

Charges against student leaders dropped

BY ALEJANDRO BUSTOS AND
AMANDA LABONTE

TORONTO (CUP) — Charges against two leading Canadian student leaders in connection with last month's anti-World Trade Organization (WTO) protest in Seattle have been dropped.

On December 1 — the third day of the November 29-December 3 WTO summit — Elizabeth Carlyle, the national deputy chairperson for the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), was booked in Seattle's King County Jail for failing to disperse from a protest.

Jen Anthony, the CFS national executive representative for Newfoundland and Labrador, was

booked almost two hours later for also failing to disperse from a protest.

Now, one month later, charges against both have been dropped.

During the WTO protest more than 500 people were arrested by Seattle police. The vast majority of those arrested eventually had their charges dropped. However, 51

protestors are still being prosecuted for misdemeanour cases.

"It's great that they dropped the charges against most of the people," said Carlyle on the phone from her Ottawa office. "But one concern is the 51 people who are still being tried for misdemeanour charges."

A leading United States student leader says the large number of dropped charges brings into ques-

tion the legitimacy of the original arrests.

"My experience with students is that where there is a mass action the police arrest people en masse to get rid of them," said Kendra Fox-Davis, president of the 3.5-million strong United States Student Association. "So obviously the [dropped charges] show that the original charges were trumped up."

Memorial video-conferencing Ph.D exams

BY AMANDA LABONTE

ST. JOHN'S (CUP) — Doctoral students at Memorial University of Newfoundland (MUN) are worried they may end up being tested through a video-link rather than an in person examination.

A committee assembled by Memorial's School of Graduate Studies is looking into the significant cost associated with bringing experts from across Canada to MUN to conduct examinations.

The committee is studying possible changes that could make the external evaluations less costly. One possible option is videoconferencing.

When completing a doctorate, an external examiner evaluates the student on the research they have done by coming to the university to meet the student and hear them defend their work.

Last month, Memorial's Graduate Students Union (GSU) passed a motion in favour of continuing to bring in external evaluators.

GSU president Darren Newton says bringing in external examiners in the past has helped the university offer guest lecturers, as well as giving students in the department the opportunity to meet and network with an expert in their research field.

Gregory Kealey, dean of graduate studies, chairs the committee that is studying how external

evaluations are conducted.

He says the committee is not looking into eliminating external examiners, but rather is considering whether teleconferencing and videoconferencing is the best way of using the school's financial resources. Kealey, however, admits it is beneficial to fly in an external examiner to do the evaluation in person.

"I think there are real advantages to the student get to know the external [examiner] other than just through written comments or through a media connection be it tele or video," he said. "And there's certain advantages if the person does come here and does give a seminar or something. It's good for the intellectual life of the institution and the department."

Right now, Kealey says the committee is canvassing the university community for opinions and looking at how other universities use external evaluators. He says the possibility exists that MUN could stop bringing in external evaluators, but suspects the committee will not make that recommendation.

Rene Jacobs, a Ph.D student in Biochemistry and the GSU's representative to the dean's committee, says external examiners give credibility to the doctorate program.

"After close to five years of research, it's very important that the thesis and work get examined by an expert in that area," said Jacobs. "It

gives credibility to the student, to the programs, to the university. So it's very important just from a credibility standpoint."

Jacobs says Memorial doesn't have a really good reputation outside Newfoundland. He says having outside experts come in could help improve that situation.

"A good way to improve this reputation is by bringing professors here to see the university, show that we're class A facilities, that we have top notch work going on in research," he said. "These are the things we have to showcase from a university standpoint."

Jacobs also says the possibility of not having external examiners come in person could be a concern for recruiting doctoral students in the future.

"[Bringing in external evaluators] is a good sign that the university wants to show that my program is top notch, and will spend the little bit of the nominal amount of money to send a person here to examine my work," he said.

FREE

STUDENT MARKET INFORMATION!

Stop throwing valuable advertising dollars out the window! Focus your marketing efforts and reap the rewards! Spend less money and be seen by the market that makes your business work!

Every second year, our national advertising agency spends close to \$50,000 to study the Canadian Student Market. Normally you would have to pay hundreds or even thousands of dollars to get this kind of information but we are giving it away for free. Even if you never advertise with the Dalhousie Gazette, this student-specific information will improve your understanding of the student market.

If you own a small business and want to reveal the mysteries of the student market call now!

494-6532

We deliver!

425-MIKE

mikey's

PITAWRAPS&JUICESMTHIES

ROSEMARY GILL AWARD

In June of 1995 the President approved the establishment of the **Rosemary Gill Award** in memory of Dr. Rosemary Gill, Director of University Health Services, who exemplified a high level of commitment of service to students, both in terms of her responsibilities as a physician on campus and as a member of the larger University community.

Awards are presented annually to a member or members of faculty or staff of the University who have provided outstanding service, other than teaching, to students. The selection of recipients is to be made by a committee consisting of the President, the Vice-President - Student Services, the Chair of the Student Relations and Residence Committee of the Board of Governors, and a student appointed by the Student Union.

The first Rosemary Gill Awards were presented in February, 1996, and nominations are now being sought for awards to be presented in 2000. Nominations should include the rationale for the nomination and up to three letters of support, preferably including at least one from a student or students. Nominations should be submitted to:

The Office of the Vice-President
Student Services
1234 LeMarchant Street
Dalhousie University
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3H 3P7

The deadline for nominations is Friday, February 25, 2000.

WELCOME BACK!

First lesson of the new millennium:

Travel CUTS has the lowest airfares.



Class dismissed.

TRAVEL CUTS

3RD FLOOR DAL SUB

494-2054

travelcuts.com

Owned and operated by the Canadian Federation of Students