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Goddess of Democracy enlightens Student Centre food court • Photo by Andrew Brouse

Statue angers Chinese official

by Gina Hanlon

A new visitor to the Student Centre is causing a stir.

The "Goddess of Democracy," a plaster statue, was inspired by the statue that became the centrepiece of the June 1989 Tiananmen Square protests in Beijing.

The York statue was carried through Toronto by 5,000 Chinese-Canadian protesters in a June 1 march for Chinese democracy. It is now situated on the first floor of the Student Centre, adjacent to the art gallery.

Most of its student designers refuse to speak to the press, even anonymously, because they fear reprisal against themselves or their families from the Chinese government.

The statue's installation on May 31 immediately drew the ire of the Chinese consulate.

Consul General Tang Fuquan wrote to York president Harry Arthurs, that "some elements are currently conspiring to erect somewhere on your University campus a statue of the so-called 'Goddess of Democracy'."

"The plot, according to the reports, is being single-handedly woven by a certain organization hostile to China, its ulterior motive and ill intention being obvious," Tang added, claiming this would both "damage the Sino-Canadian" friendship and "hurt the feeling of the Chinese people including the Chinese young students."

In response, Arthurs reminded Tang that the Student Centre is independent of the university administration and he is in "no position to intervene."

Student Centre manager Rob Castle said he sees "no reason why we should take it down."

The "conspiring elements" responsible for the statue are the Toronto Association of Design for Democracy,

a group that has designed props for pro-democracy marches for the past three years.

Another Toronto Design for Democracy piece was recently vandalized — a large bronze sculpture at University of Toronto, opposite Hart House.

The statue consists of a bronze Chinese bicycle crushed and covered with tank treads and student footprints. An English and Chinese plaque dedicating the statue to the students who died June 4, 1989 has been removed, apparently with a crowbar, damaging the concrete it was mounted into.

Bruce Parsons, the Fine Arts professor responsible for suggesting the installation of the 'Goddess of Democracy' at York, believes the defacement of the U of T statue was politically motivated.

Parsons said the students in Design for Democracy "just wanted people to remember that there are still students in jail, still no free speech in China — no more than that."

Graduate council office padlocked

by Pat Micelli

Graduate students in need of emergency loans and services from the Graduate Student Association will have to look elsewhere for the summer.

The association's offices are padlocked and the organization is in chaos in the wake of conflicts between its executives and a recent theft of office documents.

Opposing GSA members are in dispute over the re-election of Alan Jones as president.

In an April 27 meeting the 1991-92 GSA executive voted to suspend the election of Jones and appoint a committee to investigate the actions of its members.

"Alan had done a number of questionable things," said Kim Bird, outgoing Secretary.

Vice President-elect Eduardo Garay is the acting president.

A week after the meeting, records of GSA meetings for the last two years were stolen from its student centre offices. York security has since padlocked the office, giving a set of keys only to Garay.

Jones called the executive's actions a "which hunt" and said the problems

Space university could split York

by Doug Saunders

Critics are calling the proposed International Space University a high-tuition, elitist school that could divide York's science faculty and students into an upper and lower caste.

If a York-based group wins its bid to build the home campus for the International Space University (ISU), the proposed school would offer 200 graduate students a deluxe education, complete with small classes, leading-edge facilities and plush residences — all for \$25,000 a year, far above the limits set by the Ontario government for other graduate schools.

"There is no mention at all in the bid of how this very differently-charactered institution will fit into the existing York campus. It's a very elitist institution," says Jan Newson, a York sociology professor who studies the relations between universities and corporations.

Newson, along with about 20 other professors and students, formed Members of the York Community Concerned About the Future of York in April to lobby against the ISU bid.

High tuition isn't the only thing unusual about the proposed university. According to the 190-page bid, a copy of which was obtained by Excalibur, ISU would be an independent corporation — but would use resources and grant degrees from York, and would potentially have votes on York's Board and Senate.

The York-based Institute for Space and Terrestrial Science (ISTS) is competing against five other groups worldwide (including a coalition of four Montreal universities) for the lucrative campus contract. The Ontario government has offered \$11 million in capital funds plus \$3.5 million per year to fund ISU's operations.

Supporters of the bid say the space university deserves special treatment because it will attract valuable aerospace jobs and top-rank faculty to Ontario.

"ISU is a very unique and special international organization. It is going

to add to the critical mass and be a catalyst in bringing top-flight people to Toronto," says Peter Mueller, an aerospace consultant and spokesperson for the bid team. Mueller works out of the ISTS offices on Keele St.

"Despite the significant tuition fee it's a magnet and a vision," adds Mueller, who claims that any student with suitable academic credentials would be able to attend.

Opponents say the presence of a 'higher-class' school on campus would hurt York.

"It's not accountable to York university," says physics professor Stan Jeffers. "We'll have a private university here that's going to draw the best students away from York."

Mueller is quick to counter that ISU would not be established as a private university, but as an "affiliate college" of York.

In April, Ontario colleges and universities minister Richard Allen told the Toronto Star he would only

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Just who are these space cadets?

"Space — the endless frontier," Councilor Troi intones from the deck of the Enterprise. "Someday in our future explorers and adventurers may sail among these stars, discovering new worlds and possibly new civilizations, taking life where no life has been before and carrying the seed of humanity to worlds without end."

Suddenly, Troi steps out of character. She's just an actor, and we're back in 1992. Her TV show takes place in the future, she reminds us, when "the great breakout of humanity from the cradle of birth is distant history, a fait accompli."

"But the world of Star Trek is only fiction," she explains, in case we've lost track. "There are no guarantees that the people of Earth can make it through the difficult times we face at the end of the twentieth century. Yet we can succeed — if we work together."

Opening scene from a fundraising video for International Space University. The video is aimed at potential corporate sponsors.

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ait. This is a fundraising video for a university? It sounds more like new age religion, or bad television.

But it is a university, not a TV show, and the only enterprise involved is the private kind. And it could be touching down permanently on the York University campus before the summer's over.

The International Space University has little in common with any other university on Earth. It was founded five years ago by three very young men who share a common goal: to train the next generation of "space pioneers," who will join forces to populate the planets and save humans from certain doom.

Sound a bit flighty? Not to Bob Rae's government. They've promised \$11 million if this thing comes to York, plus \$3.5 million per year for an indefinite period. And not to the York administra-

Doug Saunders continues his in-depth look at ISU on page 7

stem from personal differences that started when he was acclaimed as president in 1991.

"I feel I've had an antagonistic executive all year because they didn't want me to be president."

Bird, along with Sherry Rowley, Coordinator of Women's Affairs, and Vice President Tom Bergeron have a long list of complaints against Jones to present to the investigative committee.

Jones said he has nothing to hide and has his own list of complaints.

Dan Keyes, the representative of English students on the GSA, called the executive's decision to place itself under investigation and suspend returning members "somewhat outrageous."

"It was silly [of the executive] to suspend themselves. Nobody's probably interested in doing the review, anyway."

Garay said he has not yet found members for the investigation committee, which is to be made of two administrators and five council members.

Bergeron said the stolen information would have helped the investigation. "We're trying our best to unravel a ball of thread. With the minutes missing that thread is more tangled but it still can be unravelled."

Students requiring emergency loans should call the faculty of grad. studies.