

Opinion

Food committee asks community participation

Excalibur will doubtless report elsewhere on these pages the details of the Bearpit exercise in fear and loathing that was intended to examine the 10 per cent food price hike recommended by the University Food Service Committee and implemented by University Food Services.

That the proceedings (Radio York's Bearpit, followed by CYSF's open committee meeting) should slop over into heated debate, (euphemism for tirade, invective, character assassination and political posturing), on such issues as university financing, Michael Mouritsen's leadership capacity, the iniquitous activities of the filthy fascists on the 9th floor and the moral degeneracy of administrators in general, was perhaps inevitable since the format was tailor made for panelist Dale Ritch's brand of politicking against which Radio York's anchorman and Chairman Philip Rasminsky were powerless.

The purpose of this piece however, is not to dwell on that predictable exercise, nor is it to criticize the resolutions passed by the assembly. My purpose is to set the facts straight on the activities to date of the University Food Services Committee (UFSC) and to suggest what the York community should demand of that body.

The UFSC was reconstituted at the direc-

tion of Harry Knox, assistant vice president, business operations, to replace the former discredited and defunct UFSC. Every warm and breathing organization on campus was invited to send representation to the first meeting Dec. 17, 1973.

The representatives are as representative as their parent bodies care to make them. They may be elected, selected from an existing elected council or appointed on the basis of demonstrated concern and capacity. The representatives may of course appoint themselves (like Ritch to Bearpit committees), for vacuums rarely stay unoccupied when the climate is political.

The first meeting was well advertised, an agenda was distributed and the names of representatives (with students in the majority) were circulated in advance.

At the first meeting, assistant vice president Knox directed the committee to get cracking and assured those gathered of his support. Professor Ioan Davies, master of Bethune College, was elected chairman. Davies asked for volunteers to write terms of reference for the committee. The volunteers included John Mitchell (GBI), Steve Dranitsaris (Stong), Peter Jarvis (Bethune), Colin Campbell (Winters), and the chairman. The proposed terms of reference were distributed prior the second meeting and accepted with minor modifications.

The terms of reference gave the committee as much monitoring, investigative and recommending power as the hungriest do-gooder or political radical could wish for.

The agenda for the second meeting on Jan. 21 1974, included a well documented food services proposal for a 10 per cent food hike.

Representatives had sufficient time to refer the hike to their constituents for approval, denial, the raising of options or requests for further study. After lengthy discussion, the food hike was recommended for implementation.

Thus the food hike was accepted by the UFSC by majority vote after advance notice and the exercise of the democratic process.

Subcommittees for finance and food plan, liquor, and vending were also struck at the second meeting which, incidentally, was briefly reported upon by Excalibur.

The food hike issue has triggered considerable protest over food service generally, including the scrip method, the non-returnability of scrip and the quality of VS Services victualling. It may even be that in the existing climate VS is finished as an operation acceptable to the community. At any rate the UFSC must now address itself to the various options which include at least the following:

a. renew the VS Services contract on the basis of written guarantees that consumer complaints shall be rectified, with a

modified scrip plan.

b. renew the VS Services contract on the same basis, but introduce competition by accepting a second contract for a selected area;

c. scrap the VS contract altogether and negotiate several contracts for the various campus areas, thus encouraging competition and localizing legitimate complaints,

d. consider an in-house food operation; and

e. go to an open market situation with complexes, colleges and faculties free to contract for or otherwise organize their own food service operations under central control for contract scrutiny, adherence to health and labour laws and financial viability.

This would permit dining halls, restaurants, pubs and coffee shops to compete for the campus food and liquor buck and provide for the expression of free choice in individual dining habits. The main point is that the UFSC has a powerful and comprehensive mandate to act. It requires representatives who are prepared to do some work and it requires briefs from any campus organization or individual that can spare time away from the nearest microphone.

PETER JARVIS,
Deputy Chairman,

University Food Service 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.

President wrong explanation shows poverty of thinking

Michael Mouritsen was correct in pointing out that the \$300 CYSF set aside to help those arrested on the Artistic Woodwork picket line is to be used to help pay both legal fees and fines. However, his explanation of his opposition to this allocation displays the poverty of his thinking.

It is simple-minded, for instance, to claim that "students (participated) in full knowledge of the possible consequences." As was pointed out to council, students were picked out for arrests.

Now that these charges are coming before the courts it has been said that the police are managing to make these discriminatory charges stick by colouring their testimony with some imagination.

This is clearly a case in which students' rights as citizens are in question, and CYSF has charged itself, in its constitution, "to develop and promote... the welfare, well being and interests of students (of the university)."

The question was, then, whether CYSF was going to support that principle, not, as Mr. Mouritsen would try and misrepresent it, whether or not CYSF was going to pay the legal fees and fines of students.

The paltry sum of money makes that claim unsupportable.

Students arrested will be paying the brunt of the personal costs incurred as a result of their participation on the picket line, both in money, and in time spent on their cases, and for some, time spent in jail. It is hardly the case, as Mr. Mouritsen would like to pretend, that CYSF is bailing out a lot of "whining" students.

ALAN COX

Holy Webster's! God awful grammar

I have finally realized why Excalibur prints things like "SIEZE" (twice in two different headlines) and "SIT" George (instead of Sir George, one wonders?). You want to find out if people are really reading the thing, right? Because if they are, they'll notice, and write to you, as I'm doing, right?

I'm also very happy to see that Excalibur editors reserve the "right to edit... grammar." Then how could a statement like "Children as young as

five were employed. As a result, few workers never received a formal education."

Perhaps you should sharpen your blue pencil a little? If I interpret the above statement correctly, there are few illiterate workers among the grape people, right? (With the possible exception of the writer of the article?)

