

# Excalibur

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## Versafood stays no tenders called

By MICHAEL MOURITSEN

Versa Food will remain the food caterer at York's main campus for another year.

At its meeting last Friday, the University Food Service Committee (UFSC) voted to offer the catering contract for one year to VS Services, without calling for tenders.

The committee also recommended that college coffee shops selling sandwiches should be levied "standard university overhead charges," and that all special functions in the university be catered solely by the food service department.

The motion to recommend extending the Versa contract, which expires on April 30, was approved by a vote of 7 to 2, with one abstention.

Assistant ancillary services director Norman Crandles recommended against calling tenders, arguing that Versa's service had improved considerably this year, and that VS would probably be chosen even if tenders were called. He noted that the Glendon contract with Beaver Foods would expire next spring, and that both contracts could be tendered at that time.

Vanier College student representative Robert Colson suggested that it would be "irresponsible" of the committee not to call for tenders. He felt that the university had nothing to lose by inviting competitive bids, even if Versa Food's was the only acceptable tender.

Versa representatives who had been in attendance at all previous USFC meetings, had been asked by Crandles not to be present Friday.

Most of the meeting was spent discussing food sales in college coffee shops. Some shops (such as the Cock and Bull, the Absinthe and the Ainger)

currently sell sandwiches, soup and hot snacks as an alternative to food service-operated outlets. Unlike the food service department, coffee shops do not pay physical plant maintenance charges.

UFSC vice-chairman Peter Jarvis, assistant to the master in Bethune College, argued in favour of a "free-market" food system, in which coffee shops could sell whatever food they wished. He felt, however, that it was only fair that all outlets selling food should contribute an equitable amount to university overhead.

The proposal finally adopted, with only one opposing vote, offers coffee shops two choices: sell only beverages, doughnuts, chips and confection items and be spared overhead charges, or compete with food service outlets for the food dollar but pay the same kinds of university charges.

Osgoode student representative Michael Hennessy, chairman of the UFSC finance sub-committee, suggested charging coffee shops a percentage of sales, payable to the food service department. He noted that the food services deficit would not be lessened if coffee shops paid charges to physical plant.

Senior common rooms, licensed lounges operated by a private club for faculty and administrative staff, will be offered the same basic alternative as the student coffee shops.

In other business, the UFSC voted to require university groups to use the food services department for catering special functions, unless it is unable to provide service comparable to that of an outside caterer.

The committee also approved a recommendation that the expiry date for scrip be extended to May 3 from April 30.



Relaxing after a satisfying meal at the Central Square cafeteria, this student reflects on the fact that Versafood will be around for yet-another year. Perhaps, he muses, they will open that gourmet res-

taurant they've been promising. Rabbit stew, for instance. With just a touch of horsemeat. "How much horsemeat?" Well, about fifty-fifty. "Fifty-fifty?" Yes. One rabbit, one horse.

## Year-end interview

### Yolton is glad his time is up

By JULIAN BELTRAME

When John Yolton accepted the position of caretaker president of York University in mid-January last year, he made it clear he really didn't want the job.

This explains why he doesn't in the least regret nearing the completion of his term as occupant of the ninth floor president's offices, in the Ross building.

Strange as it seems, it was probably because Yolton didn't want the job that the executive of the Senate appealed to him after their first choice, Richard Storr, quit after one day as president, due to ill health.

"I'm viewed as non-partisan," the one-time philosophy professor told Excalibur in an interview Monday. "And there was the thing about the wise old man," he added jokingly.

"That showed that the biggest problem (forcing former president David Slater to resign) was not money, but morale, so the committee needed someone with that background. No I didn't want it, but I'm not one that says no very easily when I'm needed."

Yolton had previously taken the post of acting graduate dean, filling a vacancy there. "For a while you could see me going from one office to the other," he reminisced.

With no background in finance, Yolton seemed the least likely man to carry the university out of the financial bind that led to Slater's dismissal. But what Yolton lacked in background was more than balanced by his cool-headed approach to solving problems, and his concern for the university.

"I don't really see the president doing that much," he explained. "The president is like the conductor of an orchestra. If everyone is not doing what they should be, or can do, then there isn't very much the president can do."

#### BALANCED BUDGET

"I may be famous for having balanced the budget," he confided when asked to list his achievements. "This year we did balance the budget, but the most important accomplishment of the community is that we moved ahead academically."

