

Everything appealing you'd want to know

Linda Gavel

Grades are a matter of concern to most students. Marks determine whether or not one will be allowed to proceed in a program, be admitted to graduate school, or indeed attain a degree in the first place. In light of the importance of grades, it is not surprising that students frequently complain about unfair marking. It is surprising however, that so few of these complaints are transformed into a formal grade appeal.

According to Robert Delan, Director, Office of Student Programs, only ten percent of York Students launch grade appeals per year. Pat Foulkes, Assistant to the Undergraduate Coordinator of the Sociology Department, says that the percentage is even smaller in her area. Of the 4,500 students registered in second to fourth year sociology last year, only 18 initiated appeals.

Theoretically, a grade appeal can proceed through three levels: departmental, faculty and senate. The latter two levels however only consider appeals on procedural grounds. Barbara Abercrombie of the office of the secretary of the university, informed me that to her recollection, no grade appeals have reached the senate level in the past seven or eight years.

A request for reappraisal must be submitted to the appropriate department within two weeks of the release of final grade reports. A student is allowed two grade appeals per academic year. Although procedures vary slightly from department to department, the student is normally asked to make a written submission indicating: the items which he wants reappraised, whether or not the problem has been discussed with

the course instructor, what the outcome was; also, the grounds on which he wishes to appeal the case. It is the responsibility of the departmental chairman or his designate(s) to reassess the material. The reappraiser(s) are chosen on the basis of their expertise in the area. This could lead to a conflict of interest as the reappraiser appointed may be a colleague, of the original marker. An example of this situation exists in the math department where as of November, 1980 the original marker and the reviewer were one and the same person.

Also objectionable is the fact that many departments make a minimal effort to read the material "blind". The grade, as well as any comments made by the original marker are left on the material. This in fact was a recommendation made by the Faculty of Arts executive

difference between C and C plus) a conference should be held between the instructor and the reappraiser to resolve the difference. If no agreement can be reached, a second reappraiser should be consulted. Where the difference in grades is one mark or less, the original mark should stand.

Once an evaluation has been completed the reappraiser(s) makes a recommendation either for or against a grade change. In some cases departmental committees have been established to make the final decision.

At the end of this long process (which can take anywhere from a few weeks to several months to complete) the student is informed by letter of the outcome of his appeal.

There is one bright light at the end of this tunnel of red tape, that

never seen a grade lowered. Grade adjustments on the whole however are not large, generally corresponding to a half grade increase.

While one might question the impartiality of the appeal procedure at all times, all administrative personnel spoke

with in the course of writing this article expressed the opinion that students should not hesitate to petition a grade. So the next time you feel you don't get the grade you deserve in a course, stand up and be counted. The appeal procedure is there to use, despite its imperfections.

Big Bucks

Cont'd from page eight...

responsibilities that only you, the boss, will be able to handle. For this reason, the Ontario Youth Secretariat has created a booklet, *The Edge*. The latter section of the book details the maze of responsibilities necessary to know when running your own company, from advertising and public relations to Income Tax. They've also drawn up a helpful checklist of things to be aware of the first time out:

- Canvass your area to make sure there is a demand for it.
- Check your municipal office and Chamber of Commerce learn all the laws and restrictions.
- Obtain the right equipment at the lowest cost possible.
- Be sure you're covered by insurance if you need it.
- Use written contracts.
- Promise only the work you are capable of delivering.
- Keep accurate records.
- Continually seek advice from all sources available to you.

For many new businesses, cash in the bank can make the difference between bankruptcy and success. For this reason, the *Student Venture Capital Program* was created. Sponsored and administered jointly by the Ontario Youth Secretariat, the Royal Bank and the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, the program assists students in their entry into the business world by providing interest-free loans of up to \$1,000 per venture to full-time students, aged 16 and over. As well, Student Venture participants

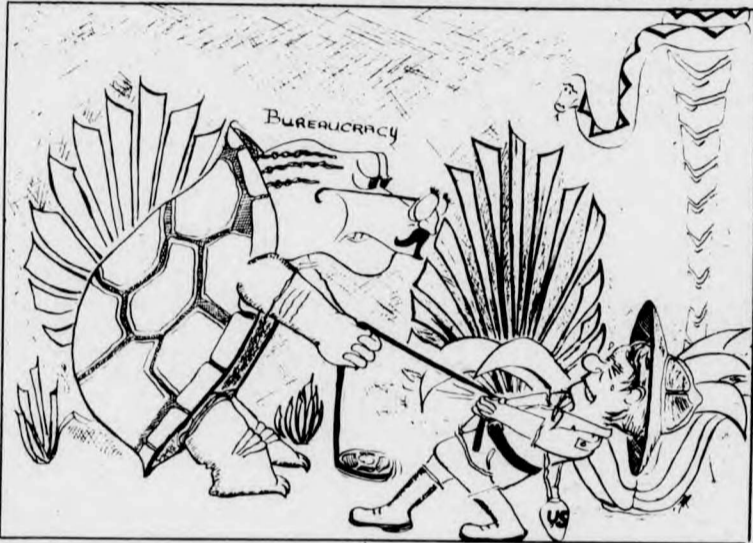
qualify to obtain advice and help from both the Royal Bank and their local Chamber of Commerce; two top trouble-shooters who can foresee problems before they actually occur. More information can be obtained by contacting the program care of Queen's Park.

Besides the previously-mentioned agencies, many other programs are available to assist the new businessman, including numerous Small Business Advisory Boards at many of Ontario's major universities. Other information can be obtained from individual Ministries listed under "Government of Ontario" in your phone book.

