

Students protest, parking fees cut for next year

by Corey Goldman

In response to student pressure, annual parking fees will be lowered by approximately \$35 next year, university officials say.

The \$171.20 fee for a basic one-year decal will be lowered to a \$16.00 a month including GST for the 1992-93 academic year.

Quebec AIDS policy not enough

Canadian University Press

MONTREAL—Quebec's guidelines for dealing with AIDS in the workplace will do little to eliminate discrimination, says a member of a Montreal AIDS activist group.

The province's health ministry recently published a 51-page booklet entitled "AIDS in the Workplace: Let's do something about it." The brochure is supposed to help businesses deal with harassment and discrimination against HIV-positive employees.

Douglas Buckley, a member of the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACTUP), said the document doesn't do enough.

"It hasn't gone far enough to give incentives to commercial employers to promote humane treatment [of HIV-positive employees]," he said. "It only suggests that private businesses follow the public sectors' example."

Buckley said the federal government's guidelines are more extensive and useful. Buckley accused the provincial government of "being a copycat."

The booklet suggests ways to distribute AIDS information to employees, offers AIDS hotline numbers, and lists videos about dealing with AIDS in the workplace.

Nicole Marois, spokesperson for the Ministry of Health, said the brochure is a step toward ending AIDS discrimination in the workplace. An "impact committee" will evaluate the effectiveness of the document, she added.

Thirty-five thousand copies have been distributed to Quebec businesses and health ministry offices, Marois said.

But Buckley said looked for the brochure at four different health ministry offices around Montreal without success.

According to Joanne Bailey, administrative assistant for safety, security and parking services, additional changes have also been made to the parking fee structure. Next year's decals will be based on an optional 4, 8 or 12 month decal purchase.

The announcement follows a year of bitter protest.

The York Federation of Students ran a petition in September featuring the slogan "Bill, you lied," aimed at York vice president Bill Farr. A year earlier, Farr had promised he would not raise fees further.

"Students made it an issue, fought for it and won... to an extent," said Nikki Gershain, YFS vice president internal and a member of York's parking committee. "Students are the



ones who are responsible for Farr rolling back costs."

Pam MacDonald, head of security and parking services, said her department wanted to avoid future complaints and protests. "We didn't want the same response as last year when we raised our fees," she said.

Rates were increased this year to compensate for the department's deficit. "Now that it [the deficit] is gone, they're giving students a break," said Gershain.

According to Gershain, parking fees were raised two years ago in part

to create a "sinking fund" intended to finance building a multi-storey parking garage.

However, the fees could not be reduced without budget cuts and layoffs in York's security and parking operations, which are financed directly from parking fee revenues.

"We eliminated a number of full-time parking control officer positions, and we've reduced the hours and shifts for some of the lots," MacDonald said. "We also made some managerial and clerical cuts within the parking and security offices."

Vice President of Finance Bill Farr was unable to comment on the fee decreases. And according to Patrick Cardarelli, Farr's assistant, "[Farr] knew nothing of it."

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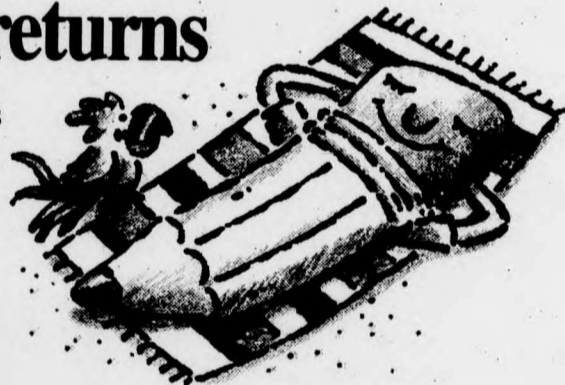
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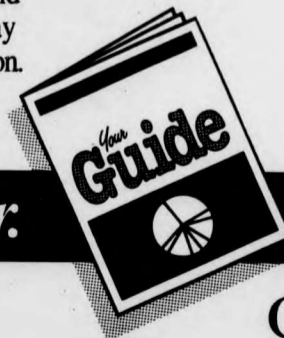
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