Well, keep up the good work, fellers. Maybe the student council or whatever can vote you some money for a dictionary.

CHRIS WYLLIE
FOUNDERS I

Ed. note: We find your remarks very xdiferyl and, furthermore, edf tgp rskdtf.

Candidate accuses us of interfering in YUSA affairs

I most strongly object to your editorial Feb. 14 and am very critical of your ethics in attempting to interfere with what does not concern you. We, the non-academic staff at York, do not interfere with, criticize or take sides in student politics. Even if we had an organ (such as Excalibur) through which to do so, no staff member would dream of meddling in student affairs.

You have made accusations against the present Y.U.S.A. executive which are absolutely untrue and your lies and deliberate misrepresentations are potentially damaging to those people who do not now have a forum to counter your scurrilous untruths. I should think that editors, even of student newspapers, should know something about the laws of libel. "The trouble with people is not that they don't know but that they know so much that ain't so." (Henry Wheeler Shaw)

I am so tired of people like you who are vilifying the present executive. These are not paid positions. They are positions that demand a lot of energy, a lot of study, and the sacrifice of leisure time. You are attempting to snatch away from the incumbents any small satisfactions they might entertain that their industry had contributed something to the welfare of their colleagues.

There have perhaps been a couple of mistakes made in the past year, but mistakes are what one profits by and certainly the next executive will profit by knowing where the pitfalls lie. Experience teaches slowly and at the cost of mistakes—and, if you will forgive me another quotation: "The man who makes no mistakes does not usually

make anything".

DENYS BROWN

Rider "irritated" by York bus blues

The authority responsible for the operation of the York Bus Service had better offer a good reason as to why the service was cancelled Saturday. This abrupt cancellation does not reflect very favourably on the efficiency of the York administration.

Considerable inconvenience was caused to the passengers waiting at the York Mills Subway Station. In my case, I waited for 30 minutes under extreme cold and windy weather (about 10°F or even lower) and had to spend an extra \$2 in taxi fare. I trust many other passengers had similar experiences.

I believe the university has both a legal and moral obligation to reimburse the passengers, to thoroughly look into this matter and to instantly

dismiss the staff found to be negligent. If it wants to restore the confidence of the York community, the administration should promise that such an ugly affair will not recur.

IRRITATED

Inflation is culprit Versa is justified

Perhaps I am naive concerning the controversy over increased prices for food and books at York. I have noticed food prices going up all over the world. I have heard bakers in the U.S. warn of grain shortages and heard the U.N. point alarmingly to dangerously low reserves of world food supplies.

Yet all this seems not to matter when it comes to raising the cost of food at York (at a rate somewhat less than the past year's rate of inflation and less than the rate projected for next year). I know I am not very familiar with the contract between the York administration and Versafood,

but if we, as some local student leaders suggest, kick out Versa, how shall we replace them? With Cara or Beaver Foods? Certainly these companies would also expect to make some profit from such a venture.

Or shall we charge CYSF to use its great skills of cool-headed organization, foresight and budgeting with the task of providing meals for 1,500 residence students 2 or 3 times a day, 7 days a week, 8 months of the year?

Obviously, the administration didn't want this hefty job so they hired Versa. Perhaps I am not the only naive student watching food prices rise at York.

Just one other point. If, as one student leader suggested, the book store manager should be fired for incompetence, then we should hire a store detective to replace him. If I'm not mistaken, the bookstore's subsidy from the administration was exceeded by its losses from shoplifting.

CHARLES CARSON

Mouritsen's attack groundless

The column by Michael Mouritsen entitled "O.F.S. a rest home for aging student politicians" (Excalibur, Feb. 7) makes what can only be called silly accusations about student politicians, but more importantly casts unsubstantiated aspersions upon the Ontario Federation of Students. They require a reply.

I have been in attendance at OFS meetings over the past year of Mr. Mouritsen's tenure and I have only seen him at these meetings once, when the annual meeting was held at York and he had no choice but to make a token appearance. It therefore surprises me that he should make the suggestion that OFS executive members are merely providing a retirement fund for themselves. Since he does not know the executive, and since he has had little or no contact with either the executive or the organization, I can only conclude that his observations on "retiring student politicians" are based on personal experience.

Aside from calling the present OFS office co-ordinator a "secretary," Mr. Mouritsen further displays his ignorance by making the statement that OFS executive members, based on the recommendations of the restruc-

turing committee report, will be paid \$400 a month during the summer.

If he had bothered to investigate he would have found that recommendation changed to have them paid on a per diem basis only for the time when they are actually working for OFS. Mr. Mouritsen compares OFS, with

time staff and OFS requires more.

Finally, Mr. Mouritsen fails to "understand what exactly is the 'Ontario student movement'." This is understandable, since Mr. Mouritsen views the world as ending at Keele St.

In its brief existence, OFS has achieved limited success with its fee strike; it has sponsored numerous moratoria; it has sponsored two conferences on women; conferences on tenure, post-secondary educational financing, course evaluation, and course unions.

It has prepared well-documented briefs on these subjects as well as on the COPSEO report for presentation to the media, to MCU minister Jack McNie, and to the CUA. It has established itself as an effective lobby group for students, but in order to expand its role as a focal point for students' views on educational policies, the organization must have more resources, and a YES vote on the referendum to increase OFS fees would be the best way to begin.

PETER R. BENNETT,
External Affairs Commissioner,
Glendon College Student Union.



Michael Mouritsen

over 100,000 students (university and community colleges) whose resources and mobility are limited, with OCUFA which has less members, a more affluent membership, and a degree of power within the university. It is small wonder, therefore, why OCUFA employs only five full-