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Dissatisfied with conditions, pay

Central Square workers fearful of boycott

By JULIAN BELTRAME

Interviews with food workers in the Central Square cafeteria, revealed that they are working harder for less under Commercial Caterers, than they did under Versafood. However, most said they did not want a boycott of the cafeteria, because they feared for their jobs.

The question of the boycott of the lucrative Central Square location will be decided today, when Dale Ritch takes the issue to the students in a mass rally scheduled for 1 p.m. at Curtis LH-L.

Although at first reticent about talking to a reporter, the workers said that if a boycott were to occur, they would probably lose their jobs. All but one said they needed the money and could not find other sources to replace their present incomes.

One worker said she didn't care whether there was a boycott or not, because she could always collect

unemployment insurance and was unhappy about the increased workload at reduced pay.

The workers confirmed that Commercial Caterers had hired them at \$2.75 an hour (about 26 cents less than their pay with Versafood) and that their pay was increased to \$2.90 and \$2.95 after two months.

Besides the loss in salary, the workers lost all the benefits they had gained in bargaining with Versafood.

Paul Farkas, vice-president of Commercial, told Excalibur last week that he would have no choice but to lay-off the cafeteria workers if his servery were boycotted. Student president Dale Ritch, however, has maintained that CYSF would guarantee the former Versafood workers their jobs, in the event of a boycott.

The workers had conflicting reactions to their positions with Commercial Caterers. While grateful to Commercial for hiring

them at a time when they couldn't find employment with Rill, they also felt they were poorly paid by the caterer.

At the CYSF meeting, Monday, the council firmed plans for the boycott rally and passed motions demanding that the university take control of campus food services, under the supervision of a democratically elected body of students, faculty and staff.

The boycott rally will see debates centred around the three people most involved with the food issue—Ritch, Norman Crandles of an-

cillary services and Peter Jarvis of the university food services committee, which last year opted for the multi-caterer posture.

Jarvis said last year and again Saturday that he considered "getting rid of Versafood" to be the mandate given the committee last September.

Also expected to attend are representatives of the faculty and staff associations.

Conspicuous for their absence will be Commercial Caterers, which finds itself caught in the middle of

the battle.

Farkas said he had not been invited to the rally, and was not aware that such a rally had been organized. He added that he would not appear.

"I don't really play these games very well," he said on Tuesday. "What we do, we do honestly. If that's not good enough for the university or Dale Ritch, then they can just boycott us."

"I don't know what good that'll do the workers," he added "because we'll be forced to lay them off."

Planning commission formed despite snag

A recommendation that the university establish a five-member commission, headed by president H. Ian Macdonald, to study York's long-range goals was endorsed by the university senate at last Thursday's meeting.

There was some dispute, however, about the precise wording of the recommendation, before it was finally passed in its original form.

The questions about the document's wording were raised by student senators Bruce Pitken and Dale Ritch and by student senate caucus leader Alan Cox, all of whom appeared to have misinterpreted the document.

The resolution passed by the senate proposed that the commission "include two faculty members nominated and elected by the senate." Pitken attempted to amend this section so that it would propose membership on the commission for representatives from the faculty association, the staff association, the student caucus and the senate.

Cox also spoke in favour of the proposed amendment. He said that students particularly objected to Macdonald's plan, expressed early last week, to include an alumnus on the commission.

"The alumni association has generally shown a very small interest in university activities," he said.

CYSF president Ritch criticized Macdonald's plan to include only one student representative on the commission.

"It's the same old story of token student representation," he said. "But we're prepared to take that. What we do insist on is that the sectors of the community with a real stake in the university be represented."

The proposed amendment was soundly defeated, but Pitken immediately moved to delete the word "faculty" from the senate recommendation.

He said that any member of senate should be eligible for

membership on the commission.

Bill Whitla, a professor of English and Humanities, pointed out that the senate was proposing the inclusion on the commission of faculty members elected by, but not necessarily from, the senate.

"Pitken's amendment might have the effect of limiting membership on the commission to members of the senate," he said. "I would regard that as an unnecessary limitation."

Senate chairman J.H. Warkentin offered to allow the students to withdraw the amendment.

Pitken and Ritch let the amendment stand, and were voted down. The recommendation itself was then passed easily.

The commission will include, in addition to Macdonald, two faculty members, one alumnus and one student. It will spend at least one year studying the objectives of York and the means of achieving them, before issuing its report.

CYSF meeting in brief

By ANNA VAITIEKUNAS

A list of demands and tactics to improve the food situation on campus was the prime focus for council members at the CYSF meeting last Monday.

Presented by CYSF president Dale Ritch, the food report moved that the council demand-

- that the administration remove the catering companies and directly administer food operations in Central Square and the college cafeterias.

- that the administration establish a Board of Directors composed of York faculty, students and staff elected by their constituencies to supervise hiring and firing, food prices and other priorities.

- that all Versa workers previously employed at York

(who wish to be re-hired) be re-hired with union wages, rights and benefits.

- that the administration abolish the compulsory scrip system.

Other motions passed included the recognition of the York Independent Socialists as a campus club, and the allocations of funds for the Red & White Society, the Canadian directors' film series to be shown at York later this month and the Science Students Association.

The council also passed a motion requesting that York president H. Ian Macdonald cancel classes on Thursday between one and three so that students would be free to go to the rally.



Wendy Finch, a first year general arts student, was one of the hundreds of York students attracted by the Imaginus exhibit located in the Central Square.

Imaginus travelling print show thronged by bargain hunters

By TED MUMFORD

"Business has been incredible", said Bill Nicita, one of the four people who this week brought an exhibition of over 500 prints to Central Square. Nicita, his wife Helen and Dan and Sally Mark make up Imaginus Ltd., a travelling print show which has just

finished visits to Ryerson and U. of T.

The presence of the Imaginus show at York is not only a convenience, it is also a bargain. Storebought full-size prints normally cost anywhere between \$5.00 and \$15.00; Imaginus sells them for \$2.75 each, or three for \$7.00.

"Most galleries have to go through one or more distributors; we get our prints directly from the publisher," said Mark.

"Our profit margin is lower, and we buy in larger quantities," added Nicita.

The four partners, who hail from the US, Israel and England, started the touring operation seven years ago, working throughout the US, Canada and Europe. They travel in a van, taking their show to functions, clubs and schools. Their next stop is McMaster University in Hamilton.

Although he knows of no operations similar to his own, Nicita predicts a boom in print sales. He points out that music and literature already have a popular and affordable product (records and paperbacks as opposed to concerts and hardcover books) while art is still expensive.

"Some of the originals of the prints here are going for \$2 million. It's ridiculous."

Nicita feels that the art of printmaking is bound to improve as

prints become more in demand. To make a print a publisher must get the permission of the owner to photograph the original. The photo is blown up and the negative is sent to an engraver (a craftsman who makes an etching). If the owner approves the etching, a colour expert makes one plate for each colour to be used. Finally the copy is printed.

The members of Imaginus (who are artists of one sort or another themselves) hope eventually to include student exhibitions in their show and also to represent new artists.

THIS WEEK

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Excalibur photographers turn their cameras to some of the more leisurely happening on campus p. 10

Bethune College honours a Canadian hero who inspired millions of Chinese. p. 11

Mercury poisoning in Kenora, Ontario p. 12