

Anti-Semitic messages scratched onto car

"... There is a racism problem on campus, but it has not become any worse than last year."

by Michele Greene

Anti-Semitic messages were scratched onto the side of a York student's car February 24. The car was also broken into and its interior was destroyed. The same car was broken into February 6 and the stereo was stolen.

The owner of the car said that along with the words, "Die Jew" and "Jew Fuck," the interior looked like it was destroyed with a crow bar.

The car had been left in reserved lot AA from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. The owner said he felt secure about leaving his car parked in one of the more expensive lots but now he feels helpless.

Since this incident, the owner says he has conducted his own patrols on campus. He says he has not seen any security patrols other than the escort van and is disappointed, since he feels security has the resources to do this.

Bob Stevens, security's investigations officer, says his department is aware of the situation and is taking measures to improve it. He says frequent in-car and on-foot patrols are conducted on campus and in the parking lots "consistent with resources." However, he says the department has limited funds.

Although the Race and Ethnic Relations Centre has not received an official complaint

about this event, the centre is aware of the increase of incidents of this nature, says co-ordinator David Trotman.

Trotman says there is a racism problem on campus, but it has not become any worse than last year. He says these incidents have to be taken into context. There is a greater awareness in society of racism now than in the past and so more incidents are being reported.

Trotman has observed that racist incidents go in cycles. If one particular group holds an event on campus, then immediately after, there are incidents of racism against that group.

Claire Sookman, director of the Jewish Students Federation, would not comment on this particular incident, but said that the Jewish community at York is not being singled out for racist demonstrations. This incident is representative of a larger problem of racism on campus, she added.

Stevens said Metro Police is aware of the break-in problem at York and that York security is following some leads. He said the number of break-ins during the period from November 1989 to February 1990 has increased in comparison to the same period last year. Reported incidents of

a racist nature have decreased slightly during the same period.

Stevens has observed a new phenomenon in the pattern of car break-ins. They normally occur at night, he explains, but during the last four months more incidents have taken place during the day. Some parking lots are hit more than others. Stevens says the lots near the Track and Field Centre and the ice arena as well as the Assiniboine Road lots are broken into regularly.

Stevens suggests that, when possible, drivers park in well-lit areas close to an entrance of a building to reduce the chances of a car break-in.

Atkinson College's election based on parliamentary system

by David Tompkins

Only 12 voters elected the new Atkinson College Student Association (ACSA) executive council February 17.

Anna Segal, the new ACSA president, explained that the structure of the association is different from other colleges because, "not all Atkinson students are eligible to vote."

Andrew Roberts, ACSA elections officer, said the association is based on the parliamentary system. Each class is a riding, and each riding may elect two class representatives to vote.

Further, Segal said honorary members (members of the assembly) may vote. And, there are approximately 20 to 25 assembly members.

Although only 12 people voted, Segal said it is probable this is a representation of a much greater number.

Of the seven positions available on the executive, two positions were left empty after the election. The position of director of internal affairs was subsequently filled at a March 17 by-election and there is one candidate for the position of director of community relations which will be decided on in April.

Atkinson College is for part-

time students and, said Segal, "Most part-time students do not have the time" to take an interest in student government.

She added, "It would be nice to have more students become involved in the assembly," but in many cases, this is not feasible.

Atkinson holds classes in Ottawa, Barrie and two hospitals in Toronto. Each of these classes is eligible to send representatives to vote, yet it is unlikely that this happened.

Segal and Roberts both expressed confidence in the present system of government, yet both said they wish for greater student involvement in the ACSA.

Kittens found in Winters cafeteria

by Sid "Midnight" Tyson

Staffers at the Winters college cafeteria got a big surprise yesterday during the lunchtime rush.

A day shift employee in the midst of the busiest hour of the day was startled to hear what seemed to be a kitten's meow coming from one of the cafeteria's heat registers.

Closer inspection of the register led to the discovery of one mother cat and five of her kittens.

Cafeteria employee Byron Hatt estimated the kittens' age at four weeks. "They were awake, but their eyes were still closed."

According to Hatt, the stow-away felines were rescued from the heat register with the aid of those indispensable kitchen tools, a pair of tongs.

Minutes later, the kittens were carted off by concerned students who carried the friendly furballs away in a large cardboard box.

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