

Computer thefts up

by Trevor Burnett

A substantial increase in computer thefts on York's main campus has been reported by York security.

Bob Stevens, an investigations officer at security and parking services, says the main reason for the increase is that computers have become more expensive and valuable. "There has been a large number of thefts that have taken place all across Canada with respect to computers and everybody has experienced this phenomenon," he added.

According to Stevens, 1989 has been a banner year for computer thieves at York, with seven cases of computer theft and several attempted thefts. In 1988, there were five cases that accumulated to only \$9,000 in losses. In 1989, that jumped roughly ten-fold to \$101,000.

Stevens assessed the thefts as "disturbing" and "shocking," particularly three cases that occurred during the latter part of the year. On December 2, 1989 computer equipment worth \$62,000 was stolen from the Ross Building. Previous thefts on May 19, 1989 of \$20,000 and August 3, 1989 of \$11,000 also involved equipment stolen from the Ross Building. Stevens believes all these cases involved lost or stolen keys or manipulation of computer door locks.

Although Security has put out

alert notices, checked possible suspects and has collaborated with Metro Police, particularly 31 Division, there hasn't been any positive leads, arrests or recovery of stolen property.

Stevens believes that since computer theft is so widespread, protection is the best deterrent. Says Stevens, "an ounce of prevention isn't worth a pound of cure. It's worth a ton."

He also noted that the "most important consideration one should give when one procures computer equipment is the kind of protection necessary, particularly if the equipment is of good quality and value. People should give considerations to arranging their own insurance policy because the current arrangements under the university programme aren't beneficial. In most cases, the deductible is so high, up to \$50,000, that very few can benefit, but the essential thing is to have some sort of physical arrangement to protect your items of value and in almost everyone of these cases, this wasn't done."

Apart from investigating thefts, Stevens and his staff also advise colleges and faculties on ways to stop or deter thefts by installing alarm systems, restraining devices, logos and other distinguishable marks on equipment. In all cases where this was done, not a single case of theft has occurred, says Stevens.



An undetermined amount of turf damage was caused when an uncooperative male student drove his Jeep-like vehicle several times around intersection #1 January 13. Security detained the student.

A vandal entered York's day care centre through an unsecured door over the weekend of January 12. The centre was in disarray and some food items were missing. Clothing thought to belong to the vandal was discovered in the centre. It appeared that the vandal had slept in the centre over the weekend.

A male confronted a female student and started to masturbate in her presence at the Bayview and Lawrence bus stop January 11. After reviewing the circumstances and taking into account that other students use this same stop, the complainant decided to report the matter January 15. She described the perpetrator as being 5'6", slight build, in his early 20s, dark brown hair and East Indian in appearance.

A female student was trapped in an elevator in the Ross Building January 17. The North York Fire Department freed her.

Foodstuffs were stolen from York's day care centre's gymnasium January 17. Security suspects that a vagrant may be using the space at night for a place to sleep. Estimated loss is \$40.

Five or six males were drinking in the Vanier College lobby January 18 and, after being told to move on, broke a display stand and relocated to the Open End Pub. Later in the evening, the Open End staff called to report that the same group was involved in a fight. The matter was partly settled except that the instigating male initially refused to leave the premises. Security is pursuing the matter.

Security

BEAT

Across Canada

compiled by Donna Mason and staff

Tuition Increase at U of A

University of Alberta's tuition will increase \$160 in the 1990-91 academic year, raising fees to approximately \$1,400 a year for a full course load (faculty of arts). Alberta's Advanced Education Minister John Gogo announced that Alberta's universities are allowed to raise tuition fees by a maximum of \$20 per month.

Paul Davenport, president of the UofA, favours the increase and expects the university to raise tuition over the next eight month period.

Davenport's proposed plan for tuition increases would see UofA rise to the national average over the next five years.

from *The Gateway*, University of Alberta

Campus May Go Smokeless

Queen's University is expected to be an entirely smoke-free campus, according to vice-principal (operations and university relations) Tom Williams.

Although Queen's was considered a smoke-free campus as of July 1, 1988, smoking is still permitted in designated areas like pubs, residence rooms and professor's offices. However, because of strict, new provincial regulations which require the construction of a new ventilation system for designated smoking areas, the university has decided that providing indoor smoking space is too costly.

from *The Queen's Journal*, Queen's University

Pharmacists Required In Ontario

The faculty of pharmacy at the University of Toronto is struggling to fill the demand for pharmacists in Ontario. Donald Perrier, dean of pharmacy, says the UofT faculty, the only one in the province, receives between 700 and 1,000 applications for admission each year but can only graduate 150 to 160.

Perrier said there is a shortage of pharmacists in Ontario, and that many students go to the United States for education. The number of registered pharmacists in Ontario has dropped significantly over the last decade.

To have pharmacy faculties at universities requires medical faculties under Ontario College of Pharmacists' regulations.

from *The Newspaper*, University of Toronto

Engineers Want Gun Control

A national conference of student engineers in Kingston called on the federal government to tighten gun controls after the December 7 massacre of 14 female University of Montreal engineering students.

The group voted to encourage the government to work for tighter gun controls and supported a more specific resolution calling for the restriction of military and para-military weapons.

They also passed a resolution calling on each engineering society to hold a fund raising event during National Student Engineering Week. The first \$20,000 raised will go to a scholarship fund at the University of Montreal's Ecole Polytechnique.

from *The Gazette*, University of Western Ontario



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