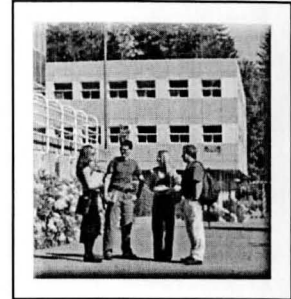


Plainly Malaspina

Malaspina University College - A View from the Depths



Rodent Rumours Greatly Overblown

CAFETERIA RELATIVELY SAFE, SAY OFFICIALS

Plainly Malaspina is an internal publication of the University College. It is committed to the ferreting out of sensitive information, rational discussion of the issues and avoiding the use of weasel-words.

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Coming Events:

See inside p.32 for places and times

- Faculty PD Workshop
A Taste of Animal Research: From Skinner Box to Cutting Edge, Subjects to Chew On
- Free Public Lecture
Rationing the Truth: Image-Management for the Small Institution with Research Pretensions
- Movie Week
Mon: *Ratboy* (1986)
Tue: *The Rat Race* (1960)
Wed: *The Rats* (1982)
Thu: *Mousey* (1974)
Fri: *The Mouse that Roared* (1959)

Officials at the MUC Upper Cafeteria today poured cold water on recent persistent rumours that the popular eatery is suffering an infestation of rats.

“These rumours are a downright lie,” said one, on condition that he not be identified, “a gross distortion of the truth and a vicious slander against one of the most vibrant and successful entrepreneurial components of the institution. It is common knowledge that for some weeks now we have had the problem relatively under control.”

Members of staff taking lunch in the exquisitely appointed Royal Arbutus Room, interviewed by our Roving Eye reporter Adrian Black, were quick to leap to the defence of their colleagues in the kitchens.

“I’ve eaten lunch here every working day for the last fifteen years,” said Biff Juby, “and, quite honestly, the number of rats I have seen can be counted on the fingers of one hand – and those only in the last month or two.”

“We may be going through a bad patch,” added Lance Reimer, “but every team has those - if you look at the long term, you see that the recent issues with vermin are not at all characteristic of our fine workplace.”

“It’s a question of loyalty,” argued

Dirk Monaghan. “Who is going to let a few rat-hairs get in the way of a hearty lunch, the jovial camaraderie of challenges faced together, and the warm feeling that the institution has our best interests at heart?”

“Actually, I don’t mind the rats,” quipped Giles Armstrong. “In Phys. Ed., or whatever it’s called now, we teach that protein is an essential component of a balanced diet.”

While our reporter was unable to confirm the sightings directly, he did manage to talk to one dissatisfied customer who was shocked by what he found in the somewhat ironically-named Discovery Room. Speaking on condition of anonymity, rugged MFA President J**** B***** said he was at the very least disappointed by a menu which included *ratatouille*, potatoes au *gratin* and *grated* carrots.

“You don’t have to go very far,” he said, “to smell a rat or two somewhere in that list of items. Basically, to my mind, it’s yet another further example of the unprecedented carelessness of this Administration when it comes to the health and safety of its workforce.. We expect to be launching a grievance and taking it all the way to arbitration. Wait a minute! - how do you spell ‘arbitration’? ... or ‘Administration’?”

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