

## Cross Canada Campus

### School kids are soldiers

#### TORONTO

School is like the army, both have company commanders, platoons, platoon leaders, and a regimental sergeant-major, says Lloyd Denis, co-author of the Hall-Dennis report on education for the Ontario government.

"When I take a look at my school, I notice a striking similarity between it and the last company I commanded in the army," he said.

"It wasn't so long ago," he said, "that I marched little children into my schools six years of age, left, right, left, right to military music. March in, sit down, shut up, stand up, sing the Queen, salute the flag, now sit down and listen to the word of God, according to Dennis.

By the way, the company commander is the principal, the platoon, the class; the platoon leaders, the teacher; the sergeant-major, the caretaker.

### Waterloo board permits press

#### WATERLOO

The board of governors at the University of Waterloo allowed reporters into its meetings for the first time Nov. 14.

Two members of the student newspaper, the Chevron, were admitted to the session after trying for two months to crack the board's meetings. They remained there for all discussion except discussion of land purchases and salaries.

In making the motion to allow the Chevron observer rights, alumni representative Bill McGratten said he could see no reason why the public should not be informed of the board's proceedings.

There was no dissent.

### Acadia accepts senate seats

#### WOLFVILLE, NS

Acadia University students will send two voting representatives to the university's senate.

The senate granted the seats Oct. 28.

The Acadia senate sits in closed session, but Greg Warner, student president told student council the senators would work from within to help bring about "needed changes."

The student council voted to accept the seats after a long argument about tokenism, closed meetings and selection methods.

### What's it all about, Winnipeg

#### WINNIPEG

The University of Winnipeg is following the lead set by other Canadian universities searching for a definition of the university satisfactory to all in the academic community and has established a commission to study "the nature and role of the university."

The Winnipeg commission will be made up of three students, two faculty members, two governors, two senators and the school's vice-chancellor as chairman.

### Playing the representivity game

#### OTTAWA

The representivity game has become so popular it's bringing virtually unknown universities to the forum.

St. Paul University, an Ottawa Roman Catholic philosophy and theology institute, now has two non-voting students on its senate. They will be granted voting powers as soon as changes are approved in the university's ecclesiastical charter.

Rector of the university, Rev. Marcel Patry, said student dissent was definitely present at St. Paul, although the problem was not as acute among the 500 students there as it was at other universities.

### UNB hauls out history hacks

#### FREDERICTON

Two Ontario history professors arrived here Nov. 15 and blasted the University of New Brunswick administration in an airport press conference held as soon as they got off the plane.

Professors George Rawlyk (Queen's) and Mike Cross (Toronto) were in Fredericton to take part in a weekend history symposium sponsored by the UNB history club.

They had threatened earlier in the week to boycott the affair but agreed to a compromise proposed by students to move the conference to nearby St. Thomas University.

"I felt UNB shouldn't be dignified by having academics attending a function there," said Cross.

Rawlyk said he had reservations about coming to UNB as well as: "I knew something about the New Brunswick establishment and feared the (Dr. Norman) Strax suspension was an attempt to neutralize protest against it."

## No end in sight for Versa food

by David H. Blain

In the last few years Versafood, because of poor service or higher costs, has lost its concessions at McMaster, Carleton and the University of Calgary.

Versafood is a Canadian-operated American-owned company which was bought out last year by Automatic Retailers of America. VF, because of the takeover, now has the use of ARA's research facilities in the preparation of new dishes.

York isn't alone. Loyola, in Montreal, and Mt. Allison, in NB, are just two other Canadian universities under the thumb of VF. Mt. Allison students have had Versafood slung at them for thirteen years now and are still relatively content.

The contract between VF and York is maintained on a cost-plus basis. The university pays for food, operating expenses and salaries. Once these items are totalled, VF is paid 5% on the first \$520,000 and 2 1/4% on anything after that as a management fee. This means that if the university spends \$630,000 on expenses, VF will be \$32,000 in the black at the end of the year.

The 1968/69 budget is \$773,426 including the management fee. If expenditures should exceed the yearly budget then York picks up the tab.

On this basis it seems only logical that VF would want to improve the quality of its food and the excellence of its service since the greater the costs the higher the profits. The only drawback is that if VF continually exceeds the budget then contract renewal may not be forthcoming.

Versafood has maintained a symbiotic relationship with York since the university rose sluggishly out of once green pasture land. The food contract wasn't formally renewed each year but was allowed to ride along. This year numerous other companies were under consideration and as a result formal renewal was the word.

Among the companies which entered bids were Beaver Foods and Saga. Beaver Foods replaced VF at McMaster and ever since has been doggedly fighting a running battle with its dissatisfied clientel. McMaster students have become so disgruntled that they've resorted to the bulk buying of food and preparation by student chefs.

