

ASBESTOS: Positive reading of cancer causing compound found in Osgoode Hall

by JEFF KIPPEL

Individuals should be given the choice of whether or not to leave the building until the June 13th and 14th sample results are received."

This warning was posted on the doors of Osgoode Hall Law School on the morning of June 30 by Catherine Tracy of the Department of Occupational Health and Safety because positive tests for asbestos were found in the staircase leading to the library.

On June 2 some dust was found on the inside of a shelving unit that had been relocated to the first floor stack area from room 114E. This dust also appeared on the floor of the stairwell where the shelves were carried out to the loading dock to be delivered to the Parkdale Legal Aid office. The samples of this material were sent to Tillgard Scientific for testing.

As a result, the building underwent an extensive and thorough cleansing. The clean-up con-

sisted of wetting down all the walls, stairs and handrails from the ground floor to the fourth floor of the building. Additional cleaning was done in room 114 and the hallways around the stairwell.

It was not until June 12 that the sample was identified as asbestos. Parkdale Legal Aid was immediately informed of the incident and advised to seal off the area where the shelves were located.

While re-checking the stairwell, it was discovered that a small amount of the material was missed in the first clean-up. The staircase was sealed and closed to public use. A second cleaning was done. Maintenance personnel also conducted a cleaning procedure in the library at Parkdale Legal Aid.

After the second clean-up, samples were then taken on June 12, 13 and 14. The results of the June 12 test were not received until 4:15 p.m. on June 29. They were positive. There was still a trace of airborne asbestos in the stairwell.

It took two weeks from the test date until anyone was informed of the potential danger. For that time period, anyone entering Osgoode was exposed to the deadly carcinogen which causes asbestosis, mesothelioma and lung cancer.

"Why wasn't the school closed down right away?" asked a concerned law student outside the building. "The students and faculty should have been warned and the school closed until all the tests came back," he continued. "The building still hasn't been evacuated."

"It's obvious that York's administration doesn't care about the safety of its students," complained another student.

Professor Tucker, a member of the Asbestos Removal Committee, does not agree with the university's asbestos control program and feels the situation was not handled properly.

"The program is not adequate to deal with the hazard. There are continual breakdowns and this

was just one of them," said Tucker. He believes removal is the only solution but, according to the administration, to undergo an operation of such magnitude would cost an exorbitant amount of money and time.

Asbestos was used in the construction of Osgoode Hall in 1967, it has been a problem ever since. In the summer of 1985, a ceiling was installed in room 114E. This new ceiling formed a protection from the duct shaft which had been previously sprayed with fireproofing containing asbestos.

In December 1985, the material was removed and replaced with a non-asbestos product. Following careful procedures during the removal, all shelving units were covered before the ceiling was dismantled and all other items were removed from the room.

It is believed that the shelving unit that had been moved from room 114E contained material that was present before July 1985.

In order to ensure that no such

incident occurs again, any items that may have been in the storage area prior to July 1985 will be inspected and cleaned before they are moved.

The personnel who were in direct contact with the shelving units were informed by Tracy that the shelves contained asbestos. Appointments were made for those wishing to go to West Park Hospital for chest x-rays, pulmonary tests and examinations by a respirologist. Four out of seven went.

According to a memo posted at Osgoode on July 4, the building is safe and there is "no significant health risk." It had been cleaned on June 30 and air samplings were taken. The testing was again repeated on July 1. The results indicated that the airborne asbestos, chrysolite, is at a level 100 times less than the guidelines set by the Ministry of Labour. On Monday night, July 3, the building underwent a final cleaning.

The results of the June 13 and 14 air samples were unavailable.

Yeomen use steroids Coach suspected some players used steroids

by ELAN KATTSIR

Four former Yeomen linemen have admitted to being steroid users while playing at York. They also allege rampant steroid use throughout Ontario university football.

The Dubin Inquiry learned June 22 that Daniel Markus, Chuck Oxley, Frank Paradiso and Warren Robinson used steroids despite knowing that head coaches Frank Cosentino (1984-88) and Nobbie Wirkowski (1988) disapproved of steroid use.

They were prescribed and injected with the muscle-building substance by Ben Johnson's per-

sonal physician, Dr. George Mario (Jaime) Astaphan.

Paradiso, who played for York between 1984 and 1988, said he wouldn't have taken them unless he thought they made the difference between making and not making the CFL.

Nearly all the players in the "strength positions" at York were on steroids, testified Oxley, who played for York from 1982-87.

