

Laurier cafeteria serves tainted meat

WATERLOO (CUP) Tainted Meat manager of Wilfrid Laurier University served tainted meat to students, washed her hair in kitchen sinks used for food preparation and made one employee run her personal errands, seven former and current food services employees allege.

Millie Reiner has cooked freezer burned meat and retrieved meat that has been thrown in the gargage by other cooks, the employees—six of whom wish to remain anonymous—told the university newspaper, *Cord Weekly*.

"It's not a rule but it does occur," one of the employees said.

The employees said the tainted meat usually finds its way to the students' plates and some of them now refuse to eat anything in the dining hall.

"There have been occasions that cases of T-steak were so sour that they almost gave me the dry heaves," said Dave Finockio, a 24-year-old cook's helper who worked in the Laurier kitchen for two school years but was laid off this spring and not recalled to work this September.

"Millie would come over and she and Grace (Cook, the early shift cook) would pick up some meat that did not look or smell too bad," Finockio said.

Three of the employees charged that the sinks in which Reiner has washed and dyed her hair are used for food preparation and the cleaning of pots. They said the shampooing was often done as late as 8 am. They also said she displays favoritism to certain employees and has hired her cousin, daughter-in-law and sister-in-law to work in the kitchen.

The kitchen porter Matt Cox, who was implicated by the three employees as the person who does personal errands for Reiner, has admitted to the charges. He says he has changed the oil of Reiner's car and purchased her beer while being paid by the university for working in the kitchen.

Both Reiner and Cook, however, deny they have served spoiled meat to students. "We eat that meat ourselves," Cook said. "Why would we pick out food that was not good enough to eat if there was a chance that we could be eating it ourselves?"

But Reiner admitted she has washed her hair in sinks used for cleaning pots and did so as late as 8 am. She said her sister-in-law, Eva, has helped her washing her hair.

"We might do it every month or so," Eva said. "But it is always done in a sink at the back that is not used for cooking and we do it in hours that food is not being served or prepared."

Reiner said she and her sister-in-law have always cleaned up afterwards and will not wash her hair at work anymore. "We always rinse the sink out with Javex," she added.

Reiner also admitted that Cox was sent on errands but claimed they were done after hours and did not infringe on his work. "Sometimes Matt would borrow my car to go out to the store and buy things for the dining hall but those

times were not personal."

Reiner dismissed Finockio's charges of unfair labour practices saying he was not a reliable employee and had to be suspended last February for missing work. She says when he was at work, he would often "disappear" but admitted he usually did a good job and knew what to do when he was around.

The student council is thinking of closing down the food services in the pub and planned to discuss the issue at a council meeting following *The Cord Weekly's* exposé. The story shocked many council members, who said they should do something on behalf of students who regularly eat there.

"There's certainly a question in my mind regarding the quality of food being served to students," said vice-president Barb Mlot. "If the situation warrants it, we may stop serving [chili and stew] at Wilf's [the student pub]."

Some council members said they are concerned the employees did not release their names and pledged they would support the employees if they went public.

Two days after the story appeared in the *Cord Weekly*, two health inspectors spoke to Reiner. They told her to clean out the freezer's floor and replace the foil in the vegetable cooler.

Waterloo security confused

WATERLOO (CUP)—The University of Waterloo Security Force "thought they had the drug bust of the century" when they entered the Theatre of the Arts and found a bag of fake marijuana, says Douglas Abel, chair of the UW drama club.

The fake dope was a prop for the play, *Fishing*, about a group of '60's hippies trying to make it in the '70's.

Abel thinks the cleaning staff must have found some dead chickens in the garbage and phoned security. The chickens, he says, were also props for the play and were purchased in the state in which they were found. They were not, he stressed, killed on stage.

In addition to the fake marijuana, the police confiscated two unloaded rifles, an airgun and a .22, used as props, and discovered a car and a motorcycle backstage.

Security contacted Abel and told him that they had taken the "marijuana" and the rifles, and that they couldn't have them back. They also inquired as to why live chickens were being beaten on stage, and ordered that the vehicles be removed.

In reiterating his contention that the marijuana was fake, Abel said that "for one thing, our budget is such that we couldn't afford to use real dope." □

Citizens advocacy providing service

By KATHY ARSENAULT

Bill Grant is a pleasant-faced man with a genuine interest in the people he is helping. He is also very busy these days. He is Director of the Citizens Advocacy office at 5871 Spring Garden Road in Halifax, having recently moved from 1546 Barrington St. Grant had previously been involved in working with the mentally handicapped before his present appointment.

