

NEWS

Trouble for York greenery

Plan to remove hedgerow not a done deal

by Ed Drass

In a rare occurrence, students and the administration find themselves allied in an attempt to keep a row of large trees in place on the northeast campus.

The board of the planned Henry Sherman Crowe Co-op had already turned down a request to alter the project and include the trees.

However, at a meeting last week, York President Harry Arthurs asked the co-op board to look at the proposal again. The board had already decided to move ahead, due to sche-

dules imposed on it by financial and other considerations.

According to Mitchell Blass, YFS representative to Envision York, Arthurs said that the university's Board of Governors has the final say on any development on campus. "The plan to remove the trees is not a done deal," Blass said.

The co-op board has met with Envision York and the university's planner, Mary Lynn Reimer, several times since last spring. According to Reimer, the board had been alerted of the concern early on and gave the

impression that "every effort would be made to save the trees."

Dr. Michael Copeland, the co-op board's chair, said that originally they were asked to "flip" the entire project at its site north of the mound at Fraser Drive and Chimneystack Road.

However, when it was realized that the hedgerow would be removed for the project, the board was asked to slide the whole design 20 feet south.

According to Copeland, the co-op has been under pressure all along to

get the project going, in order to comply with various government agencies including the ministry of community and social services.

Envision York and Reimer asked the board to move one of the five planned structures south, enough to incorporate the most mature trees of the hedgerow. In a tense meeting in early February, the board decided that it couldn't wait for a redesign and voted down Envision York's proposal.

Copeland says they were advised by experts that the trees were already

under strain and would likely not survive nearby construction. They didn't like doing it, he said, and they were intending to plant trees after the co-op was built.

Reimer says that the administration was willing to assist the board in redrawing the plans. She also felt that the outside pressures on the board were not as strong as purported.

With Arthurs' statement, it seems that it may yet be possible to incorporate the trees into the needed housing project.

Delegates attend first meeting of Ontario Federation of Students

by Brent Poland

The minutes from the January OFS general meeting (the first one since York voted to join OFS) have recently become available.

Since the issue of membership in the OFS raised a great deal of controversy at this campus, it might be helpful to the York community to understand what resolutions were put forward by York's elected representatives.

Voting representatives were Mary Tsilka, Jean Ghomeshi, Mitch Blass and Bonnie Waterhouse. Observers were Rob Centa, Mandy Christison, Tina Roesch, Rhys Bowman, Elissa Horscroft and Donald Robertson.

Jan. 14 opening plenary minutes:

Motion 16) B Emergency Resolutions
York/Guelph

BIRT (Be It Resolved That) the Ontario Federation of Students condemn and actively work against Western military intervention in the Persian Gulf crisis and call for Canadian and American troops out of the Gulf immediately. (motion carried, York FS: 3 for 1 against)

Jan. 18 closing plenary minutes:

Women's Caucus:

York/Carleton

BIRT OFS/FEO reject and condemn the Council of Ontario Universities solution proposal for underfunding as outlined in their December 1990 proposal A Recovery Plan for Ontario Universities. (motion carried)

Sexual Harassment Committee:

York/Ottawa

BIRT OFS/FEO opposes sexual harassment as defined below:

- 1) Unwanted sexual attention of a persistent or abusive nature, made by a person who knows or ought to know that such attention is unwanted.
- 2) Implied or expressed promise or reward for complying with a sexually oriented request
- 3) Implied or expressed threat of reprisal in the form either of actual reprisal or the denial of opportunity, for refusal to comply with a sexually oriented request
- 4) Sexually oriented remarks and behavior which may reasonably be perceived to create a negative psychological and emotional environment for work and study.

BIFRT OFS/FEO opposes gender harassment, as a form of sexual harassment, defined as follows:

Gender harassment consists of derogatory or degrading remarks which are directed towards members of one gender group or one sexual preference group. (motion carried)

Campaign Committee:

York/Carleton

BIRT OFS support Western University's Academic Coalition for Equality (ACE), Western USC or any

other Western student group in their attempts to deal with Rushton on their campus.

York/Lakehead

BIRT OFS in accordance with Article 3b of the Ontario Policy on Race Relations, reject and condemn researching and teaching of theories dealing with racial superiority based solely on socio-biological presuppositions including those of professor Philippe Rushton.

