

# Police charge former U of T council prez

by Carmelina Maione  
 Canadian University Press

**P**eter Guo, last year's president of University of Toronto's central student government (SAC), has been charged by Metro police with public mischief and threatening for allegedly writing sexually threatening graffiti in SAC offices.

The Metro police pressed charges on April 29, after they were called in by the U of T police.

According to Detective Steve Bilak at 52 Division, a SAC executive member's office was covered in graffiti referring to her as a "slut."

Guo was also alleged to have uttered verbal threats to the same woman on previous occasions.

Bilak said he released Guo on the condition that he not make direct or indirect contact with the woman who was the target of the threats.

Prior to the incident, Guo was alleged to have sent harassing letters to the same woman and disturbed several people on the floor of her college residence at 3 a.m.

According to the college dean, Guo was subsequently banned from college property because he was deemed a "threat" to the woman.

Signs have been posted around the college alerting students to call police if they see Guo trespassing.

After the graffiti incident, the current student council banned Guo from their offices.

Current SAC president Farrah Jinha, the first person to see the graffiti, said she is convinced Guo was its author. She said it shocked and angered her.

"You could tell it was his writing," Jinha said. "I've never known him to be like that."

When Guo was asked to comment on the charges, he responded by telling a Varsity reporter "You don't

want to get yourself mixed up in something like this. I've got more important things to do including school."

Guo was involved in several disputes with women student leaders and feminist groups during his tenure as SAC president.

He was sharply criticized for withholding funds for a date rape awareness campaign.

In a conflict over the campaign, Guo called former women's issue officer, Diana Dobson and former external commissioner, Stacey Papernick, "frustrated women" and "emotional."

## \$10 million OSAP cuts to cost extra \$80/week

by Nicole Nolan  
 Canadian University Press

Students on the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) will be \$10 a week poorer this summer as a result of government cuts.

According to last month's provincial budget, students receiving OSAP will have to contribute \$80 a week of their summer earnings towards tuition and expenses, instead of the previous \$70.

The additional money saves the government \$10 million.

The move has been condemned by student groups who say the decrease in funding, combined with a tuition increase of 7 per cent, will prevent some students from attending university.

"The fact that they've cut funding in the middle of a recession means it's going to be really brutal for students. Ten dollars a week is going to be asking when you don't have enough money to begin with," said Asha Bhat, Communications director at the Ontario Federation of Students.

But Richard Allen, minister of Colleges and Universities, said the

He was cited by Papernick as the primary reason for her resignation as external commissioner last fall.

"I didn't feel he had a lot of respect for women in positions of power. I was sick of being treated as not knowing what I was doing. I could not continue to work with that," Papernick said.

Papernick said the incident should serve to raise awareness and give credibility to the issue of sexual harassment on campus.

"The U of T is not immune," Papernick said.

Jinha said the university should

not just give a "slap on the wrist" to members of the university community who commit sexual harassment and assault.

She added that the issue has to be addressed in the university code of nonacademic behaviour — currently under discussion as the University Affairs Board.

"We have to take away the stigma, that if you come forward you won't be shut down and ignored," Jinha said.

A SAC executive officer said the absence of a policy on nonacademic behaviour means offenders are free to

roam around the campus, often representing an unchecked threat to their victims.

"The premise is that student offenders still have the right to education, but the personal safety of the members of the university community should override that."

Susan Addario, U of T personal safety awareness officer, said she is looking at ways of providing self-defence courses for women student leaders to help them deal with hostile behaviour.

Guo's case is in the courts pending a trial set date.

are having trouble scraping by under the current program," said Glen Brown, communications officer for the Ontario Council of University Faculty Associations.

The cuts have also been condemned by the Council of Ontario

Universities, an organization of senior university administrators.

The Ontario NDP government first sparked student outrage in 1991 when it hiked tuition fees despite election promises to freeze and eventually eliminate them.

## The space cadets

Continued from page 7

**Which brings us back** to our initial question: how did these three guys pump an NDP government for millions of dollars, during a recession, to finance a project which seems aimed more at building utopias than creating jobs?

The answer should be clear by now: First they got a lot of money from businesses that stand to profit from big space ventures. Then they used the money to attract big-name professors. Once they did that, they could sell it as an industrial training institute — as long as they used the right buzzwords.

And for the Ontario NDP, those buzzwords are *global competitiveness, leading-edge sector, and high-tech jobs*. If it combines those three things, Ontario will throw money at it.

This was quite openly explained by Tom Walmsley, a high-ranking civil servant in Ontario's Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology. Walmsley manages the Ontario Technology Fund, a \$79.5 million account used to attract high-tech jobs to the province. The fund is a cornerstone of Ontario's global competitiveness-based industrial strategy, and it is Walmsley who offers Ontario's financial resources to the ISU in the York bid.

Did Walmsley know what ISU was about when he endorsed the bid? Yes, he says. How did he know? There was an "economic study." Was it conducted by his ministry? No, by "outside consultants."

Can we see that study? No. It is not available to the public. But it's a fairly sure bet that the study's conclusion includes those three buzzwords — and doesn't include the cost of a space program.

"The fundamentals of the thing," Walmsley said, "are raising skill levels, increasing technological capability in the province, developing home-based companies in Ontario, — it's got all that, believe it or not — and building international capabilities."

But what Ontario will get, if the ISU lands here, could simply be a \$25,000-a-year finishing school for the aerospace elite.

"It's a classic megaproject," says Jan Borowy, one of the founders of Toronto's Bread not Circuses coalition. Borowy should know: her coalition of poverty and housing rights groups successfully shut down Ontario's bids for Expo 2000 and the 1996 Olympics, two other classic megaprojects.

Recently, Borowy briefed a coalition of York faculty and students trying to stop the ISU bid. Calling themselves Members of the York Community Concerned About the Future of York, they have won the support of a growing circle of politicians and social rights and peace groups.

"They're servicing the needs of a very small and narrow group of multinational corporations. At a time when there's 20,000 homeless in Metro and more than 150,000 are using food banks, why is this university setting its focus on space?"

# SO WHAT'S ALL THIS FUSS ABOUT COURSE EVALUATIONS?!

"People should already no the basics"

"6 assignments is ridiculuis"

"2nd lecturer boring, treats us like we are imbisals"

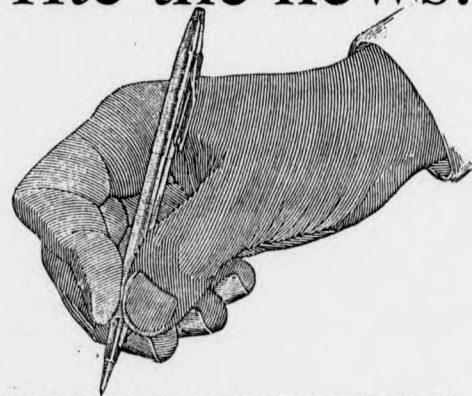
"My TA doesn't really seem to know that much about the course but he's pretty cool"

"The TA is strange"

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(FROM THE YORK FEDERATION OF STUDENTS)

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