While he talks of the budget with pride, Yolton stresses that York is still

a long way from solving its economic problems. "We still carry behind an accumulated deficit and a capital deficit between five and six million dollars."

"The interest on that alone would give us the scholarship money we need," he said.

Yolton doesn't accept the view that individual university presidents should resist the policies of the Davis government, concerning funds.

"I don't see how any individual president can lobby or take the lead in changing the government's priorities," he said. "The COU (Council of Ontario Universities, of which every university president is a member) can do a lot, and has done a lot."

"There's been a tremendous amount of activity on the part of universities trying to alert the minister to our problems," he said. But he admits the COU so far has failed to change the government's mind. He suggests that the best way to bring about some change in priorities is through public relations work with the general public.

#### SAME SIZE

Yolton believes York is entering a period in which it will re-evaluate its function and its programmes. "I don't think we're in an expansion era any longer," he said. "My guess is that for the next five years we're going to be staying pretty well the same size."

"I think the problem for the next five years is integration. We're a fragmented society; we don't know anything about each other," he observed.

He singled out unfamiliarity of faculties with each other and their work as the major problem facing incoming president Ian Macdonald. "We have professors doing work in the outside community and nobody knows about it," he said.

Asked to evaluate the effect of York's past accelerated growth on the quality of education supplied by the university, Yolton discounted the theory that expansion has undermined quality. "I think very few people realize what a fantastic faculty we have," he said.

"The matter of quality would always be a problem for a second university in a city where there is an old

established university. We still have the Toronto syndrome; parents still want their children to go to U of T," he said.

The result of the Toronto syndrome is that top students opt for the University of Toronto, leaving York with a very low percentage of top students. "They have a tremendous drawing power, and they're a first class university," he conceded.



JOHN YOLTON

"In the 60's, there was tremendous provincial pressure that there be a place for every qualified person in the province to go to university. Sixty per cent was our cut-off point, and we weren't in the position to refuse anyone who qualified."

"But certainly our faculty is in many cases the equal to that of the U of T, in some cases I would say better."

#### SCHOLARSHIPS

There are many students who no longer wish to go to the U of T, he pointed out. In the past year, by offering entrance scholarships to worthy high school graduates, York was able to raise its ratio of 80 per cent students (students who graduate from high school with an average of 80 or better) from one per cent to five per cent.

This is an indication that York is starting to get a better grade of student, he said.

As soon as his duties as president end, Yolton plans to return to Oxford to do research for his next book on the term 'idea' as it was understood in the 17th and 18th centuries.

Upon completion of the book, Yolton plans to return to York and teach philosophy, but he will refuse any administrative post, even his old job as chairman of the philosophy department, which he vacated last year to become acting president.

That is, unless there's another emergency.

## Senate passes free speech

By GARFIELD M. PAYNE

Freedom of speech and the University of Toronto's attempts to provide a platform for the exercise of this right were endorsed in a Senate motion Thursday.

The motion, made by Michael Mouritsen, was opposed by most of the other student representatives on the Senate.

Dale Ritch, a former CYSF presidential candidate, said the University of Toronto had not attempted to provide a platform for speakers of all diverse views.

He cited the disruption of speeches by William Kunstler, one of the Chicago Seven's defence counsels, and by Michel Chartrand and Robert Lemieux on the October Crisis as evidence for his contention.

A motion by the Senate library committee which would have prevented the awarding of degrees to any graduate or undergraduate student holding overdue books from any Ontario university library, was referred back to committee for precise specification, especially regarding appeals.

The motion would also have provided for the withdrawal of faculty as well as student library privileges for those holding overdue materials.

A motion by Jack Layton, a graduate student senator, to express the discontent of the Senate at the manner in which 1974-75 budget proposals were prepared and approved by the administration was withdrawn when it was made clear that no formal procedures for this existed. The Senate would investigate ways to ensure the President's Council did not become autocratic.

The Senate also disapproved a motion which shortened the period before a student could apply for readmission to the university after debarment from three to two years.



Duddy Kravitz .....	p. 16	Year-end review .....	p. 11
Kibbutz Kids .....	p. 8	Irish Studies .....	p. 14
Subliminal seduction .....	p. 9	How to hike .....	p. 19