University Need Not Have Food Service

(Continued from page 2)
University regulates Granville
Towers and could guarantee the
foodworkers' security immediately after the change-over, as
well as dictate their pay scale—

Jones: You know, the University has not guaranteed job security for anyone working on Granville Towers.

Agar: I just want to point out the scope of the University's power when it wants to enforce standards.

Jones: The owners of Granville Towers applied for University supervision in order to qualify to house University students. Agar: That's what I mean.

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The University can specify standards like that—in contract. I want to know why the Saga contract couldn't have guaranteed the food workers some job security.

Jones: Saga wouldn't have signed, or they'd have contracted to take losses and would have gone out of business. In any event, it was not in the University's power to guarantee the workers' jobs permanently.

Agar: Couldn't the University have specified hiring and firing practices more stringently in Saga's contract?

Jones: Not to my knowledge.

Agar: You say that in contractual negotiations it was "recognized that reductions in force might occur... as a result of program changes, increased efficiency... or diminished funding." Here the contract recognizes—(Jones: "Contractual negotiations.")—all right, negotiations recognizes three distinct reasons for firing.

Jones: I don't see how this is

relevant

Agar: It seems to me that in this kind of recognition there is an implied control. What's the sense of it if the University is powerless in these areas anyway? Am I reading this wrong?

Jones: Yes.

Agar: But the University could have been more demanding with Saga?

Jones: No, it could not.

Agar: If Saga had not accepted, another company—what with this being a free, competitive society—would have come along—

Jones: I think I have sound reasons for saying what I do.

Agar: Well, among these recognitions, were there any provisions for reductions of regular work force in order to hire labor not covered by State and University wage and benefit agreements?

Jones: Would you explain?

Agar: Students make how much? (Jones: \$1.60/hr)—And workers—? (Jones: I believe Saga's minimum is \$1.80.)—Do the students get any of Saga's fringe benefits?

Jones: No. [. . .]

Agar: Would it have been possible for the University to have run its food service, non-profit, efficiently—better than a profitmaker like Saga?

Jones: No, it would not have been.—I have to put a caveat after each time you use "possible."

Agar: Is it possible that the University dumped the food service to get rid of its responsibility to the food workers?

Jones: I don't think so.

Agar: Your letter to Dr. Gaskin asserts that the University's sole responsibility in this issue is not to lose money on food. (Jones: That's right.)—Is this the University's full—underline that—position?

Jones: You have a bad way of phrasing what I said. The only requirement the University has, if it undertakes to run a food service, is not to run it at a loss. If you recall, I was answering various rumors, one of which was that if Saga flopped, the University would have to hire another caterer, or resume direct control of the food service. The University is not legally required to do this.

Agar: This being the limit of the University's responsibility, how long do you think it will be before we run a repeat of last Spring? (Jones: For what?)— Strikes—disturbances...

Jones: I have no idea, John... I hope it is eons and eons. What do you think?

Agar: When does the fall semester begin? (Jones: Sept. 13)—October 13—maybe sooner, if Saga lets the situation go. Jones: Well, if you print my

answer, please print yours.

Agar: I'm not boosting distur-

bances; I don't think any sane person would, for their own sake. But sometimes you either get stepped on or hit back. Then, if you're on the low end to start with, the hitting back is called a disturbance.

Jones: I don't doubt it. I sin-

cerely hope, though, that there will not be any disturbances. No one really wins, though some will lose more badly than others.

Agar: Well, we know who that'll be.

Jones: As long as we're interviewing each other, let me ask you another question.—Suppose, when the fall semester opens, not one single student patronizes the campus cafeterias, and Saga has to ask the University to be released from its contract. What do you think would be the result?

Agar: 'According to what you've said, the University would either shut down the campus eating places entirely, or would let them—to the Rathskeller, or whoever.

Jones: That's right.

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