

excalibur

\$50,000 in computer equipment nabbed from Steacie

by Bruce Millman

Computer equipment valued at \$50,000 was stolen from the Steacie/Macintosh lab January 24. At 1:00 a.m. the room was discovered unlocked by a cleaner, said Eric Pond, assistant director of security. The cleaner alerted security, who in turn called Metro Police.

It was discovered that someone had wadded some paper and placed it into the open portion of the lock, stopping the bolt from closing. The person who locked the door was not sure whether or not the door was secured when he left at the end of the day.

Pond said the computers had not been chained, bolted or secured in any fashion. As well, the units did not have any discernable markings or identifications to show they belonged to York.

In order to prevent further thefts, Pond said security members discussed instituting a credit card system for locking doors instead of keys at a security meeting last Thursday.

This adds to the string of computer thefts that have been plaguing York's main campus. So far this year, there has been \$101,000 worth of computer equipment stolen, not including this most recent incident.

Photo of the week



Patricia Hutahajan's "Eye's on the Rise."

Excalibur beats 13 other papers for award

Staff Story

Excalibur has placed first in the 1988-1989 Ontario Community Newspaper Association Editorial Awards.

York University's now twice-weekly community newspaper beat 13 newspapers in the University and College Class, including *The Varsity* at the University of Toronto, *The Imprint* at the University of Waterloo and *The Silhouette* at McMaster University. Excalibur also received first place in the composition, layout and photography sub-categories.

Editor of Excalibur for the 1988-1989 school year Adam Kardash said he is proud of the awards.

Excalibur readers will also be pleased to know how their referendum money is working for them. (Last year York students voted in favour of giving Excalibur \$4 per full time student in order for the paper to improve service.) On Tuesday, January 30 Excalibur began publishing two issues a week — on Tuesdays as well as Thursdays. In addition to the increase in frequency, as of Thursday, February 1, 1990, Excalibur published 140 more pages than the same time last year.

Editor of Excalibur Nancy Phillips said, "I am pleased that we have fulfilled the mandate granted to us by the students last year in the referendum. Students wanted to see larger and more frequent issues and Excalibur has delivered. We have also maintained, and, in fact, improved the quality Adam instilled last year."

Clubs begin ironing board protest

Staff Story

A series of weekly "ironing board" protests was inaugurated last Wednesday by a group of clubs who want the Central Square area to be returned to students.

Thirteen clubs and campus organizations set up ironing boards in the Central Square corridor between the bearpits in order to "reclaim the public space that once existed for students in Central Square," a pamphlet distributed by the group said.

Last term, the administration told clubs to vacate the corridor after the university had been told to enforce a 1987 fire marshal's ruling banning tables there. The ban led to a spontaneous student protest which escalated to include broader issues affecting undergraduates, such as underfunding and overcrowding.

After negotiations between the CYSF and administration representatives, it was determined that the area around both bearpits would be available for club tables. Director of student affairs, Cora Dusk, who participated in the negotiations, said she was under the impression that the CYSF had agreed on behalf of the students

to put club tables in and around the bearpits, despite a "breakdown in communications."

Jean Ghomeshi of the York New Democrats said the ironing boards are being set up in the corridors now as they are not as wide as regular tables and do not constitute a fire hazard any more than loiterers do.

The group will only be protesting on Wednesdays because the protests "would get out of control" if they were to occur more often, and people could lose interest, said Ghomeshi.

"I think that this just shows that we are willing to compromise," Ghomeshi said. He added that the clubs are not satisfied with setting up tables around the bearpits because they cannot be seen as well as they can along the corridor. He said now is a crucial recruitment time for the clubs because of the influx of new winter/summer students.

"We cannot function unless we get to set up in visible areas of Central Square," he said.

Ghomeshi said that the CYSF agreed to put the clubs in the bearpits last term and then withdrew support for the protest. He said the CYSF negotiated an

agreement on its own behalf but not on behalf of the clubs.

"Not everything the CYSF does is necessarily agreed to by [the clubs]," he added.

Putting clubs in and around the bearpits "wasn't a good compromise on the part of CYSF and student affairs," added Mary Tsilka of the York Portuguese Association.

University fire marshal John Colpitts asked the students to vacate the corridor after Dusk asked them to leave, but they would not.

"I'm like a piece of meat being kicked in the ass from both sides," Colpitts said about being caught between students and the North York fire marshal's order to vacate the corridors.

"I have been a fire fighter for many years," Colpitts said. "If I had my way, there would be nothing in these halls." He added that the whole issue is out of his hands and he is just enforcing the fire marshal's order.

CYSF president Peter Donato said the CYSF never supported the solution to put the club tables in and around the bearpits and never forced clubs to locate there. He said the CYSF stopped the pro-

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