BIFRT that OFS send a travelling petition to member associations in support of its actions. (motion carried)

York/Trent

BIRT OFS send letters to all federal and provincial legislators asking governments to publicly state that they are against the war and they favor a negotiated settlement along with a retreat of troops from the Gulf. (motion carried noted opposition from York (1))

York/Ottawa

BIRT OFS opposes the National Defense Department recruitment on post-secondary institutional cam-

pus. (motion carried noted opposition York (1) in favor York (3))

Policy Review and Development Committee

York/Carleton

BIRT the federation supports the use of student completed instructor course evaluation for Faculty and Departmental assessment with regard to tenure and promotion. The results of such evaluation be made available on demand to students (motion carried).

A couple of interesting points that came out from the meeting minutes are as follows:

Jean Ghomeshi was acclaimed to the position of Campaign Coordinator for the 91/92 year.

The OFS will debate and vote in June '91 over the OFS' weighted voting policy. If passed the motion will allow York only one vote instead of our present four votes due to our large student population.

It is also interesting to note that in the emergency resolution concerning the Gulf War (see first motion), three members of the York delegation voted for the motion while Western's delegation voted three against.



A. CLIVE COHEN

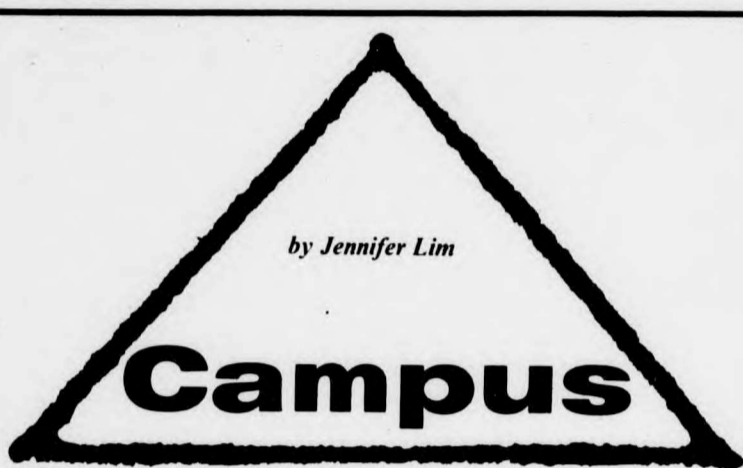
Rambunctious rabbi?

February 28 was *Purim*, the Jewish holiday celebrating the salvation of the Jewish community from annihilation in Persia over 2000 years ago. *Purim* is celebrated by dressing up, drinking alcohol, giving charity, and hearing the *megilla*, the story of the holiday. Here, a bewigged Rabbi Yaacov Stevens is shown handing a *Purim* gift basket to a student.

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by Jennifer Lim

Chronicles

McMaster University

An anti-war demonstration on Valentine's Day resulted in trespassing charges laid against 15 people, more than half of who were students.

The demonstration was held at the Canadian Armed Forces Recruiting Centre.

The crowd was dispersed by police after approximately two hours of protesting in front of a blockaded entrance.

Eight people were subsequently charged with a second trespassing offence when they refused to leave the blockade.

According to Michael Polanyi of Hamilton Action for Social Change, the Canadian Armed Forces have violated Bill C-71 of the Canadian criminal code and have to be stopped.

Ryerson University

Security removed a large, white balloon in the cafeteria with the message "breathe if you support heterosexuals" written across it.

The balloon was set up in response to the appeal by the Ryerson gay club for students to wear jeans in support of homosexual rights.

According to Mary Pestell, staff manager in the Hub, the slogan was "racism, sexism and homophobia at its worst."

Kelly Stephen, a member of Gays and Lesbians at Ryerson said that they have a responsibility to express their rights and are not satisfied with being a hidden minority.

University of Western Ontario

Seventy people attended a panel discussion addressing psychology professor Philippe Rushton's race research and theories.

Four professors from various universities were invited to attend the event hosted by the African Students Association as part of Africa Week.

Fredric Weizmann, a psychology professor at York University criticized Rushton's concept of race, saying people cannot be distinguished by skin color alone.

Another psychology professor, Douglas Wahlsten at University of Alberta disputed Rushton's theory which related brain size to intelligence.

A history professor from Ferris State University and a biology professor from Washington University in Missouri were also highly critical of Rushton's assertions and claims.

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