

York brainstorms

By GARY SYMONS
and LAURA LUSH

A group of political science students have put York University on the map, earning York the reputation among American universities as the "Harvard of the North."

During reading week 18 third and fourth year political science students traveled to Boston to compete with over 100 Ivy League schools at Harvard Law School. Between 1,000 and 1,200 students participated in the mock United Nations.

"We kind of took them by storm," participant and award winner Kevin Talbot said. "Because York's competitors were not lawyers, we were not considered to have a chance in the competition."

Talbot, who ran in the recent CYSF elections, received an award of merit for his action as a 'judge' in the International Court of Justice.

Owen Wigderson, an arts senator, also received an award of merit for his actions as a lawyer for Japan in the same case. Wigderson acted on behalf of Japan in a case versus the Soviet Union concerning the Kurile Islands.

Other York students included CYSF presidential candidate Bob Walman and Cheryl Petterson, a candidate for director of external affairs. Talbot said York's impressive showing was due to their extensive preparations for the events.

Other Canadian universities that took part in the competition, but failed to win the same class of awards as York, were the University of Toronto and the University of Western Ontario.

The International Court of Justice is regarded as one of the best examples for simulation. It is held annually at Harvard and in New York at the United Nations.

Students sue pants off admin

By GARY SYMONS

A new floor cleaning compound issued to York's janitorial staff by the Department of Physical Plant has resulted in a lawsuit being brought against the university by two students.

The students, Vespa Testosteroni and George Zapatos, claim the chemicals burned right through their clothing while they were sitting and talking to friends outside the Central Square cafeteria.

Testosteroni said the chemical solution not only destroyed an expensive pair of leather trousers, but also caused open sores on her buttocks and upper thighs. Zapatos was also burned, but not as seriously.

At first I just felt a warm, tingly sensation," Testosteroni said. "Actually, I sort of enjoyed it, and by the time I figured out what was happening it was already too late."

"Some people thought it was really funny, but I'm not laughing," she added. "I mean, how would you like to sit through a three hour exam like this?"

Zapatos said he and Testosteroni are suing for \$20,000 in damages and punitive action. "It's not just the pain and embarrassment this caused us," Zapatos said. "It's also the incredibly irresponsible attitude of the university, using these chemicals where we sit every day."

Assistant Vice President of Physical Plant John K. Armour admitted the cleaning compounds did leave active acids of the floor for several hours after their use, but noted that the department had taken the precaution of installing bench seating and putting up posters warning students not to sit on the floors in the Central Square area.

"Our use of the special compound was a necessary action," Armour added. "After several years of students throwing junk, lit cigarette butts, and, on one occasion, even defecating on the floors in Central Square, the only way we could clean it was to use something that would take off a thin layer of flooring."

"Besidees, why do they (students) have to sit on the floor, anyways? This isn't Japan, is it?"

York Provost Tom Meininger, however, charged that the university's precautions were far from adequate. "There aren't nearly enough benches to accommodate the overflow in that area," he said, "and although there were posters, they were done in such a way that many people believed they were April Fool's pranks."

The posters, designed by Drinka Blatch of the Fine Arts Department, depicted a student fondling the burnt, tattered remains of the seat of his jeans. Also, while a clear warning was written below the illustration, small print at the bottom of the poster announced that the poster was

"An irrelevant notice from the Department of Redundancy."

"They were just asking not to be taken seriously," Meininger said, "but I know there are at least two students who are pretty burned up right now."

Armour admitted the posters didn't have quite the effect his department had intended, but said the blame for that rests with the Fine Arts design centre, not with his own staff.

"We don't usually like using them, but this (the posters) had to be done on short notice," Armour said.

Blatch could not be reached for comment, but a fellow student at the design centre, Ardie Macpherson, said he didn't believe she meant any harm by altering the posters.

"Drinka just resents bureaucratic organizations, and the notice was her way of getting back at them," Macpherson said. "And as for the illustration, well, let's just say Drinka likes to incorporate nudes into her artistry."

Testosteroni and Zapatos say they don't care what excuses the York administration brings forward; they still plan to sue.

"Their incompetence caused me pain, embarrassment, and my best pair of pants," Zapatos said, "but a trip to Europe would sure help me forget it, and that's where I plan to go."

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