"Of the lines(men) and linebackers, I would say 80-90 per cent at least. Other positions, very slight, if any."

The other athletes testifying at the judicial inquiry on the use of

performance enhancing drugs in Canadian sports didn't believe this figure to be quite so high, but agreed that approximately 30 per cent of OUAA (Ontario University Athletic Association) players were on the muscle building drug.

Both York administration and several of the players' former teammates contested allegations of rife steroid use among the Yeomen.

Players' comments ranged from having some awareness of steroid use to being restricted to "maybe

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Students may join frats and sororities Senate repeals 28-year-old ban

by RANDI DRUZIN

and NANCY PHILLIPS

Members of fraternities and sororities at York have scored a victory in their struggle to become established at the university.

On June 22, the Senate rescinded a 28 year-old ruling that prohibited students from belonging to a Greek organization. The Executive Committee of the Senate stated, "the Senate legislation regarding the membership of York University students in fraternities and sororities approved on 2 November and on 23 April 1968 be rescinded."

Although they are not officially recognized by the university, students may now join these groups.

Director of Student Affairs Cora Dusk said, "It is now up to the new provost and the college masters" to decide what to do about these groups.

Particularly pleased is Sheryl Steinberg, a member of Alpha Epsilon Phi and outgoing presi-

dent of the Inter Fraternity and Sorority Council (IFSC). She explained that two years ago, there was a Senate subcommittee on fraternities and sororities, but it never reported back. Last year the committee was restructured and it recommended that Senate rescind the ban on membership, as it contravened the Charter of Human Rights.

David Gilinsky, last year's chair of the Senate student caucus and a member of the subcommittee, believes the Senate over-stepped its authority in legislating the ban in the first place.

"Fraternities and sororities are simply clubs whose missions are different," he said. "This being the case, the Senate has no right to tell them not to operate. They have the right to operate like any other club."

He added that Greek organizations did not appear on campus until 1984. They are, however, opposed by many people on cam-

pus. Among them is CYSF Vice-President of Internal Affairs Caroline Winship.

Winship agrees with Gilinsky that fraternities and sororities are not within the jurisdiction of the Senate. However, "if these organizations become well established at York, the university will be opening a whole new kettle of fish," she added. "The university administration may find itself subjected to lawsuits and other problems associated with fraternities and sororities. The risk simply isn't worth it."

Winship also believes that fraternities and sororities contradict the essence of the university. "York is a liberal arts university, it is meant to encourage free access for all. Fraternities and sororities are often elitist."

Steinberg said, however, that "if they'll let us, we have a lot to offer them. They have nothing to be afraid of if we work together."

YUFA results agreement ratified

The York University Faculty Association has ratified its tentative agreement with the administration by a vote of 198

to 36. Details of the agreement will appear in *Excalibur* on July 20.

Photo ID and serial numbers recommended by Senate for exam security

by MARK WRIGHT

Don't be surprised if during your exams next year, you are asked to show some photo ID along with your sessional validation card.

It's all part of the university's plans to help increase security during examinations. In particular, to deal with the problem of impersonation during exams.

A report presented to the Senate by the Committee on Curriculum and Academic Study (CCAS), which acts on behalf of the Senate to establish and maintain standards of security during examinations, recommends that students attending York in the fall of 1989 be required to show "a photo-bearing form of identification acceptable to the university in addition to a sessional validation card when writing exams."

Identification considered "acceptable" would be a Canadian driver's license, an age of majority card, a passport or a citizenship card.

For students who do not have, or choose not to carry, such identification, the university will make an identification card available to them.

The card will be specifically designed for examination purposes and will not be accepted as iden-

tification for any other reason, such as for use at a pub or the bookstore.

It will cost \$5.00 and be available at the Registrar's office. However, students will be asked to provide their own passport photograph.

The report further recommends that changes be made to the policy on the printing of examination booklets.

The report states that "pre-written answer booklets are sometimes brought into exams, that other booklets are substituted after an exam is over or completed answer booklets are tampered with."

To solve this problem, it recommends that all booklets have a faculty designation on them and that they all be numbered sequentially. This would "maximize the range of security precautions available to the faculties."

If the university does act on the report's recommendations, cheaters may actually find it difficult to prosper at York.

APOLOGY

Excalibur apologizes to Jonathan Kahana for reprinting his short story "Its Gleaming Surface" (from *Existere*, vol. 9) in our May 11 edition without his permission.

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