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NEWS DIGEST

Bookstore opens before settlement

By PAULA TORNECK

Last Wednesday, despite ongoing strike action by the York University Staff Association (YUSA), the campus bookstore opened for business. Rafael Barreto-Rivera, director of the bookstore, said last Thursday that he felt it was a necessary evil. "We were getting about 70 calls a day from students who could see the textbooks (they needed) on the shelves but were unable to purchase them."

To comply with the needs of these "desperate" students, the bookstore was in operation on a limited basis. Patrons were not allowed to enter the bookstore. Instead, employees traced the textbooks by their author, title, or course number. The employees were either students or part-time workers already employed by the bookstores. "These workers felt the need to keep the bookstore open," said Barreto-Rivera.

There have been rumours that these workers were being paid time-and-a-half for their services. "These rumours are a lie. The workers are getting their usually hourly wages," said Barreto-Rivera.

Student Security officers also took part in monitoring the library during the strike. "This is a function Student Security performed before the strike. Technically the Student Security Officers were performing their duty to protect the property and people of York University," said Glen Wells, steward of the United Plant Guards of America (UPGA). The monitors did not replace any YUSA staff.

YUSA has not taken an official position on either issue. However, strikers did stand in front of the bookstore urging students not to buy their books until the strike was settled.

Tours highlight Fine Arts facilities

By HEATHER SANGSTER

As a part of the Toronto Arts Week which ran from October 10 to 18,

York's Fine Arts faculty organized free, daily tours of its various facilities for the public.

The purpose of the York tour, in accordance with the goals of the Arts Week developed by the Toronto Arts Awards Foundation, was to promote the variety, quality, and accessibility of the university's arts facilities.

According to Aviva Cipin, the tour coordinator, each of the Fine Arts departments contributed a specific event which was scheduled into a daily tour, running from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. A typical tour consisted of a detailed trip through the exhibits at the Art Gallery of York University and the IDA Gallery, as well as observing open dance labs and drama classes. A variety of musical performances and a slide lecture on the facilities coincided with the tour.

The format of the tour, however, was definitely not rigid. Cipin said that the tours were structured to accommodate the interests of the public. If a group had a special request, or chose to see one facility in detail, arrangements were usually made. "We're very flexible," stated Cipin, "to whatever the public wants to see."

Although there wasn't a consistently large number of people at the tours (probably because the tours operated during working hours), Cipin did receive numerous telephone inquiries about York's facilities.

Food drive nets 47 bags

By DARYL SHADROCK

York University commemorated the annual UN World Food Day last Thursday and Friday, by holding a Globefast Food Drive which took place in the East Bear Pit, Central Square.

The event, organized by the Ontario World Food Day co-ordinating Committee (OWFDCC), commemorates the founding of the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization in Quebec City, 1945. The day is designed to increase the awareness of global food and hunger problems.

This year, the OWFDCC focused on the future of food production technology and the role of the small-scale food producers.

In order to foster awareness, the OWFDCC has developed and distributed 1500 educational kits for both the elementary and secondary school levels.

The food drive was organized by Babak Kashef of the Association for Bahai Studies, and the Filipino Student Association of York University.

Director of the Office of Student Affairs Cora Dusk stated that "the food drive was a success especially since it occurred during the strike." She added that "approximately 47 bags of food were donated for distribution in the metro Toronto area."

US snubs Contra victim's family

By STEVE SOMER and JEFF SHINDER

"The policy of the American Government is to support the Contras -- he chose the other side and paid the costs," said US Vice President Bush. Bush's statement was in response to the Linder families' grievance, brought to the House of Foreign Affairs subcommittee, over the murder of Benjamin Linder in Nicaragua by the Contra Rebels.

Jonathan Linder, representing the Benjamin Linder Peace Tour, has been travelling across the US and Canada discussing his brother's contribution to Nicaragua and his unfortunate demise. Linder also plans to document the callous treatment his family has received from the US government.

Benjamin Linder was working on an electrical plant in northern Nicaragua trying to provide electricity to a remote village in the region. The Contras, consistent with their policy of destabilizing Sanadinistan development, attacked the project. Benjamin Linder was killed during the Contra operation.

The peace tour is attempting to raise funds to assist the Nicaraguan government completion of the project which was interrupted by Benjamin's death.

Jonathan Linder will be speaking on Monday October 26, in the McLaughlin Junior Common room beginning at 2:00pm. The same evening, a city wide meeting will be held at Trinity St. Paul Centre at 7:30, at which Linder will be featured.

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