

Two Executive candidates face allegations of harassment at Guelph

DREW EDWARDS, THE ONTARIO UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH

Allegations of verbal and physical harassment against CSA Finance and Operation Commissioner candidate Jeff Norton were made last week by former Guelph student Erin McFetrick. These allegations refer to incidents which allegedly took place during 1993, when Norton and McFetrick were first-year students at the University of Guelph.

The incidents were brought forward by current fourth year psychology student Anya Kater, who was present during one occasion when Norton is alleged to have physically and verbally assaulted McFetrick.

According to McFetrick, on an autumn evening during 1993 a group of four men, including Norton and Activities Commissioner candidate Jeff Cowling, verbally assaulted her. McFetrick, who left the university after her first year, also claims that Norton shoved her into a wall.

Kater, who initially brought these incidents to the attention of *The Ontario*, says that she is concerned how the women of the University of Guelph will be represented on the CSA Executive. "How can we have these guys on the student council, voting on things like safety issues for women and the 'No Means No' campaign? How can these people be responsible for representing women on these issues?" she asks.

The primary allegation concerns a late night confrontation in 1993. McFetrick says she was returning home to her room in Lambton residence when the men, three of whom were returning home to the

same Lambton floor, began verbally assaulting her with comments that were "sexual in nature."

Kater, who lived two doors down from McFetrick, says she was awakened by the noise outside her door. She says she heard the men insulting McFetrick, but acknowledges she never saw the men, because she didn't want to open her

admission, defied the written warning and was issued a \$100 peace bond by Patton. Norton says he complied by the terms of the peace bond and his money was returned to him at the end of the year.

Norton, however, denies "outright" that he either verbally or physically assaulted McFetrick. "She may have been pushed and this may have

Cowling says he appealed his written warning successfully and was allowed to go through the lounge. "My involvement in this case was one of a bit of miscommunication and confusion and then my ban was lifted," he says.

Norton, however, questions McFetrick's ability to judge the situation properly. "There are students that smoke up and students that don't. There were smells coming from her room. I think that might have contributed to her misunderstanding," he says.

He says that he and Cowling wrote a letter of apology to McFetrick to say that "they posed no threat. If she found us threatening, we apologized for that." He says he can't recall, but doesn't believe that he apologized for any specific incident.

Norton also says that he may not have been given a fair shake by Student Housing. "Back in first year my story was given less credence I believe because of my position as a white male. I'm not saying this is wrong, I'm saying Student Housing tended to err on the side of protecting the rights of those individuals who are perceived to have less power," he says.

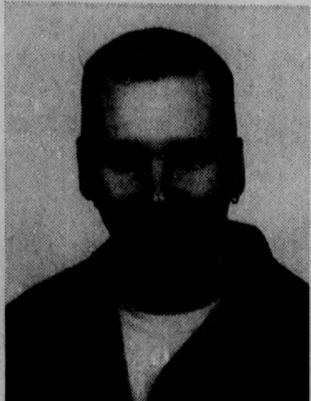
Student Housing assistant director Irene Thompson says that any information regarding the case was confidential, including the written reports of the incident submitted by McFetrick and Kater, as well as the written warnings issued to three men and the peace bond issued to Norton. The Residence Manager at Lambton and the time of the incident, Chris Patton also said he couldn't comment on the issue because of concerns over confidentiality.

Norton says he is also concerned over the timing of these charges. Reading from a prepared statement he said: "With the CSA elections at hand I can only surmise that the motivation of those that would make these allegations is spite and not justice," he said.

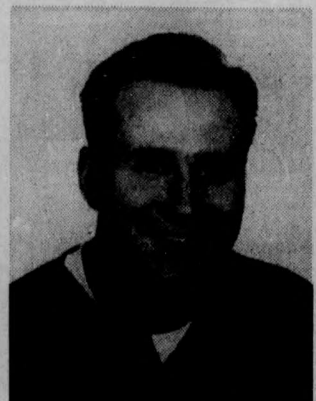
Kater says she has never been approached by any of the other candidates running for the CSA, or encouraged to step forward. "I read in the paper on Wednesday that [Norton and Cowling] were running and felt I should say something," she says. *The Ontario* has also received no information regarding the incidents from any other candidate running for election.

McFetrick says she is also concerned for women at Guelph. "There are so many women at that university [Guelph] and to have them [Norton and Cowling] in charge of looking out for the good of all these women, I don't think he [Norton] can do it properly, I really don't," she says. Both Cowling and Norton maintain their innocence. Says Norton: "Regardless of the outcome of this situation, I will be able to say that I have maintained my integrity, I have maintained the truth, I have kept true to my character - not all involved can say that."

Students voting in the CSA election this week will have to make that determination for themselves.



Jeff Cowling and Jeff Norton




photos courtesy The Ontario

Brock gets CRTC approval for campus radio station

MIKE FISHER, THE BROCK PRESS

It should be noted however, that the license has only been approved and actually been given to the Brock Radio Collective (BRC). The licence is conditional on a number of things. Firstly, and most importantly for the BRC is that they become incorporated. The process to become incorporated is already well under way though, the by-laws have been altered and adjusted a number of times and everything seems to be in order. It is just a matter of weeks before the process is finalized.

The other condition is that construction of the house be completed. Based on the progress they have made in recent weeks, that too is just about finished. Immediate plans for CFBU include the start of closed-circuit broadcasts from Isaac's scheduled to start February 17.



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ELECTIONS

97-98

Elections to the 1997-1998 Editorial Board will take place March 14 and 21.

Elections for the positions of Managing Editor and Editor-in-chief will be held on Friday, March 14 at 12:30 in Room 35 of the SUB. Candidates must submit letters of intent to Shane Heath, Chair of the Board of Directors, by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 12.

Elections for the remaining positions on the Editorial Board will be held on Friday, March 21 at 12:30 in Room 35 of the SUB. Candidates must submit letters of intent to Shane Heath, Chair of the Board of Directors, by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 19.

HAPPY HOURS!



HAPPY HOURS!



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