.

3. Prices and Portions: In keeping with today's inflation rate it is only natural that Marriott would increase prices slightly over those of last year. However, we adamantly feel that in light of the service rendered to us the prices are far too exorbitant. This is particularly evident when considering not only the food quality (as addressed earlier) but the size of portions as well.

It is our understanding that the prices, portions and indeed the menu rotation are implemented by a regional control department and that the York University Marriott Services follow these stipulations.

If this is indeed the case, we would demand the appropriate department responsible for such guidelines respond to the concerns of both the resident population at large and high percentage of the student body as well. The general sentiment is one of disgust at having to pay for food service that in no way warrants the prices tendered.

In closing, I would wish to note that specific examples of the above outlined concerns are available, but they have been omitted herein in the interest of creating an atmosphere of good will.

It is highly unsatisfying that these complaints be addressed (as have been the case in the past) in a manner befitting nothing short of hierarchial "passing-the-buck." I would therefore request that these concerns be addressed promptly and an opportunity be arranged as to when this can be discussed.

Marriott has and continues to be a corporation of prominence in North America. At York University however, it is falling short of the excellent service with which one would come to expect as synonymous with the name Marriott.

I thank you for your kind attention to this matter, and look forward to a reply at your earliest convenience.

Yours truly,  
Andrew L. Clarke  
Chairman,  
Vanier College Council

On behalf of:  
Bethune Residence Council  
Founders Residence Council  
McLaughlin Residence Council  
Stong Residence Council  
Vanier Residence Council  
Winters Residence Council

### Pete's confused

Dear Editors:

Readers of Mr. Donato's somewhat confused letter of Oct. 19 have no doubt surmised that his complaints regarding *Excalibur's* ongoing transition to a larger, more frequent paper are filled with inaccuracies.

Had Donato taken any pains to ensure that a CYSF representative was present at the September meeting of our Board of Publications (a meeting which, after submitting written notice, I also informed him of personally), or even consulted his files for information from the minutes of previous meetings, he would know the switch to more frequent service had (necessarily) been planned well in advance of last fall's referendum: that those plans included a period in which editorial and production staff adjusted to larger issues; and that the tentative starting date for trial twice weekly service was January of

1990. He would also be aware that the Board of Publications takes the issue of the commitment of additional student funds very seriously, that we took great pains in the wording of the referendum not to mislead the student body, and that we ensured material distributed and published in the newspaper in advance of the referendum made our position clear.

Donato also makes a murky reference to some kind of profit motive on the part of *Excalibur*, and implies that advertising to copy ratios can be taken as evidence. Again, it would have taken very little effort on his part to discover that *Excalibur* is a not for profit corporation, that the student contribution to the cause (though extremely important to us) comprises roughly one third of our total budget, that advertising to copy ratios in the newspaper is on par with other large student newspapers, and that the vast majority of what we publish is the

work of unpaid volunteers who, in fact, regularly pay a price on their grade point averages as a result of their commitment. Calling fiscal responsibility from our general manager and subsistence level payment for our editors a profit motive is beyond ludicrous.

It's clear from Donato's letter that he has an axe to grind with *Excalibur*, which means only that he has something in common with just about everyone who has ever held his office. If Donato has problems with the editorial direction of our newspaper then it is his right, and indeed his responsibility, to make them known. It is also, however, his job to deal responsibly with issues affecting the student body and that job includes, at its most basic level, getting his facts straight.

Sincerely  
Kevin Connolly  
Chairperson  
Board of Publications  
*Excalibur*