Citizen Advocacy is a programme operated by the Halifax Branch of the Association for the Mentally Retarded. There are numerous branches in North America, but the Halifax Branch is the only one of its kind in Nova Scotia.

The Citizen Advocacy programme was established to support one-to-one relationships between mentally handicapped persons, and in most cases to try to match them up with volunteers.

Grant mentioned a case where one man had received a new lease on life by the caring and sharing of a couple in the community.

The young man in question had spent his entire life in facilities for the mentally handicapped, and never had any long-term relationships with anyone. The only people he came in contact with were the people in the group home where he lived. About five years ago he met a couple who took him into their home and their hearts. He spent most weekends with them. The relationship with these new friends grew, and his self-confidence grew. When they would leave for the occasional weekend he at first felt rejected, but eventually came to

realize that this did not mean they did not care for him.

He had never enjoyed a permanent relationship with anyone before and it was like a dream come true. Now he trusts them and has become happy and relaxed in their company. He lived in four different homes before he met his friends, and this does not offer any permanency in relationships. Even though staff members may show caring and kindness, when the staff changes that relationship is broken and he once again feels isolated and alone.

The purpose of Citizen Advocacy is threefold.

Since the mentally handicapped person is usually quite isolated in the community and hasn't developed many contacts, it allows them to develop at least one friendship with a responsible, caring adult in the community.

This not only helps the mentally handicapped person but also the person who has volunteered. It gives the volunteer a good feeling to know that he or she is doing something worthwhile and making life a bit more livable for someone who needs a friend.

Secondly, the volunteer helps with practical problems such as housing, clothing and entertainment, and is often able to help the mentally handicapped learn new skills, integrating them into society and making them a real part of the community.

Thirdly, the volunteer can assist in seeing the mentally handicapped get all the services they are entitled to receive. Quite often the mentally disadvantaged do not receive all the services they are entitled to because



they are not aware they exist.

Some of the people assisted are severely handicapped and others to a lesser degree. Grant says a lot of the problems arise from the handicapped person's background and lack of opportunity, but there are many reasons for mental retardation. Research is being done in this area and helpful new discoveries are being made.

"However," observed Grant, "there is nothing that can take the place of the 'human touch.' The mentally handicapped are human, just like everyone else, and need to feel that they are cared about and taken notice of, and they really warm to a caring relationship.

"Quite often," added Grant, "I am afraid we have created stereotypes, and they sometimes behave the way they know they are expected to behave. Mentally handicapped people should be treated the same as you would treat anyone else—with courtesy and respect." □

Women fight for centres

TORONTO (CUP)—A small tent decorated with balloons is the closest thing yet to a women's centre at the University of Toronto.

The coalition for a women's centre, made up of concerned women students at the university, pitched a tent Nov. 6 in protest of the administration's failure to give the group space.

"Things have dragged on long enough," coalition representative Paula Kochman said. "It's time [the administration] sat down, talked to us and got with it."

The group has been waiting since August for the administration to negotiate a space and will meet with the women's studies department and Lois Reimer, the university's status of women officer, to discuss sponsorship of the centre by the department. The group's application was turned down by the student council recently.

The university, which is marking the centenary of women's admission to the institution this year, has not rejected nor accepted the coalition's request. It has only supported the idea in principle.

"Admission is not enough," Kochman said. "There are problems [for women] which are not being dealt with."



Canadian University press.

Kochman, who said a women's centre could deal with such problems, echoed the coalition's press release which read: "[The U of T has] the dismal distinguishing point of being the only major university in Ontario without a women's centre."

But the group's protest disappointed Reimer, who said the coalition should have waited until the meeting with the department and herself. The university's space policy requires groups which are neither a university department nor a recognized student society to

obtain the sponsorship of an academic or administrative unit.

"I had thought the women's centre people knew what I was trying to do behind the scenes," she said.

Kochman, however, acknowledged the bureaucracy with which Reimer must deal and said the women's centre should be made a high priority.

The coalition has received support from more than 50 students, staff and faculty organizations. The student council has pledged to donate \$5,000 if the centre gets the needed space. □