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excalibur

YORK UNIVERSITY'S COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

Campus Chronicles

by Jennifer Lim

University of Western Ontario

The Cord was re-instated by the WLU Students' Union Board of Directors on March 6.

The proposal to re-open the paper was approved under four main restrictions.

1) Jana Watson, President of Student Publications and publisher of *The Cord* was given final editorial control.

2) The creation of a "Student Input Task Force" to "solicit WLU student opinion with respects to all aspects of *The Cord*."

3) The Student Publications would publicly elect its Board of Directors.

4) The Student Publications and Students' Union must renegotiate operating procedures.

Many staff members feel that *The Cord* will not function normally under such heavy restrictions.

Wilfred Laurier University

More than 500 students protested against the administration's decision to shorten Orientation week on March 14.

Slogans like "Students are getting screwed" and "It's not about a day, it's about our say" were heard from the crowd gathered around the University Community Centre.

The rally was part of a campaign to raise the administration's awareness that there has to be greater student input in decision-making processes.

University Students' Council President Steve Deighton also called for a 21 seconds of silence (three seconds a day) in remembrance of past O-weeks.

University of Winnipeg

(From the *Manitoban*)

Another university student paper, the *Uniter* has been censored for running an explicit safe-sex guide for gays.

According to UofW Students' Association (UWSA) President Kyle Briggs, rights to the election of editors will be taken from the collective staff.

Further changes include the reduction of the paper's circulation from 4,000 to 3,000.

Kevin Devine, spokesperson for the *Uniter* collective said, "The role of the chair (Briggs) is to facilitate discussion. Where he got the authority to do and say what he did is beyond us."



A. CLIVE COHEN

UHHH

Federal Finance Minister, Michael Wilson, was on campus Monday speaking to a packed Moot Court in Osgoode Hall. In his speech, Wilson spoke about the benefits of long-term planning and keeping interest rates down. The visit was organized by the Osgoode Hall Progressive Conservative Club and the Finance Club.

Residence fees increase 6.5%

by John A. Vink

Vice President Finance Bill Farr has accepted most of the residence budget committee's recommendations which were handed to him last week.

Farr was presented with a total of 46 recommendations from the residence budget committee (RBC), and passed all of the major financial recommendations.

The proposed eight per cent increase in residence fees has been cut to 6.5 per cent. This would put the resident fees for one year at \$2,429 from \$2,281.

"I am very pleased that the hard work of the residence budget committee was recognized by vice-president Farr," said Norm Crandles, executive director, housing and food services and chair of the RBC. "It has permitted major concessions to our resident students while giving the department the opportunity to re-examine the long term financial plan."

"I had a long discussion with David Homer, assistant vp of busi-

ness operations and Norm Crandles concerning the price increases too large and too much all at once," Farr said. "We all had sympathy for that point and I have approved to hold the basic rent increase to 6.5 per cent."

The meal plan will be rise by six per cent, putting the new cost at \$1,795 from \$1,695. The new total price that students will be paying is \$4,224 from \$3,976. That puts the overall increase at about 6.25 per cent.

Resident students will be relieved to hear that night porters will be remaining. As well, night porters will not suffer any salary cuts.

The original proposal was that if night porters were not able to continue, they would remain with reduced salaries. Christopher Jorna, a second-year Bethune resident, still is not too thrilled about the rate increases.

"I'm always against any increase, but funding has to come from somewhere," said Jorna. "I like 6.5 per cent better than eight per cent, but 6.5 percent is still a lot."

The proposal to increase the cost of double rooms and make them the same price as single rooms was compromised.

The price of double rooms will now be rising to a price that is half way between the price of double and single rooms with the 6.5 per cent increase.

The premiums for suites in the Norman Bethune residence and the new Calumet residence were reduced from \$500 to \$350.

Students demonstrated in the Glendon cafeteria Monday, March 25, to protest to the board of governors, who were voting on the budget there.

"We heard that the administration has made some compromises but it's still important to demonstrate to the board of governors that residence increases that will affect the accessibility to post secondary education will not be tolerated," said York Federation of Students President Jean Ghomeshi.

Rob Centa, one of the organizers of the protest, said, "This kind of mobilization will tell the administra-

tion that we are not ready to accept the final recommendations."

According to available statistics concerning residence fees for 15 universities in Ontario, York's percentage increase is one of the lowest in the province. As well, York's percentage increase of the meal plan is the lowest in the province.

With the original proposed increases the Food and Housing Service stood to enter a deficit of \$3.6 million. Noting that these new recommendations cut down on revenue to food and housing, the deficit will now rise to about \$4 million. Food and housing has never before operated under a budget deficit.

Farr has allowed this deficit to occur while an investigation is made to re-finance the long term financial plan. Part of the reason for seeking re-financing is due to increased borrowing of \$11.8 million resulting from the Calumet College cost overrun and removal of asbestos from the Assiniboine apartments. This puts the total owing under the long term financial plan at \$43.8 million.