

NEWS

Staged die-in demonstration attracts 17 students

by Jeannine Amber

Last Tuesday, 17 students gathered for a staged die-in following a week of confusion surrounding the focus of the event.

AIDS activist group, Act-Up Toronto, organizers of the protest, called it an immense success.

Students gathered in front of the Ross building at noon and marched across campus to Founders cafeteria, chanting slogans.

Ron Kelly, founder of Act-Up Toronto, delivered a speech to the unsuspecting diners at Founders.

"We strongly believe that corporations have a responsibility to come forward and publicly support people with AIDS," Kelly told students in the cafeteria.

After Kelly's speech, the protesters moved into the service area of the cafeteria where they staged mock deaths.

Marchers then drew chalk outlines around the bodies of prone demonstrators.

The protest followed a week of controversy surrounding allegations made by Kelly against Marriott Corporation, the company that runs many of the cafeterias on



Act-Up founder Ron Kelly led a group of 17 protesters in a staged die in at Founders campus.

Initially, Kelly claimed that the demonstration was in protest of Marriott's alleged support of a defeated U.S. congressional Bill.

The bill, known as the Chapman amendment would have allowed for the dismissal of people with AIDS from food handling positions.

However, according to Kelly, the initial reports he was given

about Marriott turned out to be false.

Due to his inability to substantiate his initial claims, Kelly changed the focus of the demonstration on the morning of the

protest. According to Kelly, the protest was held to voice displeasure that Marriott did not actively oppose the bill.

"We want to embarrass Marriott for their silence," Kelly said.

However, leaflets handed out by the protesters, who included YFS president Jean Ghomeshi, read "Marriott Equals Death."

This caused some confusion among the students who were in the cafeteria when the demonstrators entered.

Many students to whom *Excalibur* spoke believed that Marriott was discriminatory because they fired people who tested HIV positive.

Two of the students said that they were planning to boycott Marriott now that they had found out that "Marriott fires peoples with AIDS."

Kelly said he found the confusion unfortunate because it was not the intention of Act-Up to

spread this kind of information. According to Kelly, "Act-Up believes in telling the truth."

When asked about the fact that his grievances with Marriott changed considerably in the course of a week, Kelly said that he was just "glad that Act-Up was able to bring clarification to the issue."

However, the undeniable confusion surrounding the issue hurt the demonstration.

According to Ghomeshi, because Kelly only settled on allegations that could be substantiated on the morning of the protest, there was in effect no time for YFS to mobilize people in support of the demonstration.

Peter Meyer, spokesperson for Marriott, said that although Kelly helped bring awareness to the problems of people living with AIDS, Marriott was not happy about the demonstration as it put them at the forefront when they "didn't feel it was necessary."

\$14,000 missing from Founders College

by Brent Poland

Fourteen thousand dollars have gone missing from the Founders College student council.

In an auditor's report done for the 1989-90 school year, \$14,000 was classified as a loss from "missing funds."

The missing funds were reported when accountants from Zborovski Korn prepared a year-end audit for the student council.

"Somebody has sticky fingers," said David Orbst of Zborovski Korn. "Deposit slips have been excluded from those periods when the money should have been entered."

Orbst told *Excalibur* that "it would be impossible to get the money back."

Soon after, however, Orbst telephoned *Excalibur* back again, explaining that Zborovski Korn's official position was no comment.

"Maybe I was naive, I thought the books were being done properly, but obviously they were not," said John Curie, president of Founders student council for 1989-90 and 1990-91.

Curie stated that much of the

lost revenue was recovered, including deposit slips and receipts which have been found and re-entered, but admitted that there is still a loss of about \$6,000.

Curie believed that some of the money may have been stolen, but could not think of any suspect. Seven hundred dollars in cash was stolen out of the office as well as orientation material according to Curie.

"If in fact the money was lost, it poses a real problem and I would like to hear some solutions," said YFS president Jean Ghomeshi.

According to Patricia Swanson, administrative assistant at Founders college, the auditor and the student council have since established a system of checks and verifications that will ensure funds do not go missing again.

"Ultimately," said John O'Neil, ex-financial liaison officer with Student Affairs, "the council is responsible for itself."

O'Neil felt that student councils in general do not want financial help from the administration and believed the matter was in some ways a product of inexperience.

"Because councils demand autonomy and responsibility, it [book-keeping] remains their mandate," said O'Neil.

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drawn. Clubs on campus were instructed to make their intentions known by the end of October 1987.

"This wasn't a covert matter," said Chua. "It would not be in the best interest of the Student Centre Corporation to deliberately exclude people."

Gurprett Malhotra, president of the United Indian Students at that time and present co-ordinator of the Ontario Federation of South

Asian Students, felt that if the letter had been sent at all, it remained inadequate notice.

"These guys are talking about permanent spaces and large amounts of money," said Malhotra, "and all they can do is send out one flimsy letter?"

Malhotra suggested that sending a registered letter was the least that the SCC could have done to ensure that the letter was received.

Jean Ghomeshi, YFS president and one of the SCC's executive members, agreed that "the Stu-

dent Centre should have gone out of its way to notify these clubs."

Officials at the JSF had no recollection of the incident and had no position on the matter.

CSA president Tony Pavelic stated that the letter had been received.

With the Student Centre nearing its completion, the present allocation of space remains irreversible.

"Short of taking space away from the JSF, CSA and YCC and giving it to the others, I can see no resolution," Chua said.

No solutions for clubs woes

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