Just remember: while these agencies can be of assistance, only you can make your business a success. With a lot of hard work, some ingenuity and a few good ideas, you'll be on your way to riches in no time. Selling services of products that you believe in can be both a satisfying and interesting endeavor, as well as the perfect way to keep food on your table and a roof over your head. Good luck!

"Smoking kills. If you're killed, you've lost a very important part of your life."

—Brooke Shields, Testifying before a congressional subcommittee.



Alec Rugger

committee.

Another recommendation of this committee reads, "If the reappraiser favours awarding a final grade different from the original grade awarded by more than one grade (more than the

being the possibility of a positive grade adjustment. Although students are warned that a grade appeal can result in a lower grade, this is rarely practiced. In fact both Robert Delan and Pat Foulkes revealed that they had

Writer and human rights conference a success

Marc Epprecht

The Writer and Human Rights congress, sponsored by Amnesty International, brought together about 70 writers from around the world last week. They spent their time here in Toronto discussing with each other (and the interested public) the problems which face writers today; from outright repression by murder, torture and exile, to an inability to see serious literature. The conclusions reached were, on the whole, quite grim.

First among these is the recognition that human rights and dignity are imperiled in most, if not all of the world today. By whatever means and to varying degrees, people's basic freedoms—to eat, love, gain meaningful employment and practise one's religious and political beliefs—are being denied.

In many parts of the world this is done with cynical calculation by governments whose sole purpose is to plunder their people. They could not

survive if those freedoms were allowed. The people are beaten, starved and kept illiterate in order to maintain their docility in the face of such blatantly inhuman, exploitative regimes.

In other countries (like our own), such drastic measures aren't necessary. Instead, we are conditioned to accept the gross inequalities and injustices of the world economic system by distraction, that is, we are encouraged to be ignorant. Writers from every corner of the

globe decried our "astonishingly naive" concept of the problems facing us today. We, along with all of the West, blindly accept bland descriptions of so-called "democracy" and "progress" in the Third World when, in fact, we support and encourage the most brutally fascist, incompetent regimes. Worse is the simplistic Manichean view of international politics: Commie vs Good Guys. This view, now in style, was not even applicable 30 years ago. Not only does our continuing refusal

to face the complex, harsh reality of the global situation exacerbate revolutionary and counter-revolutionary violence in the Third World, but it makes us susceptible to totalitarianism ourselves. Ignorance and apathy, it was concluded, are universally the greatest, most insidious threats to human rights.

Considering the breadth of political backgrounds among the writers, it was difficult to avoid conflict at times. The sessions on the Middle East, for instance, were constantly disrupted by those who objected to the presence of a Zionist on the committee. There were also differences regarding the necessity of violence. Some, like Alan Sillitoe, towed the basic Amnesty line of refusing to sanction any writers or "prisoners of conscience" who advocate violent means. Others, such as Wole Soyinka of Nigeria, reject this as "puritanical". Many are convinced that change can only come about through violence, now that the 1960's illusions of peaceful political evolution and "economic takeoff" have been shattered.

Despite these opposing views, the writers agreed that it is their duty—as writers and creators—to carry the message of the injustices of the present system to the people. They, and we, must never cease to speak up, to write, to agitate and to shock the complacent into action; the evil into reform.

They also agreed to keep in touch with one another in the future. The exchange of ideas at the conference was a creative process in itself, while the publicity gained is an invaluable aid in pressuring criminal regimes. In these ways, the conference was an unqualified success.

World domination

Amnesty is especially pleased about the news of the release of Chilean writer, George Soza (he was granted an exit visa to France), as well as the response of Canadians to events and appeals. Amnesty International feels that Torontonians have a great interest in human rights and they're happy the organization gives them a structure to operate in.

From an organizational standpoint, the congress was also a success. Amnesty International estimates that over 4,500 people attended the various symposia and readings, including a sold-out performance at Convocation Hall. The profits will go towards funding Amnesty's continuing, non-partisan crusade for human rights. □

Chowdown: Toby's tops Toronto



Howard Shulman

Toby's has none of the crassness of your everyday Macdonald's or Burger King's. No! Located on the outer fringes of Yorkville, (on the Bloor boutique strip), Toby's has to be chic. Pepsi ad attractive waiters and waitresses clad in designer jeans and La Coste shirts escort you through the narrow, crowded restaurant to your table. We were seated at the rear of the restaurant where semi-loud Disco-New-Wave music came from the speakers above. Even though there is proper lighting at the front of the restaurant, the back is subjected to an obscene red Toby's "good eats" neon light that distorts

every color. Underneath all the Toby mugs and other junk yard memorabilia the food is very good and reasonably priced.

I ordered the "Klondike", which is a cheeseburger with bacon for \$3.10. The burgers are meaty, thick and tasty, and come with an average-size helping of

"For fans of the Great White North—back bacon on a bun"

large french fries. One warning though: the cheese, while probably not commercially made, is used to excess. All burgers come with fries, except the "Waist Watcher" which, at \$3.25 comes without the bun as well, but with tomato, lettuce and cheese. For those not worried about calories, there is "Fat City", a ten-ounce hamburger at \$5.25. Toby's also

offers vegetable soup, chili, and (for fans of the Great White North) back bacon on a bun for \$2.70. (Okay there, eh?)

The desserts at Toby's are just as good. Of special note is their frozen yogurt that comes in a variety of flavours—from orange to peanut butter. A couple can expect to pay anywhere up to \$10 without wine or beer, to around \$13-15 with liquor. Toby's is located on 93 Bloor Street West, and 2293 Yonge Street, (just north of Eglinton). They accept major credit cards, and are open from 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 a.m. Monday to Saturday, and 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 a.m. on Sundays. □

Chowdown is a regular column of the Features section. Anyone interested in submitting restaurant reviews and other food-related items should contact Lloyd Wasser at 667-3201.