

Glendon's new prep school called a money-making scheme

by Rob Gibson

Glendon College's new preparatory summer course for incoming university students has been called elitist and unnecessary.

Chris Lawson, spokesperson for

the Ontario Federation of Students, said the program is more a money making scheme rather than a service to provide real help to students.

"My suspicion is that it is going to be a summer camp for those who have been groomed for university all

their lives rather than making it legitimately accessible to students who would really benefit," Lawson said.

The week long preparatory course cost \$625 including room and board and is open to 30 incoming university students with a minimum aver-

age of 70.

The program consists of academic workshops covering essay writing and research techniques to effective note-taking.

Glendon College principal Roseanne Runte said the course will

help better prepare students to handle the stress and work load of first year.

"Educators have been complaining that first-year students simply don't know how to study properly," said Runte.

According to Lawson, studies show that students who drop out after first year are usually faced with financial difficulties. Students coming from a low to middle income background are excluded from the program because of lack of economic resources, Lawson argued.

Runte admits that the programme is in a trial period, "to test the waters and see what interest lies out there for such a program." If there is a good response, Runte said, scholarships would be offered in the future.

But according to Lawson, "There are a lot of [more accessible] ways of dealing with the problem of the lack of skills high school students face.... counselling, and tutoring to provide students with the information and skills they need to successfully undertake university level courses."

Kosher restaurant may leave York

by Doug Saunders

Canada's only on-campus kosher eatery may have to leave York if the university doesn't help out, its owner says.

"We'd like to stay on campus, but I don't know if we can do enough business. It all depends on the deal we strike with York," says Jack Ponte, owner of L'Echaim Deli in Winters college.

The small diner is a Glatt kosher facility, which guarantees a high precautionary degree in kosher food. Ponte also operates a North York-based kosher catering service.

Ponte says L'Echaim has not been drawing enough customers to cover costs. "When I began this thing, I knew I wasn't going to be a millionaire, but I wanted to do more than pay the bills," he says.

He has asked Norman Crandles, York's director of food and housing services, for the university to underwrite the restaurant's losses in the future. Crandles says he has brought the matter before the university food services committee, which may have a response by the end of April.

But both Crandles and Ponte acknowledge that York may not have the funds available.

Crandles links L'Echaim's poor receipts to increased competition from the Student Centre and the York Lanes shopping mall. Ponte says most of his customers are from the approximately 2 per cent of Jewish students and faculty who eat kosher.

"But I'm trying to do things to get other students, residence students, to come out and eat here. I'm working on more advertising and I'm putting a sign outside."

Ponte also complains that L'Echaim is not getting enough support from the Jewish Student Federation.

"They've done a couple functions with us, but nothing substantial. They're just not here very often."

JSF spokesperson Menachem Neuer says Ponte's accusation is unfair. "I think his attacking us is unproductive. Most Jewish students don't place value in being kosher."

Neuer says L'Echaim will have to improve itself if it wants more business.

"The atmosphere is not the most

inviting, and [Ponte's] marketing is almost nil. It's easy to blame the JSF, but he's got to run a better business."

Ponte argues that the JSF simply takes the facility for granted. "The people at the JSF have an attitude that it's like God's word, it's got to be here. The fact is that it's the university's word, that the university is just going to close the doors."

Kosher food first came to York seven years ago through an initiative begun by Crandles. Two other kosher restaurants, Marky's and Deena's Pantry, have operated out of the same location and subsequently left because

Professors' organization supports Rushton

by Krishna Rau
Canadian University Press

TORONTO — A newly-formed group of Ontario professors says policies combatting sexual harassment and racism are damaging academic freedom.

But critics say the Society for Academic Freedom and Scholarship is perpetuating discrimination.

The society — incorporated in Ontario in February as a non-profit corporation — was created by professors at the University of Western Ontario. It now claims a membership of 40 including professors at U of T, York, Waterloo, Ottawa, Carleton and Brock.

According to York's psychology professor Irwin Silverman, a member of the board of directors, "our primary mission is to provide an open forum for such issues, and time will tell whether the York community has need for such a forum."

The group also says it supports Phillippe Rushton's right to research, but it does not necessarily agree with his theory. Rushton is a UWO psychology professor who caused an uproar in 1989 when he released a theory which linked race to intelligence.

"We're concerned about a number of issues relating to the traditional role of the faculty scholar," said UWO psychology professor Douglas Jackson, the treasurer-secretary of SAFS.

Jackson said the Rushton case played a role in the formation of the group, and its decision to support freedom of research. However, U of T psychology professor John Furedy, a board member, said the group was not "a sort of Rushton defence league."

But a March, 1990 letter to a social science faculty appeal committee written by Davison Ankney, a UWO zoology professor and SAFS member, defended Rushton's research.

"The data that he has compiled are far more extensive, convincing and genetically-based than are those used in similar analyses of geographic races of other animals...how simple yet eloquent was his theory, i.e. why hasn't someone already thought of that?" the letter stated.

An advertisement by the group in UWO's administration newspaper, the Western News, says research should not be "curtailed as socially inappropriate or offensive."

Jackson said the group also feels race relations and sexual harassment policies can be used to prevent professors from teaching sex or race differences.

"This kind of well-meaning initiative can be carried so far as to have an effect on knowledge," he said.

But Madeline Lennon, the president of UWO's Caucus on Women's Issues and the chair of the sexual harassment policy review committee, said the group is simply using stereotypes to rally support.

"The general feeling is that the statements that are made seem to perpetuate exaggerations and myths about what employment equity and policies on sexual harassment are about."

Carol Agocs, the chair of UWO's employment equity committee, said the group is actually hurting academic freedom.

"My hope is that the prospective members recognize that academic freedom and quality will be strengthened where there is equality for groups that are underrepresented and poorly served by the university," she said.



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