

A golden opportunity to revamp food and liquor service

This year presents the university with a golden opportunity for reviewing the provision of food and liquor on campus. For food, VS Service's contract comes up for renewal on April 31, and for liquor, changed LLBO regulations governing the provision of liquor to campuses gives us the opportunity for examining what we want and how we want it provided.

To provide cheap and varied service for the whole community we have to consider three major questions: (i) The provision of basic food services for everyone (e.g. dining halls);

(ii) The provision of food and liquor for sectional interests (e.g. the various bars, residence students, faculty, commuter students and staff); and

(iii) The total cost to the university of both sectional and community interests.

The University Food Services Committee is at present engaged in examining these questions. This article is concerned with outlining them and inviting responses from

everyone who is interested in University Food Services. We have a meeting on March 18 at 4 p.m. in Bethune 214 at which some important policy guidelines will be established.

The basic choices seem to be these.

At present university food services operates at a deficit or around \$170,000. Therefore one of our concerns must be to see how and in what way we can save money, while at the same time improving the quality of service. There are several possibilities:

(i) We reduce the university's own levy on VS foods by eliminating charges for overhead costs (electricity, transport, maintenance, etc.) as well as the 12½% surcharge by which the university makes a profit on food services. To do this all — which is roughly equal to the present deficit — would amount to a university subsidy for food.

(ii) Examine purchasing costs and labour costs by VS to see whether they compare with similar operations elsewhere. If we

found that VS charged noticeably more and was inefficient in its use of labour, there would be a strong case for dispensing VS altogether.

(III) If we felt that VS was relatively efficient but that the problem lay in the university's distribution of food outlets, then: (a) we could close Central Square and/or Atkinson thus directing customers to Complexes I and II; (b) we could close one servery and two dining halls in Complex I, as well as a dining hall in Complex II; (c) we could do all of these but open a series of coffee bars and/or pizzerias across campus to cater for casual trade.

(iv) If we felt that we needed to get rid of VS then we would have open to us all the options suggested by Peter Jarvis in his letter to Excalibur of February 28 (page 5).

Each of these steps might involve fundamental changes in university food policy and have serious repercussions for the social (and perhaps intellectual) life of the community.

Do we need Meal plans (let alone scrip) and what would be the financial and housing implications if we did without them?

The Food Services Committee is committed to serving everyone in the community even if it means going against the vested interest of monopoly caterers, university bureaucrat's and the conventional wisdom of existing vested interest. But we cannot do anything without a substantial commitment from every section of the university that they are interested in changing things. (To date, over 50% of the student representatives to the UFSC have never shown up.)

We would like you to offer your opinions and constructive suggestions on what can be done. Please contact your representative (names are available from Norman Crandles' office) or phone the Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the Committee at 3958 or 3959.

IOAN DAVIES

Master, Bethune College
Chairman, Food Services Committee

Letters To The Editor

All letters should be addressed to the Editor, c/o Excalibur, room 111 central Square. They must be double-spaced, typed and limited to 250 words. Excalibur reserves the right to edit for length and grammar. Name and address must be included for legal purposes but the name will be withheld upon request. Deadline: Mon. 5 p.m.

Atkinson needs own parking lot

Yesterday morning I went grocery shopping. The second I moved my car from J Lot, I had two cars lined up waiting for me to move out so they could move in. When I came back with my groceries HH Lot was filled and so was J. Lot. Security (Kagan) was in HH towing away cars.

Kagan would not let me park for one hour in HH Lot in front of Atkinson Residence where I live — first, to unload my bag of groceries and secondly, because I was going out in an hour. He insisted I had to go over to the gatehouse, while my frozen food melted, and get a special temporary pass for that one hour! According to Kagan, Fine Arts people have priority in HH lot — tough if I happen to live there! I had to park well south of the Graduate Residences because J Lot was filled and lug my groceries from south of Graduate Residence to Atkinson Residence where I live!

