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Letters Cont'd

cont'd from p. 7

Late? Retaliate!" were intended merely to publicize the settlement and redress we had won.

Finally, Larry Lyons is officially the Chairperson, not Chairman, of Local 3.

Margaret J. Watson
Chief Steward (Council)

Soviet objections to Star Wars are valid

Editor:

As the question of SDI of 'Star Wars' appears to be the chief obstacle to a far-reaching Disarmament agreement, we would do well to consider whether the strong Soviet objections to it have any validity.

In theory SDI is regarded as a Defensive system (the D stands for Defence), yet for several reasons it will not work in this sense. Firstly, the cost of providing against an enemy first strike would be totally prohibitive, or the order of 1000 billion dollars, whereas to defend against a retaliatory second strike (by missiles which escape 'our' first strike) would be at least 10 times easier.

Secondly, if the 'other side' decides to strike first, they can very easily destroy the highly sensitive sensors which must be placed in space to detect their missiles (and without these sensors SDI would be totally useless). This could be done, for example, by exploding a bomb containing small pellets, previously placed in the same orbit as the sensor, but rotating in the opposite direction.

Thus the only way SDI will be useful to us, if at all, would be if we strike first, destroying the Soviet SDI sensors as an initial step. The Soviets are well aware of this, and are quite

reasonably reluctant to reduce their strategic weapons while SDI goes ahead . . . for the fewer weapons they have the easier it will be for the US to make SDI work as a component of an offensive first strike.

Of course this works both ways, so that a soviet SDI deployment makes a first strike on their part much more plausible. The only way we can avoid that is an agreement that both sides should forego SDI development. The Soviets are extremely willing to conclude such an agreement as part of general disarmament and we should take up their offer without further delay.

—J.M. McNamee

Part time student wants different swim hours

Editor:

On behalf of the thousands of part-time evening students and faculty I am compelled to write to you.

It seems that Recreation York does not much care for the convenience and participation of many part-timers. My particular beef is with the times allotted for Recreation Swim.

You can swim between (12 and 2 p.m.) and (9 and 11 p.m.). What we need is some hours around 6 p.m.; say 5 to 7 p.m. Needless to say 12 to 2 is too early for all the evening faculty and students and 9 to 11 is too late.

Can the York's Recreation Department give priority to thousands of students over a few physical education coaches and their upcoming stars. I invite them to prove their professional commitment and enthusiasm between 10 and 12 midnight.

Chris Kalevar
P.T. Faculty, Atkinson

EXCALIBURATS!

If you value what's left of your social life, **ATTEND** your one big chance to party at patty's next Saturday (December 6th), following our final bizarre issue for '86. More details at **TODAY's** staff meeting, 3 p.m. in the ionized cave.

OMBUDSMAN REPORT (Yearend 1985-86)

During my year as Food Services Ombudsman I have received numerous complaints. These complaints covered a wide spectrum of Food Services at York. They ranged from cold food, to cockroaches to low levels of service. Some of these complaints were received by phone but the vast majority of complaints (or compliments) were derived from personal contact with Users. But however the complaints were received or whatever the complaints were about the important thing was that a line of communication was open.

I feel that these lines of communication could be strengthened and built upon though. One way of accomplishing this is through greater involvement and discussion with the Users Committees' Chair people since it is next to impossible for the Ombudsman to be in all places at once (and during hectic weeks, very difficult to eat in every cafeteria during the course of the week), it is important that the Ombudsman be able to rely on these people as his "second set" of eyes and ears. Since the Ombudsman is equipped with an answering machine he can, figuratively, be reached at all times. Perhaps the chairpeople should be required to "check in" with the Ombudsman on a regular basis so that if a situation does develop the Ombudsman will not be caught unaware.

One thing the chairpeople would be very helpful in reporting is the service at their respective outlets. More than anything else I have encountered this year, service seems to be a major problem, this is especially true at Marky's and the Rill Food outlets. I cannot truly believe that this level of service would be tolerated in the "outside world". At the Rill outlets it would certainly seem as though some of the younger employees have something against the students for being in university (I must also say that there are also some excellent employees at these outlets but as they say "one rotten apple spoils the bunch"). At Marky's I heard numerous times from students who have taken a valid complaint to the manager only to have her try to place the blame back on the user, they do not seem to be willing to accept responsibility for their own mistakes.

The students' attitudes seem to have been exemplified during the last

few weeks of school. The Complex I cafeteria is almost empty but the pizza men are busier than ever and I would expect that Harvey's and Wendy's are doing pretty good business. The reason? Most students have run out of scrip and their opinion is that if (and I quote) "we are going to be spending 'REAL' money, we want real food and real service. not Rill food and Rill service." I have heard the above comment from more than enough people to warrant its inclusion in this report.

Which brings us to another point, why are there so many people running out of scrip so early on in the year? The blame cannot simply be put on the student's mismanagement of funds. Much of the blame belongs on the amount of scrip allocated and the pricing of the food. For the latter point I do not mean merely the price of the food but also the fact there seems to be something wrong with a system in which people who are dependant on the service are charged the same as day students (excuse me, we are not charged tax). The system, suggested by the pretending committee, of meal plan outlets and cash outlets would be an ideal, and its within our grasp so "let's go for it".

Such a meal plan/cash outlet system might also cut down on dish loss. The meal plan outlets would out of necessity have to be more secure areas, food and dishes would not be allowed out of the cafeteria. Cash outlets on the other hand could make more use of disposable dishes.

Overall I feel that is important to stress to any caterer that both services and quality of the food are of the utmost importance and management should always be on top of both. This should also be a major consideration in tendering the contracts, both the quality of the food and the level of service should be of the highest standards.

In closing, I would simply like to thank you, for giving me the opportunity to be of service to the York Community.

D.W. Bennett