The only company showing signs of endangering VF's strangle-hold is Saga, a California based organization which has moved into Canada just recently.

Three short years ago Saga captured the hearts and stomachs of Carleton University and ever since then has received massive student support.

Carleton students speak proudly of the improvement in the quality of the food and are generally satisfied with student-management relations. Saga's employment of students was a major factor in improving relations between them and the company.

Versafood has always been willing to listen to complaints and criticisms. In its first year on campus VF established the Food Service Committee to keep channels to students open.

The present chairman of the committee is J.R. Allen, business manager at York. Allen is a Queens grad and a 25 year veteran of the army. This semester marked the beginning of his third year on campus.

Allen said that VF employs students in faculty bars and also waiters and waitresses for formal functions. In this respect, Saga has no edge.

Saga put in a bid this year that closely paralleled that of VF. The VF contract was renewed though since VF, Allen explained, was already established at York and was well known by the administration.

It was due to the 30% miss-meal factor that the university prompted VF to adopt the eat-as-much-as-you-can plan. Some students have interpreted this as being indicative of student rejection of VF, but Allen says simply, "I doubt this."

Each year the Board of Governors sifts through the tenders ultimately arriving at some suitable firm to be contracted for the subsequent year.

Theoretically the choice is a Board decision but in practice the tenders are analyzed and a firm selected by H.B. Parks, vice-president of the Board's financial committee.

Last year the Board sought student and faculty ratification of VF by issuing a questionnaire. The results were not unlike a Bell Curve. The great majority fell in the centre with dwindling numbers at either end. This is how the campus registered its approval of Versafood.

Versafood has an airtight contract in that during the term of the agreement it has a complete monopoly on all food distribution. The Founders coffee house was just a small concession by VF to the students which actually amounts to a minor breach in the contract.

In Allen's eyes, VF is willing to permit student enterprise as long as it does not endanger VF directly.

When the new humanities complex is completed some time next summer VF will be opening a central square coffee house. In student quarters it has been argued that another firm should be permitted to operate the facilities.

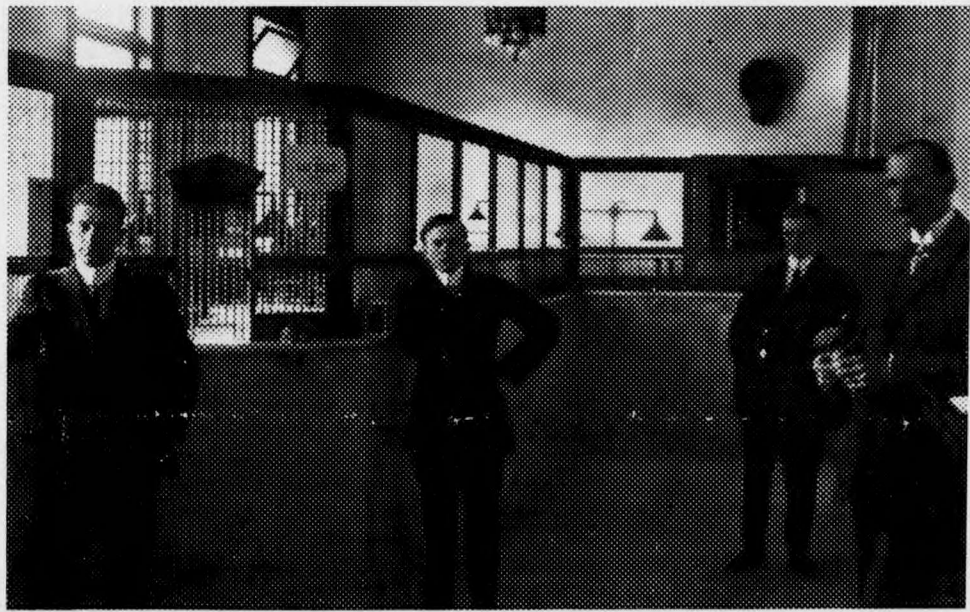
The point is simple. With another firm operating on campus, no matter how small, it would provide competition.

A second school of thought favors another firm for entirely different reasons. Students at U of T have only to take a short walk to enjoy the culinary arts of establishments other than those on campus. They have freedom of choice — we don't.

If a York student wants a change of diet he is forced to spend at least twenty minutes driving time out on the road going to and from outside dining facilities.

Until such time as plazas and shopping centers are erected along either Keele or Steeles York students are going to be denied freedom of choice.

On the subject of the introduction of another company to operate the proposed coffee house, Allen was decidedly non-committal.



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