

# The Continuing Saga of the Cafeteria

By Theresa McKenna

As the second semester gets under way, we must buckle down to our studies, look forward to the March break and put away memories of the holidays past. Unfortunately, part of the thoughts that must be stored away are visions and recollections of a "home cooked meal".

Haven't I been this way before? It was just about this time last semester that I found myself investigating the "coupon plan dilemma." All seemed to be going well, yet upon returning to these hallowed halls once again, things began to catch my attention (besides the tall blond). So I decided to review the situation once more.

The food committee held their first meeting after December recess and there it was decided that from now on only the cashiers or management would be authorized to tear coupons out of the books. This was done due to the high frequency of people "dropping" coupons onto tables. It was becoming difficult for the cashiers to keep account of what merchandise was being purchased. According to Andy Dean, manager of the cafeteria, sticking to this system will reduce the instance of theft, and also protect customers. "If a book is stolen or misplaced, we can keep a watch out for it."

Something I'm sure everyone has noticed is that there is again a charge for butter patties. This was complained about in the first food committee meeting of the year and was rectified. I was very curious to know why it was back, so I asked.

Andy Dean informed me that he felt people were abusing the small packaged items: "They were walking out with them by the handfuls. To buy the packaged butter is extremely expensive. We have allowed for them to be included with certain items, such as breads, but otherwise there just has to be a charge for them." There is now a container on the condiments table which contains butter in bulk form. You can take as much of that as you need

without cost.

The biggest issue at "that" food committee meeting last semester was that we were not going to have enough money to sustain us until break. Surprisingly, according to figures given me by Jim Griffith, at the end of the term, more than half of the students on the coupon plan had surplus money left over (104 out of 160). There was a low of 3.45 being cashed in by one student, to a high of \$369.20 by another. In total, almost \$9,000 in packaged goods (pop, chocolate, turkeys, etc.) was redeemed at the end of the year. Mr. Griffith feels that "the coupon package is still the ideal way to operate the dining hall... we just have to take a look at the whole plan for next year."

One reason for reviewing the plan is that the mass redemption that took place at the end of the semester represented quite a loss in revenue to the cafeteria. "When we decided on a meal plan and the company itself adds up projected costs, such as food costs and salaries, they do it according to the preparation of foods, not in packaged goods like chocolates," said Jim Griffith.

Andy Dean himself was not quite prepared for the overwhelming amount of coupons that flowed in for redemption. In an attempt to foresee that this does not occur again at the end of this term, in his latest newsletter (pink) Andy listed bulk purchases which can be bought at any time during the year. Andy feels that "now they have experienced the coupon plan, people will know how to budget themselves and know if they will have a large excess at the end. I'm offering things such as the bulk purchases, birthday cakes, and even parties for small groups (all which can be paid for with coupons), in the hope that there won't be such a rush at the end."

In addition, it was mentioned to me that there are also going to be "special" specials from time to time. These will be nice cuts of meat

such as prime rib, which are also more expensive. You may not be eating more, but you'll be spending more. But whenever these dishes are offered, a cheaper dish will be available in case you feel you can't afford it.

Also new on the agenda is the appearance of menus. Each week a menu will appear on the "Beef Board" at the rear of the cafeteria. It will list the projected meals for the week (subject to change). If left undisturbed, the menu will stay up for a week when the next one is posted so that a comparison

of weekly meals is possible. For information sake, in accordance with the plan, you should now be on your third book. You should start your 4th on Feb. 15; 5-Mar. 1, 6-Mar. 15; 7-Mar. 29, and 8-April 12.

So ends another chapter of my cafeteria story. If you have a complaint, or a question, do not hesitate to bring it to someone's attention (besides your friends sitting next to you.) Remember that the money you pay for food is your own, even if it does come in the form of little blue squares. Now where did that tall blond go....?

## Carnival Wrap Up

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Friday, January 22: The beginning of Winter Carnival was sponsored by the Junior Class. A sell out event with Titan started the "Wipe-Out" on the right track. The Junior Class is on its way out of debt. Way to go, goose!

Monday, January 25: The Campus Cabaret began this week's schedule of fun-filled events. Filled to capacity, Steele sat 200 students and university personnel. Only \$1.00 admittance fee and the show was an extreme success. This three hour show was accepted warmly by an enthusiastic crowd and a talented crew. Following the Cabaret was a Button Pub at the Barn. Terry Dunsford played to a moderate sized crowd. Day 2 over!

Tuesday, January 26

The Fan Van was off to Mount A to watch the basketball teams win. Let's Make a Deal replaced the Dating Game. Not as popular but prizes were certainly appreciated! The Greaser Night was a success as approximately 150 people greased up and supported the event.

Wednesday, January 27

There were no tickets scalped! Blushing Brides were sold out on Monday, much to the dismay of many students. Live and learn, like they say. (Get your tickets early.) The Blushing Brides were excellent and all Rolling Stones fans were unavailable for an

understandable comment.

Thursday, January 28

Oh boy! If you missed this pub, you missed a good one! Probably the best event of the week, almost 200 students cheered, clapped, and sang along with the ever popular Terry Kelly. If by chance he is back, be sure and get your ticket early. This guy was super!

Friday, January 29

The Carnival Ball. The decorating committee did a fantastic job for such few people. The Confed Centre looked marvelous. Another sell out evening but Sue Parlee did not make it. (Neil MacKenzie was there in her place.) The crowning of this year's Royalty took place. Kim Cook, Queen, and Stephen Smith, King. (I suppose you already knew which one was which, though, eh?) Many thanks to Sharon Conohoy and Phil Callaghan for working the door and participating in the 10 oz. curls.

Saturday, January 30

Sports day at UPEI. The basketball teams each played Acadia and came up with impressive wins. That evening the hockey team tied Dalhousie 5-5 in front of a 1300 capacity crowd. Afterwards, Spoons played at the Barn in front of another sell out crowd. Mixed comments were heard about this group but overall opinions were "had a good time".

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