

Administration could bankrupt operation



Peter Hsu photo

Even during peak hours, the Bethune-Stong dining room is more empty than full. Photo was taken at 5:30 p.m., Tuesday.

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But the fledging operation could be placed into jeopardy should the university be actively hostile to the food service switch. Ritch estimated that some \$80,000 of scrip remains outstanding, in the hands of Bethune and Stong residents.

The servery would be obliged to accept scrip at face value, yet the university, which has to a large extent already received the dollar value of the scrip in real money, might refuse to reimburse the new operators of the Complex II and Central Square cafeterias. Since more than just Bethune and Stong residents eat at the Central Square cafeteria, the amount of unrecovered scrip might catapult into the hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Ritch estimates that \$40,000, half of \$80,000 held in scrip by Bethune-Stong residents, are being handled on a post-dated cheque system, giving him some leverage in the matter.

"We will tell students to cancel payment on post-dated cheques for scrip and CYSF will withhold the \$20,000 it owes the university if the administration doesn't pay for scrip," Ritch told the group. These amounts represent only a fraction of the losses that the eateries will suffer, however, if the university refuses to exchange scrip for dollars.

Ritch added that he would negotiate with the university for a fair fee for utilities, pointing out that the university's excessive utility charges helped aggravate the caterer's financial problems. Ritch did not feel the university would resort to shutting off heat and lighting to put pressure on the new service.

Ritch and Sobolewsky expects the non-profit operation to be able to upgrade the quality of food and lower prices, through increased sales, lower utility charges and ending the profit margin.

"Any profit that is made would be turned back into the operation and into increasing wages," said Ritch.

Ironically, the very thing for which the activist CYSF has criticized the administration, may in this case, aid their cause. The revulsion which the administration feels for explosive political issues may result in their staying altogether out of the entire mess until the new operation either sinks or swims.

The plans for the boycott, the first step in the take-over bid, however, may be truncated not by the administration but by the Stong college residence council, who were not present in the Monday meeting, and who, despite their dislike for

Commercial's operation, have shown little desire to end the contract at this moment. In fact, the opposite is the case.

An open letter by two members of the Stong grievance committee, set up by the residence council to iron out problems in Commercial's food operation, stated that although the committee favoured the eventual expulsion of the caterer from the complex, they did not feel that the college food service would benefit from Commercial's immediate ouster.

Although the letter was circulated without the sanction of the residence council, Larry Kent, one of the co-signers and member of the residence council, told Excalibur Wednesday morning that he expected the council to endorse his views at that night's meeting.

"The people I've talked to think this (not boycotting) is the way to go about it," Kent said. "It's impractical to terminate the contract now, it's ridiculous because either we (college residents) won't get fed or we'll wind up getting food poisoning, because they (CYSF, Bethune councils) don't know what they're doing. Ritch thought the kitchen was in Central Square, he didn't even know it was in Stong."

Stong college, which shares the Complex II eatery with Bethune is crucial to the success of the boycott and subsequent take-over.

"Without Stong there's just not enough people in Bethune to make some kind of impact... it's the key to the whole situation," explained McMurdo. "The only other thing we might try is to canvas the Stong residence to see if there's support, if the residents councils votes against the boycott."

McMurdo believes the plan as unfolded Monday will work, if Stong's residence council actively backs the plan. Both McMurdo and Ritch plan to attend the Wednesday night council meeting to try to persuade the council of the feasibility of the proposal.

"Stong doesn't understand what the alternatives are," said McMurdo, adding that the college had not been in on the Monday meeting. Should they persuade the council that boycotting was a feasible alternative, the campus might be immersed in its second boycott of the academic year.

This time it will not be a half-hearted measure, vowed Ritch, who sees wider political implications in the issue.

"If students can run food services well, why should we let some corporate bastards (Board of Governors) run the university at some secret meeting?"

Student administrative council strike stops Varsity's presses

By ANNA VAITIEKUNAS

The U. of T. paper, the Varsity, has ceased publication due to a union walk-out by the university's Students Administrative Council last Thursday.

SAC's major bone of contention in the strike dispute centres round higher wages, job categorization, and the length of the contract.

Negotiations between SAC and Cupe 1222 began last September before SAC's contract expired, however, with little success. According to the Varsity, disagreements over starting salaries for secretaries, special project assistants and the Varsity ad manager, brought discussions to a halt.

"The union also requested a free health plan for all employees which the council refused to implement without corresponding salary reductions."

CUPE 1222 is comprised of the six employees in the SAC office and the two members of the Varsity advertising department.

The SAC offer calls for three job classifications to receive \$160, \$165 and \$170 per week in the first year and \$170 and \$180 per week in the second year of the contract.

"The union proposal," the Varsity claims, "asks for a one year, one category contract with a starting rate of \$160 per week and raises to \$170 and \$180 per week on

January 1 and April 1.

According to the chief union negotiator John Bennet, the SAC's wage offer "is still less than comparable wages paid elsewhere in the city".

He added that because of the

yearly turn-over of union members, CUPE members felt that they did not have the right to sign on half the members to something they have no say in.

All SAC services have halted for the duration of the strike.

Henderson report draws crowds, yawns in Bearpit

By SHELLEY RABINOVITCH

The controversial Henderson Report was the topic of discussion at last Thursday's Bearpit session in Central Square.

The half-hour discussion which heard opinions from several of York's prominent student politicians was called to explain the ramifications of the report on post-secondary education, and its effects on students.

CYSF president Dale Ritch, as well as Board of Governors representatives Jay Bell and Shelley Rabinovitch were among those who led the conversation which centered on the recommended tuition increases and higher loan ceilings. Also taking part were Barry Edson of the York NDP club, Rick Gregory of the Ontario Federation of Students and CYSF presidential hopeful Gail Silzer.

The predominant fear voiced by most of the speakers was that Ontario's universities were becoming progressively more "elitist", making it more difficult than ever for less affluent students to continue their education past the secondary level.

Basing their views on the premise that education was a universal right, each speaker pointed out that the increase in fees would put tuition above the \$1,000 mark.

In an effort to demonstrate student opposition to the report, various Ontario colleges and universities took part in a mass rally yesterday at Convocation Hall before marching to Queen's Park.

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