

Why don't we get rid of the YFS?

Our student government supplement calls for a whole new setup • page 7

Professor claims sexism as reason for student boycott of film exam

by Elaine Bellio

First-year film production students boycotted their December midterm exam, claiming the professor had not taught the material adequately.

"We boycotted the exam because we had a feeling, for the whole first semester, that we weren't learning any concrete information," said Adam Foord, a student enrolled in the course.

Foord claimed that over half the students in the class wrote a letter of complaint instead of writing the exam. "We weren't going to write the exam because the questions dealt with things we had never seen before," he said.

Professor Kalli Paakspuu argued that the students reacted as they did because she is one of the few women teaching film.

"Women teaching in a department that is male defined and male dominated and in a field that is male defined and male dominated often become scapegoats," she wrote in a letter to *Excalibur*. "They are more apt to be judged more harshly."

Paakspuu said she was "shocked" that students should boycott the exam. "The reaction to the test (exam) has no bearing on what they have learned." Paakspuu wrote that the "allegations were, and are, grossly unfair and defamatory of me. They represent unfounded accusations by certain students."

But students contacted disagree. "She didn't prepare us and she wasn't even there before the exam," said Pawel Krolak.

Paakspuu left for England a week before the exam date.

"This really pissed the students off," said a student who asked that her name not be printed.

"Boycotting the exam was worth it because we didn't learn anything from Paakspuu. Our situation was hopeless and something had to be changed," she said.

The student also claimed Paakspuu did not assign any readings for the course. "She didn't even tell us where we could find the information that we needed to know."

She said students only watched slide presentations that we were assigned at the beginning of the term. "She didn't teach us anything technical. It's a production course and we

need to learn the technical side to film."

"This is okay with some students who already have background experience, but not for the majority," said Krolak. "She didn't teach what was expected and this upset people."

However, Paakspuu said many of the students came into the course not knowing anything about film. She said she taught them how to use cameras.

"Everyone is jumping to conclusions at impartial information," said Paakspuu. "People should look at the work that was done last semester before they judge my teaching skills."

Student discontent with Paakspuu's teaching method mounted in November, causing several students to write letters to George Robinson, administrative assistant for the Department of Fine Arts.

"Several of my friends believed the course was a waste of time and money," said Krolak. "We have to start from ground zero and work like hell to make up the wasted assignments."

Record number of people coming to Canada to study

by Lisa Young
Canadian University Press

OTTAWA — International student enrolment in Canada had a record annual increase last year, according to the Canadian Bureau for International Education.

The CBIE's national report found there were 87,000 foreign students in Canadian schools, colleges and universities in 1990-91, representing a growth of 21 per cent from the year before.

Mary Hofstetter, chair of CBIE's board of directors, attributes the increase to Canada's reputation as "a first-class place to study."

Although trade schools and community colleges had the largest increase, universities also saw an increase in the number of foreign students by 10 per cent since 1989-90.

According to the report, 58 per

cent of foreign students in Canada are from Asian countries, with Hong Kong leading, followed by the Philippines and China. Most Chinese students are enrolled in graduate programs. The report also says the number of women studying in Canada continues to grow.

Enrolment by international students at schools in the United States has increased by about five per cent since 1989-90.

Schools in Canada are cheaper and have as much to offer international students as those in the United States, said Anya Wasiwski, spokesperson for the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada.

"Tuition is very expensive in the United States compared to Canada," she said. "Most of all, I would attribute the increase of foreign enrolment in Canada to a very open attitude on the part of Canadian (schools) toward international students."

Services like exchange programs for international students and the high quality of education contribute to Canada's "global perspective in education," Wasiwski said.

Enrolment has been highest at the University of Toronto with 3,700 students, followed by McGill with 2,800. L'Universite de Montreal, York and the University of Alberta rounded out the top five.

Professor Jim Fisher, chair of the Department of Fine Arts has replaced Paakspuu teaching the course.

