

state of the food address

Most resident students at U.P.E.I. have had, at one time or another, complaints about the cafeteria, be they about food or some service. Most students have second thoughts about complaining to the management (who this year have usually proven co-operative and are at least listeners).

If you have a complaint you have two choices: one, mentioned above is to go straight to the management or, two, you can go to your Food Committee Representative. They can bring any complaints before the Food Committee and usually get results. If you don't know who your reps. are, ask a proctor in your residence, he or she will know.

The Food Committee, up to this time, has brought before the management (Beaver Foods) and then University Administration complaints which are of concern to both groups - one way or another.

There were, earlier in the year, quite a few complaints about a poor choice of ice cream. At one time it was normal to find not a poor choice of ice cream but no choice at all. It was a case of there was either ice cream or there wasn't. That problem was caused by not having a freezer other than the one on the cafeteria floor.

The complaints about dirty utensils have been coming up since the first of the year and the problem will continue until the old dish-washer from Monty Hall is installed in the Chapel Cafeteria. The blame doesn't lie with the cafeteria management but with the Administration Bureaucracy which doesn't plan so much as a day in advance.

The dishwasher which is now going to be installed over the Xmas holidays could have been installed last summer but no one went around to making sure it was.

The same sort of problem comes up with our morning toast. If you've ever eaten breakfast at the dining hall, you've probably had toast. It's not really soggy just sort of rubberish and hard to tear, bite, chew or otherwise deface.

It seems at an early meeting of the Food Committee, Peter Haldemann the manager of the Cafeteria mentioned two commercial toasters. These toasters were supposed to be installed and the students could then make all the toast they wanted themselves. The fact is those toasters were here before the beginning of the term and were to have been installed. But there was a "problem".

Mr. Cross, a representative of the Administration, stated he had been told the toasters could not be installed because (get this) the power for the toasters would drain power from the secretarial pool in Main Building.

It has since been decided this assumption was wrong. They have decided the students will get to make their own toast after all. When is another matter. It took them three months to realize the toasters could be put in and at that rate it could be April or May by the time they put in an electrical plug in the wall. At any rate, Mr. Cross told the Food Committee last week he would see to it right away.

The last major food problem is with the cole slaw and salads. The system they are now using in the cafeteria, putting the cole slaw and salads out at 11:30 and 5:00 and letting them sit on an open table for two hours and one and one-half hours respectfully, causes them to sometimes taste different by the end of the meal period.

When this point was brought to the attention of the management they agreed the complaint was true and justified, but said the solution was not within their power. What is needed is a cold well which would keep the cole slaw and salads cool and this would have to be supplied by the administration. Mr. Schwarz, Regional Manager of Beaver Foods, who was at this particular meeting, said a mobile cold well about six feet long could be obtained for approximately \$145.00 (used) from Food Equipment in Halifax.

lounging around

The U.P.E.I. Student's Union is still awaiting word on whether or not they will be granted a liquor licence. The matter has been before the Prince Edward Island Liquor Commission for the past three months.

If the Union is granted its licence it will be the first University in the Maritimes to get one. Other Universities are trying to get licences but only been able to achieve temporary permits so far. A breakthrough by U.P.E.I. in this area may help other institutions across the Maritimes.

The Liquor Commission has been under pressure not to grant the licence. Various church groups, women's institutes, temperance leagues, etc. have been writing or phoning the Commission to express their fears about the proposed lounge. It appears that the moral fibre of the youth on campus will be irreparably damaged by the proximity of such a den of iniquity. (Don't ever tell them about that place down the road.)

A final decision was expected last Friday (November 20) but the Commission was unable to meet and resolve the question. A decision has been promised by Thursday, November 26.

Mr. Cross, at the next meeting, said he had checked with the administration, checked around about cold wells, and one could not be purchased for less than \$900.00. He also stated it was impossible to get one anyway because it had not been allowed for in this year's budget. Many people may find this a reasonable answer, but the fact is while the University is staying within its budget we're getting inedible cole slaw and salads once in awhile.

There is some good news for the cafeteria eaters. We're going to get new furniture. Don't ask why we get new furniture when what we have is still serviceable, just accept it. Also don't ask why furniture is more important than a new dishwasher, cold well, an addition to the crowded serving line, or the electrical power to two small toasters.

The Food Committee holds its meetings in a private room off the kitchen of the Cafeteria known as the Priests Cafeteria: it's not large, but there are two or three big round tables (with red and white checkered tablecloths) - more than enough room for the three or four priests who regularly frequent the place.

It seems they expect, and get, VIP treatment.

They expect a girl to come in and take their order. There are exceptions, we do see a new addition, dressed in black, behind the serving line once in awhile. This is because the women on the serving line are too busy to cater to two cafeterias at once. The priests have a habit, the rumor is, of continually leaving their dirty dishes on their tables.

It doesn't take much imagination to see what would happen if the entire student body did the same. Perhaps they should.

The point which deserves most emphasis is that the two groups hardly ever meet socially. It can really be seen that professors and the other priests who eat in the student cafeteria get along fine, in most cases finding discussion over a meal very rewarding.

Enough hedging on the subject.

As a student I find the whole situation of a private cafeteria distasteful. Personally, I consider it an insult to students and would like to see the Priests cafeteria closed, NOW. The space taken up by the priests cafeteria could be used by the cafeteria management to prepare food.

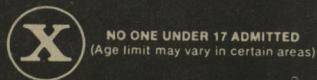
Special privileges for a few should cease immediately.

Students will meet at a general meeting of the Union, Thursday night to discuss the Commission's decision. If the decision is favourable, the licence and its regulations will be explained. Needless to say, if the application is approved any infractions will not be delt with lightly - action could be taken to revoke the licence.

The archaic liquor laws of this province, and the North American continent generally, promote under-age drinking. Clubs everywhere are patronized by people under 21, carrying false I.D. The reaction to the students having a licenced lounge, however, will result in yet another double standard. The student club will probably be closed if infractions occur; the others are barely checked.

If the Commission reports unfavourably then proposals will be put forward for student action protesting the decision. In order for such protests to be effective a majority of the student body will have to participate. Realizing this Ross has stated, "there will not be any meeting if there is less than 50% of the student body present. If we lose the licence it will be up to the students to fight for it ... or do without."

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YOU'VE HEARD
ABOUT
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BRECKINRIDGE
IS TRUE!**



Starting Friday, November 27
at the Confederation Centre

