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BOG REPORT

Last fall, I found that many York constituents liked the idea that a Board of Governors member should initiate a comprehensive report on food services which would articulate the concerns of all campus interest groups. I embarked on the enterprise in January, and the Report is finally ready, thanks largely to the assistance of Messrs. John Chang, Paul Hogbin, Chris Summerhayes, Chris Webber, Malcolm Montgomery, and Robert Walman. Mr. Norman Crandles, Manager of Food and Beverage Services, was enormously cooperative in providing administrative support.

The Report was officially received by the University Food and Beverage Services Committee on April 2nd, and I shall present it to the Student Relations Committee of the Board of Governors on April 19th.

The Report includes a canvass of food catering systems at other universities, and analyses of the

perspectives of York students, the University administration, the caterers, and the pub managers. It took the writers through many hours of interviews and discussions. All individuals whom we thought might be affected by our proposals were contacted, either through personal letters or, in the case of the student body, through summonses to public meetings.

We have made seventeen recommendations in an attempt to improve York's food services. Though the task is never easy, we tried to keep the Report free of bias, and we have sought proposals whose implementation would optimize benefits to all members of the York Community.

Among our recommendations are the retention of scrip and the multi-catering system, since both allow for freedom of choice, and a guaranteed minimal income for caterers. We have recommended a strengthening

of the committee, composed heavily of students, which plays an advisory role with respect to food service policies (the University Food and Beverage Services Committee). We also suggested that a sub-committee of the above group be struck to investigate and help improve the efficiency of Rill Food Services. The latter suggestions has already been implemented.

We have suggested that the Board of Governors ensure that the auditors of the food caterers are independent, and that food service contracts always be made open to tender when they expire.

Aiming at food costs, we have recommended that a "meal plan" replace the a la carte offering presently available in the Founders-Vanier servery. A la carte-style catering would still service the Winters and Stong cafeterias. A further cost-saving measure suggested is the paring of entrées presently offered by Rill — the loss in variety would be conditioned upon decreased

prices. Furthermore, we have suggested ways in which to minimize losses of caterers' utensils, also in order to save costs.

Finally, the proposal which may require the most patience and creativity in implementation is our suggestion that scrip be made redeemable for food at the pubs. We are most excited about the possibilities this would create — increased variety of food and of hours in which a residence student could spend his scrip, and a boost in competition for students' food dollars. Some concession would have to be made to the major food caterer, Rill, for his resultant loss in business, but tis is a reconcilable difference.

Consideration and, hopefully, implementation of these proposals are the next big step.

John Westion is a student representative on the Board of Governors. The views expressed are his and not necessarily those of Excalibur.

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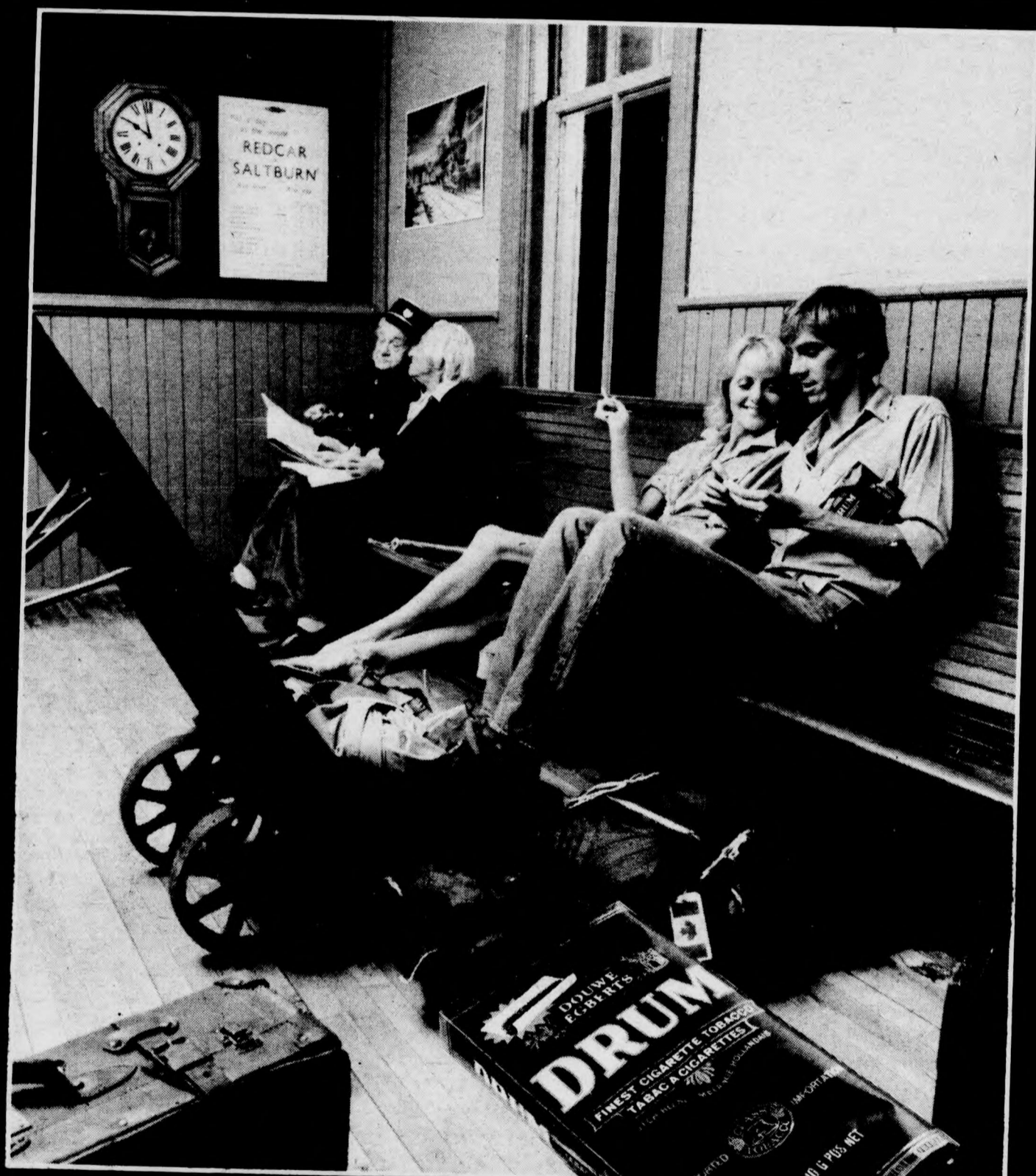
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