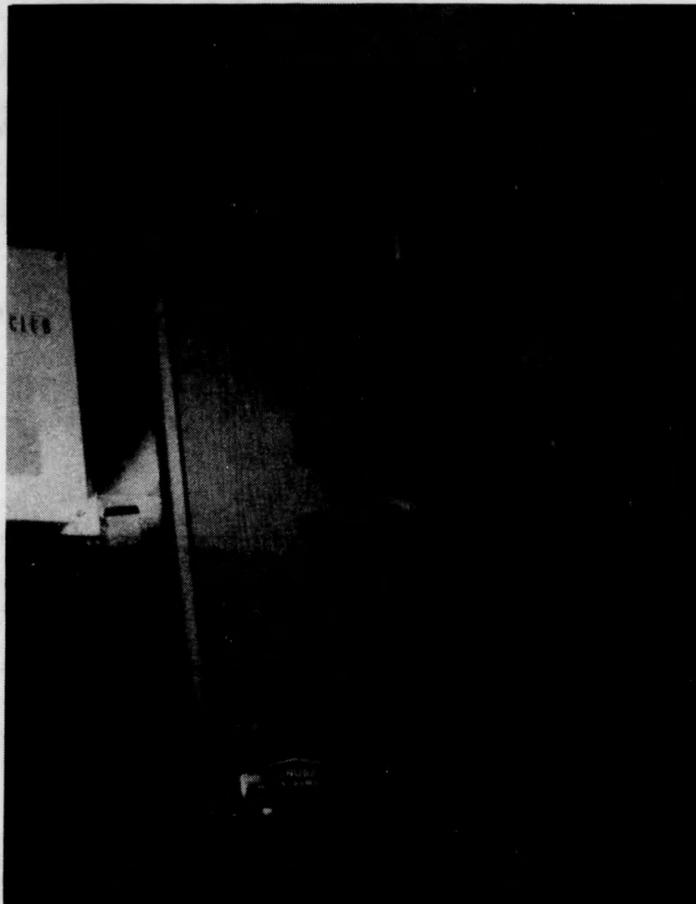
Paakspuu said the majority of students in her class were men. "This (the boycott) happened on December 6, 1991, which was memorial day for the Montreal Massacre. This has symbolic relevance to that day and the boycott," she wrote.

"I believe that what has happened to me is indicative of the situation of women in the Film and Video department," Paakspuu wrote in another letter.

"The boycotting of the exam was definitely not a misogynist act," the female student said. "We were only interested in the course and nothing else."

"It is kind of sad that we had to lose a woman professor because there are very few women in film and it was interesting to be taught film by a woman," Foord said.

Because Paakspuu's case is currently in arbitration, she is under legal restraints which limit her freedom to state her opinions.



Alak Sharma
WE KNOW THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT US IN THERE. Faculty club manager Nubia Solano says the financially troubled faculty club has never turned away students, in spite of the sign. "Of course, they're not encouraged either," he admits.

Faculty Club losing out to Student Centre restaurant

by Corey Goldman.

Competition from the Student Centre's Underground restaurant is taking patrons away from the Faculty Club, according to its manager.

A letter sent to faculty members last term says the club's financial situation is at risk and asks them to eat there.

Nubia Solano, manager of the Faculty Club, said it is not in a debt situation yet but "We're pretty close."

"We used to receive a lot of funding from catering the functions of the departments and administration. Now that their budgets are limited, we're suffering."

The faculty club is an exclusive restaurant in the Ross Building. Although students are not officially banned, a sign on the entrance says the club "serves employees of the university and their guests only."

Despite the competition the Student Centre presents, Solano said the new eateries are beneficial because they keep students out of the Faculty Club. "Last year students were drinking coffee and studying in here. Our clients complained about this. They had nowhere to sit."

"It's not that students were ever banned from coming in, it's just never been our policy to promote it," Solano added.

Tony Turrutin, a professor who sits on the Faculty Club's board of directors, said he thinks the ambience and exclusivity of the Club is what singles it out from other food services at York.

"Students aren't chased out anymore. Of course, they're not encouraged either," Turrutin added.

Many faculty members said they prefer the services offered at the Underground. Administrative Studies professor Sam Fenwick found the menu varied and the atmosphere more to his liking. "The food is better and less expensive" and the atmosphere is "more congenial," Fenwick said.

Similar opinions came from most other faculty members dining at the Underground.

"The atmosphere there (at the Faculty Club) is very unpleasant," one professor, who asked to remain anonymous, said. "We enjoy a more diverse atmosphere... less pompous."

Tom Bergeran, an executive member of the Graduate Student Association, used to dine at the Faculty Club, but prefers the affordability of the Student Centre. "I used to eat there, but now I'm more interested in supporting the Student Centre."

Revenue would increase for the Faculty Club if it allowed students access to the Club and its services, but Solano does not support the idea.

"We certainly need support, but from the faculty. After all, it's their Club and by advertising to students we're selling them out. Also, since the Faculty Club is a separate company, there's a conflict with promoting the place to students," Solano explained.

But Turrutin said opening the club to students may be the only way to reverse its financial descent.

"Personally, I'm not worried about students. I haven't found any of them to be obnoxious or disruptive. Allowing students to eat there is certainly a short-term resolution for our problems; however, for the long term it would definitely be faculty-only."

INSIDE

- Many-Mouthed Birds page 16
- McGill hockey shootout page 20
- Report Card for YFS page 12