

Food and Drink back in Green Room



by Paul Clark

Food and drinks will again be allowed in the Green Room, but on a trial basis this time, student council decided Sunday night.

SUB Operations member Marie Gilkinson, who sparked the motion with a recommendation from her committee, said an effort would be made to increase the number and kind of garbage cans in the Green Room and that signs would be placed inside informing students of the new policy.

In introducing the motion she said she felt there was a need among students to re-open the room to food and drink. "Just because last year there was a group of students who were pigs, I don't know why this should spoil it for the rest. We believe in students and say they should have food and drinks in there on a trial basis. If they prove themselves, keep the policy. Otherwise don't," she explained.

"The rule we have now is a joke," said Gilkinson. "People at the Enquiry Desk say to

me 'I feel like a fool announcing it over the loudspeaker and at the same time watching people walking into the room with food.'"

If the room is not kept clean councillors said either the policy of no food and drinks will be re-implemented or council will have to raise money to pay cleaning costs for the room by increasing the prices of cafeteria food or another service they offer.

"There's absolutely no money in the budget for cleaning the Green Room", said treasurer Scott MacLeod. He said afterward it would cost about \$12,000 a year to clean the room if students don't do it themselves, while it would cost about \$6,000 to stay with the no food and drink policy which is widely ignored. He speculated it might cost two or three thousand dollars annually to post someone at the door to enforce this policy.

Originally Gilkinson had advised that only food from outside the SUB, and not from the cafeteria, be admitted into the room.

Councillors argued, however, that the real demand for the room, as well as the real problem, came from students with trays from the cafeteria.

I.D. change

The Sub Operations Committee also recommended that people entering the SUB after 6 p.m., be required to show their student I.D. cards only at the SUB staff's discretion.

Council vice-president Jeff Champion said the committee felt the strict inspection of all I.D. was a "little bit superfluous", as well as an inconvenience.

"We want the building to be open and let people in", he said. "But if Attila the Hun or Jack the Ripper try to get in, we want to be able to refuse them."

The recommendation will have to first be approved by the council executive before it can be ratified by council.

Women Sue RCMP

BURNABY (CUP)—Three women are trying to sue the RCMP and their former employer for political discrimination in the wake of a Quebec human rights commission ruling that political interference cost them their jobs.

One of the women, Wendy Stevenson, is on a cross-country campaign to "get our jobs back".

"We're trying to get information that the RCMP is doing things against legal political dissent in this country," she said in Vancouver recently.

Stevenson, Suzanne Chabot and Katy LeRougetel "were fired by the authorities of Pratt and Whitney, an aircraft company in Longueuil, Quebec, because of their political convictions," states the human rights commission's minutes. "Visits by an RCMP agent concerning them played a decisive role in the decision."

The women are feminists and members of the Revolutionary Workers League, a socialist organization.

They were laid off on November 16, 1979, on the grounds of a "personnel surplus," only four days before the end of their probationary period.

"The Monday following the firings," the commission minutes state, "24 new employees were hired, some to fill the same posts held by the plaintiffs."

The minutes also state that in the fourth week of the women's employment, the RCMP conducted an investigation centered on the women. Their names were communicated to the personnel vice-president and the industrial relations director.

The industrial relations director then "asked for greater surveillance in respect to these persons . . . to be carried out by industrial relations counsellors," minutes state.

Says Stevenson: "We suspected it was the cops from the beginning."

While the commission pursued the original request for an inquiry by the women's union local, two found jobs at the Crown corporation Canadair, while a third found work with Canadian Marconi.

The three were all fired on April 11 and the commission is now investigating those dismissals.

"We appear to be blacklisted in a number of Montreal area companies," Stevenson said. "We also seem to be up against a press blackout."

Both the CBC and the Winnipeg Free Press contacted Stevenson for a press conference when she attended a women and trades conference in Winnipeg. Yet neither the paper nor the CBC attended. Calling for an explanation, the Free Press told her they were no longer interested. The CBC denied contacting her.

Stevenson said only Quebec's French-language commercial press and student newspapers have provided coverage.

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