More letters

GAA hearing not final report, says reader

Thank you for two very good issues so far this year. It is hear-goose is sass for the gander. tening to see some objective reporting and editorial writing for a change, especially on the subject of food services.

I was highly amused by Dale Ritch's response to Julian Beltrame's article on the ULS. Poor Dale Ritch! He has certainly dished out a lot of what appears to be onesided, unbalanced and sensational material in the past, but how outraged he is when he feels his own position has been presented unfairly! Julian Beltrame's article seemed rather mild in comparison with some of Dale's past efforts.

ATTENDED HEARINGS

On a different topic, I must correct an unsigned article regarding the GAA in your Sept. 25 issue. I have attended all the hearings as a member of the University's Department of Personnel Services, and have read *carefully the report referred to.

This is not a "final certification report". It is a ruling on an issue which both parties agreed the Board should be asked to decide before proceeding with the other matters involved in a certification

application.

The Board has scheduled the matter for further hearings on October 29 and 30.

Once the Board has defined the appropriate group to bargain collectively, it will open the sealed ballots cast on campus last April by persons in the proposed bargaining unit. If the majority of voters want the GAA to represent them, the Board will certify the GAA accordingly.

The Board held open hearings at which both the University and the GAA had ample opportunity to speak and to call witnesses. The Board decided that Graduate

Assistants are not employees within the meaning of the Labour Relations Act, and it follows they cannot bargain collectively under that Act, which governs employees

It is interesting to note that at the University of Toronto, the GAA has been certified to represent only Teaching Assistants — in fact it did not even ask to represent persons performing functions similar to York's Graduate Assistants.

Ellie McTaggart Department of Personnel Service

Opinion

Commercial goes first, then Rill

By DALE RITCH

Many students are aware that the new food operations on campus have produced no real change in terms of better, healthier or tastier

Many students are also aware that prices have risen drastically, at least 30 per cent on most items where comparisons can be made.

Not so widely known is the fact that labour costs have decreased appreciably because the food workers' union has been broken, because wages are lower, and because the workers no longer have any fringe benefits.

Not so widely known either, is that not only the catering companies but also the administration intend to make a healthy profit from food services. In fact, the Board of Governors at York has a stated policy of requiring that profits be made from Ancillary Services [parking, food, bookstore and residence operations].

Many students do not realize that the raising of tuition fees is not the only way of increasing the cost of university education. A much subtler method is to raise the cost of student services, thus effecting a 'back door' increase in the cost of education.

If the students at this university do not fight back against this policy, then we can only expect further increases, further firings of unionized workers and further deterioration in the quality ofservices.

CYSF is prepared to organize and give leadership to the students at York in an attempt to force the administration to provide adequate services at cost.

If the profits of both caterers and administration were eliminated and the major cafeterias in Central Square College Complexes I and II were combined into one operation, the students could get cheap, nutritional, tasty food. Such a food service could result only if the administration dispensed with the catering companies and directly administered the food services itself on a non-profit basis.

Of course, I don't trust the administration to operate the cafeterias in our interest, but a democratically elected governing board composed of representatives of students, faculty and staff, with control over prices, food quality, etc. would ensure that the operation was run in our interest.

The best way of producing the necessary results would be to launch a boycott of the Central Square Cafeteria with the intention of forcing Commercial Caterers out business there. Then the administration could take over under our guidance.

If the boycott is successful and the administration refuses to move in, then CYSF is quite prepared to. operate the cafeteria. In fact, we have already lined up a manager. Other similar student-run ventures have been successful at other campuses and there is no reason why ours couldn't work.

Once we have successful operation in Central Square, then we could move into the Colleges and force Rill out of business.

CYSF is inviting all interested and concerned students to attend a mass meeting today at 1 p.m in Curtis L to discuss the issues and also the boycott idea.

The student council can only act with the support of students. Our decision will depend on the feeling of the students at that meeting.

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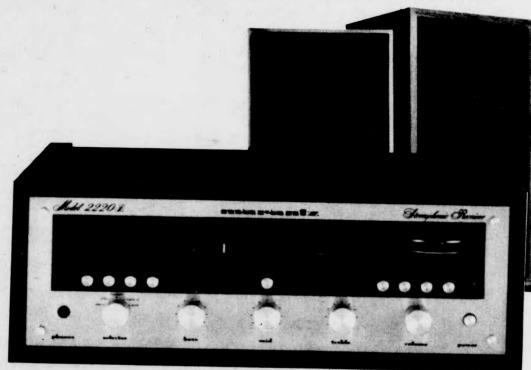
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