

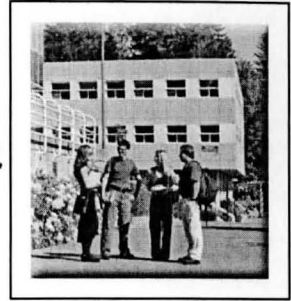
November 6, 2004  
Volume 3, Issue 13

# Plainly Malaspina

*Malaspina University College - A View from the Depths*

## There is No Free Lunch ... the Lunch Room is Not Free

FROM OUR FOOD AND ENTERTAINMENT DESK



*Plainly Malaspina is often published every two weeks by Plainly Malaspina Newspapers International Inc., of Nanaimo, BC.*

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Staff reacted angrily this week to the stunning revelation that the Royal Arbutus Room is being converted into a luxury restaurant for the wining and dining of well-heeled potential donors to the Library Campaign.

Once the scene of a winningly gracious if brief encounter between our noble Monarch and local academic workers, the room will soon be off-limits to all but the most monetarily successful of faculty entrepreneurs.

"Basically, to my mind," said MFA representative Dave Spart, "this is just another example of the stranglehold held by the capitalist system over the working people of this institution. No one was taken in by the steady rise in prices in the cafeteria, and now we find out what it is all in aid of: free handouts of caviar to the only people who could afford it in the first place!"

Senior administrators and Food Services managers were not fazed by Spart's reaction. "What a load of codswallop!" said one cryptically. "Whenever humankind makes any significant progress, there will always be doubters and nay-sayers. This expansion of restaurant service is all part of the Culinary Plan, to which the entire campus has contributed through the governance system over the last two years."

When pressed for details of this collaborative and inclusive process, the source demurred. *PM* has since learned that access to the record of the process will be available online once the software has been bought, paid for and then tested for suitability.

Faculty recently laid off in the Hospitality area as well as several former Food Services managers could not be reached for comment.

While the furore about the future of the Royal Arbutus Room continues, *PM* has at least been able to lay to rest several false rumours about the affair:

- It has nothing to do with a recurrence of the rodent issue (see *PM* Nov 8/03).
- It has nothing to do with the unsightly corridor leading to the Discovery Room.
- It is not true that the new room will serve International Cuisine alone.

Instead, *Café Madrona* will offer a wide variety of local, regional, provincial, national and international dishes, serving the needs of our community as well as others who can afford to pay. Co-ordinators of study abroad programs and Directors of grant-aided Research Centres are advised to book early, for business will be brisk as the restaurant gathers steam.