I think if Kagan had to lug my groceries from well south of Grad Res. to Atkinson wrestling with an

arm load of groceries and the doors, he might think twice before he sent people like me to walk a quarter of a mile with heavy groceries under the threat of having their car towed away.

I suspect the Parking Office has sold too many \$75 parking spots but I don't give a damn because it seems to me if the University is going to be in the business of building residences then they must supply parking for people in residence and their guests. It might be worth while to designate certain areas Residence Parking Only and issue Special Stickers to these residences. In the meantime, I think it would be interesting for me and other people living on campus to find out what obligation the University has to make parking provisions when it builds apartment complexes for revenue.

I would appreciate hearing what provisions, if any, or what alternatives the University is considering for its Residence at Atkinson.

Yours very truly,
HEATHER WILKINS

Stop all this baloney Reader lambastes food

I would like to respond to the allegations made by P. Jarvis in his opinion piece on the food services committee (UFSC) last week.

Jarvis' characterization of the Bearpit meeting of Feb. 14 which he described as an "exercise in fear and loathing", betrays his anti-student feelings. Jarvis thinks that two students voting in favor of a 10% food priced hike at a stacked UFSC meeting is more legitimate than 100 students voting overwhelmingly for a food services cash boycott at an open meeting presided over by a chairman and organized by CYSF. At that bear-pit meeting, Jarvis, Norm Crandles (administration spokesman) and everyone else had a chance to state their opinions, put motions on the floor and debate the issues. Contrast this with the UFSC meeting that rais-

ed prices.

If the administration was really interested in giving students true representation on the decision to raise prices, it should have taken a poll amongst students to find out their views. On this issue and abided by the results. Another thing that Jarvis omits to mention is that the UFSC is merely an advisory body, with only the power to recommend, monitor and research. UFSC cannot implement its decisions; therefore the real power is reserved for the administration.

Jarvis' claim that I was appointed by CYSF to represent them in the Bearpit is correct. However, unlike other student Quislings and administrative apologists, I did not pretend to speak for students. I spoke for CYSF and myself.

DALE RITCH

Make reporting positive Versafood is one example

Week after week I continually read (God knows why) your doom and gloom publication and wonder if you have a file of positive material tucked away and labelled "NOT FOR PUBLICATION." I also wonder if the deadlines of "going to press" seldom allow you adequate time to either research or edit your material for facts. Let's take the food issue as an example:

1. No matter where or what people eat, if they eat at the same place every day, they will tire of the fare and find somewhere else; and we do have four major outlets on campus with different menus daily to choose from.

2. You will find nowhere off-campus in the vicinity where you can eat so cheaply considering menu and quality. In fact, in one local restaurant a weekly fish and chip special priced at \$1.45 recently rose to \$1.85. In the same restaurant an 8 oz. steak priced at \$1.50 eighteen months ago is now \$3.25. Fish and chips now priced in Central Square at 90 cents cost \$1.10 to \$1.30 off-campus, and the on-campus fish helping is generally larger. As a cash purchaser, I find it cheaper to eat on campus.

3. Food prices have risen dramatically everywhere, even after contractual commitments were made at York between students and the university, and between York and VS Services. Who is going to pay for these in-

creases? Obviously those who consume the meals. B.I.U. income and academic fees are not received to subsidize food losses! 4. The Personal Dining Plan, with its accompanying scrip, was introduced to provide a wider choice of eating places for students in residence and to eliminate the missed-meal factor, waste, theft and "free" second helpings. Now you pay for the quantity you take, and those who eat less do not subsidize those who eat more, and females do not subsidize males.

Alcoholic beverages can also now be purchased on a meal plan. Previously such outlays were cash on top of committed meal plans.

In addition, the dining plan has a wider choice of food plan commitments (with discounts). Had such a plan not been introduced, meal prices under the previous residence agreement would have risen even higher.

Last week I purchased a complete shrimp meal with potatoes, vegetables, desert and beverage for \$1.30. Where off-campus can you receive such value? You can buy Kentucky Fried Chicken for \$1.29, but who would eat it every day?

