



photo Bill Inglee

gateway

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This week,
the Assassins...

...next week,
the fencing club

Assassins gunned down and slain

by Allison Annesley

The campus Spy Versus Spy game ended prematurely yesterday before having established a winner. All were losers.

The student-organized detective game originally known as Assassins was to have run for at least another month before a winning spy could be rewarded for his efforts with a briefcase full of foreign currency.

Yesterday morning, though, this frivolity was put to an end. University Vice-President Academic, George Baldwin, who had been Acting President during the peak of controversy concerning the club, met with organizers Harland Kirby, Todd Jeanotte, and Clay Hamdon, and with acting SU President Teresa Gonzalez to confirm the game's dissolution, effective yesterday at noon.

Baldwin had met with the club last Friday to offer an ultimatum for continuing with the game on campus. Either the weapons used for eliminating targets could be replaced with something that did not resemble a firearm while restricting the game to daylight hours, or the administration would ban the game from University premises.

The club's executive consulted some of the game's participants over the weekend about the suggested changes to the game but players vetoed the University's helpful hints. The only other alternative: closing the game down. Mission accomplished.

Students equipped with plastic guns that shoot rubber darts have been stalking the campus since last Wednesday in their efforts to find and eliminate the targets they had been assigned by the club's executive. Players received clues that included a photograph, and the class schedule of their intended victims.

Spies confronting their assassins could defend themselves by shooting their rubber darts first into the torso of the person about

to "kill" them. In the final round of the game, the first player to eliminate any of the remaining survivors would have won the game prize. Profits were to go to charity.

But blow away some of the administrative dust and there are some angry students both within the club and the Students' Union who feel slighted by the handling of this situation.

Although Assassins went smoothly two years ago when organized by the U of A med students, some controversial press early in their campaign brought this year's version to the centre of public debate.

After Acting Dean of Students Paul Sartoris intervened, the club was escalated to media star status. The interviews have not stopped since the Acting Dean first called the club on his own initiative to express his objections to their motif. During this meeting, Sartoris also convinced the Assassins organizers to change the name of the game to *Spy Versus Spy*. He then organized a meeting of the Council on Student Services (COSS) to recommend the game be banned from campus.

But Sartoris apparently neglected to follow some basic rules of fair play and common courtesy.

Says Club President Harland Kirby, "Sartoris stabbed us in the back. He told the *Edmonton Journal* that he wanted to see the game played with water pistols and then that same day, told us that anything resembling firearms would be unacceptable. If Sartoris had suggested a substitute weapon to us at the beginning of the game we would have agreed to it, but he gave us the impression that this was not the problem, so we went ahead and bought suction guns."

Spy Versus Spy Vice President Todd Jeanotte contends, "Sartoris phoned me at 9:30 the night before the COSS meeting. He broke protocol by phoning me at home rather than through the

Students' Union."

At the COSS meeting, Jeanotte says Sartoris made a "series of untrue statements." For instance, "He claimed that he didn't threaten us with shutting down or banning the club. His threat was implied."

Said Kirby, "During our first meeting with Sartoris, I said, 'I understand you have the authority to close us down in a matter of days if you want to.' His reply was silence. It was his responsibility to correct me instead of giving the impression of alleged power which didn't exist."

Another point that came up in

COSS infuriated the organizers who couldn't attend due to short notice and academic commitments. This was Sartoris' allegation concerning the club's pursuance of controversial publicity. Says Jeanotte, "We never contacted the press. They always called us."

It was Dean Baldwin who finally met with the club and explained what their alternatives were if they were to be allowed to continue operation on campus. Said Kirby, "Dr Baldwin was very helpful and a pleasure to work with. It's Sartoris' Victorian ideals that are misplaced. Though he

started out arguing semantics with us and apparently objecting to our "motif," what it all came down to was the University's much more logical argument concerning third party liability." Liability was not part of Sartoris' original argument, say the club's executive. This did come up later in the Acting Dean's campaign to stamp out the Assassins.

Says VP Internal Ray Conway, "I agree with Baldwin's rationale that there was indeed liability for any occurrences that could happen on campus. But I'm disappointed. I think Sartoris was irresponsible. I

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A nickel and dime situation

Students protest bus fares

TORONTO (CUP) — The University of Toronto's Students' Administrative Council wants to nickle and dime the Toronto Transit Commission into giving students a break.

SAC's TTC committee is planning to stuff TTC fare boxes with the legal limit of change — 25 pennies and 12 nickles — to protest student fares.

The change will hinder passenger flow, weight down the boxes and force the TTC to roll a huge amount of change.

SAC is angered over the TTC's refusal to grant post-secondary students a special transit rate.

High school students are eligible for a 45 cent fare with a TTC student card, compared to 85 cents for adults.

According to Greg Schiller, chair of the SAC TTC committee, the fare issue is political but students have no political leverage. The government, he said, does not listen to students and does not recognize them as a fixed-income group.

Schiller added that the protest, planned for the week of Feb. 21, could help students gain

the support of non-student adults and senior citizens.

Ward 6 councillor Jack Layton agrees that students should "have dramatically reduced fares." He said he is pushing the TTC for changes, but students should continue to pressure for reduced fares.

But TTC marketing coordinator Brian Drew said the commission cannot subsidize students and that it is a municipal government responsibility.

The TTC has a mandate to provide a service that returns 68

per cent of its operating costs. If fares are reduced and the TTC portion cannot be met, the Metro council must make up the difference, said Drew.

According to Drew, special post-secondary student rates would have to come as the result of a political decision, not a TTC undertaking.

Schiller insists, however, that the TTC spends money to decorate subway stations but claim they don't have funds to subsidize students.

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