I recognize your duty to report reaction to campus services, but before you do, check the facts and report them too, not just the opinions and beefs of a disgruntled few!

CARL SLOSS
Cash-paying Staff Member

Lacking support leads to demise

As one of the few fans of the York Yeomen basketball team, I wish to congratulate the members of the team, the coach, the manager and the trainer for the total effort they put forth on behalf of the university.

The quarter-final game at Ottawa University Tuesday (Feb. 19) was a prime example of the team effort made by a bunch of guys who really tried to put it all together. The score was in no way indicative of the way the Yeomen played.

The Ottawa crowd turned the table for Ottawa in the last two minutes by cheering their team on (they hadn't before the last few minutes). If York would have had more support during the season at home and at away games, things would probably have been much different.

Bob, Brad, Branko, Brian, Dave, Eddie, Evrad, Guy, Jeff, Mike, Nicky, Romeo, Sammy, Tony and Vince, again congratulations on your hard fought season!

THE FANS

No fee raise

In your paper, I read in two locations of an upcoming referendum to increase tuition fees by \$1.50 per student. I am sick and tired of people telling me how to spend my money. At present I am paying to support

- 1) my college council (\$17.00)
- 2) CYSF (\$10.00)

This money supposedly allows me rights in my college and services by CYSF. To date I have received nothing beneficial from CYSF and any service in my own college costs me money.

As these are part and parcel of my life here I do not begrudge this mad money that is squandered by people I

see every day, but I do begrudge being asked to support an off-campus function directly. If they want that money let them be truly representative and ask people to pay directly.

D. DIDIANO

Series is good story was glib

The February 28 issue of Excalibur contained a brief paragraph on York University's Performing Arts Series. The story itself contained no factual misinformation, however the headline gives the strong impression that this year's Series has been a disaster. Nothing could be further from the truth. Eight of the thirteen events have been completely sold out and our income has been higher than expected in spite of the fact that ticket prices were reduced this year.

The Performing Arts Series attracts first rank artists and as long as we must present all of our attractions in the 610 seat Burton Auditorium and over 90% of our tickets are sold at student prices, it will be necessary for substantial subsidy to be given to the Series.

I would appreciate the opportunity to give Excalibur a complete interview on the subject of the Performing Arts Series but next time I am telephoned for a brief interview I am not going to participate because it only results in very superficial treatment of the material.

DOUGLAS L. BUCK
Director, Performing Arts Series

Renda mistaken reader complains

As a student of York University, I feel it is necessary at this time to correct some of the misinformation contained in Joe Renda's campaign literature:

Mr. Renda in his "program of action" states that "the library budget should not be cut". "Rather it should be increased in order to buy more books". If Mr. Renda read the report of his committee to the Senate, he would know that the library has in fact many new books that cannot be shelved due to lack of staff.

Renda said last week, "At present we have only one student representative on the Board of Governors." If Mr. Renda read the notice sent to the Senate Students Caucus, or even attended the last meeting, he would know there are two representatives.

Continuing to solve our problems he states that on-campus housing rent is "very high". Mr. Renda does not realize that our residence rates are among the lowest in the province. Taking into account the high average cost of rent in Toronto, residence is doubly attractive. This is reflected in the 100% occupancy rate. Mr. Renda suggests a co-op be set up with Government subsidy. I would like to suggest the Federal government is very leery of co-ops since the Rochdale experiment.

I feel it would be in the best interest of all students at York if Renda became more informed about what is happening at York University. In the past he has failed in this area.

BOB FOLEY
CYSF Communications

Thanks so much

I wish to acknowledge my appreciation and esteem to Miss K. MacDonald and the staff of the Ontario Student Awards Office at the York campus, for an exceptionally courteous and competent handling of my award case.

Due to people of Miss MacDonald's calibre, the administrative and bureaucratic machinery fulfills its purpose better, and runs smoother, than it otherwise would.

MICHEL BRYKER
Grad. student