

The 'free' chevron

# Waterloo student paper down but not out

By MICHAEL HOLLETT  
WATERLOO — From the ashes of the recently shut-down University of Waterloo student newspaper, the chevron, has emerged a 'new' paper, produced by the same staff, called the free chevron.

On September 24 the UW student federation ordered the chevron to cease publication and ordered the staff to vacate the newspaper offices.

The staff refused and have been occupying their own offices on a 24 hour basis since September 25. The occupation was highlighted by Thanksgiving dinner for 14, in the newsroom.

The paper was originally closed down September 24 following the resignation of the chevron's editor-in-chief, Adrian Rodway, who cited personal reasons. The federation executive, led by president Shane Roberts said they were afraid an on-campus political group known as the Anti-Imperialist Alliance (AIA) planned to take over the paper.

The AIA is a campus political

group that runs candidates in student council elections and is linked with the Communist Party of Canada (Marxist-Leninist).

The chevron staff denies the allegations pointing to the fact Rodway was originally elected editor over an AIA candidate.

Two of the three main editors of the chevron are members of the AIA but seem to have the support of most staff as indicated by staff votes and their willingness to continue to produce the newspaper under adverse conditions. The chevron is structured so all editorial decisions must be cleared by the staff.

One becomes a staff member after participating in the production of the newspaper at least six times.

This year the chevron made a major push to increase staff size by distributing leaflets at campus events, sending letters to campus groups and publishing announcements in the paper itself.

The success of this campaign is indicated by the many first year students on the paper. Production

manager Neil Docherty, an AIA member, said "We have first year students who have been on the paper for three weeks who have said they will have to be dragged from the offices before they will leave."

The staff produced one issue of the chevron on September 28, which the council has refused to pay for. Two issues of the free chevron have also been published, financed primarily by advertising the staff has managed to collect.

The student federation published its own paper on October 13 called the Bullseye but according to Radio Waterloo most of the paper's news was lifted from their broadcasts.

Another paper, The Other Voice appeared earlier consisting primarily of attacks on the chevron and its staff. Its origin is not clear though some faculty student societies have been linked.

Canadian University Press (CUP) — the national, cooperative organization of student newspapers — was called in and a special meeting was held last weekend in Waterloo to discuss the problem. Representatives from five Ontario newspapers, including Excalibur, as well as employees of CUP attended the meeting.

The meeting was addressed by members of the chevron staff, and Shane Roberts, president of the Waterloo Student Federation, the man behind the paper's shut-down.

After hearing the presentations, the CUP representatives voted to support the chevron in its fight and called for the immediate re-opening of the 'official' chevron with the same editors. The meeting was told the staff of the Trent newspaper, Arthur, voted to give \$200 to the free chevron.

In the federation executive minutes, where the shut-down decision was made, numerous charges are laid against the paper.



The chevron — John Jackson photo  
University of Waterloo student federation president, Shane Roberts in front of engineers at a pro-chevron rally September 30.

The paper is charged with not having any defined leadership, and staff member complaints about their treatment at the newspaper.

Roberts was unable to give names of those who had complained about the paper saying they feared AIA character assassination.

He explained the shut-down, "There was some alienation and dissatisfaction between the paper and the student body. Faculty societies asked us what could be done to change the paper. The paper was closed down so we could discuss the kind of paper the students want."

Roberts said the shut-down was not a violation of freedom of the press because, "we can't violate our own freedom. We are the publishers of the chevron and the editors' employers."

Roberts was continually asked to substantiate any of his allegations against the paper but could not.

The paper was attacked for being too concerned with off-campus news but a survey of past issues does not bear this out. In fact, on campus news coverage in the chevron this year is the best its been in years. In the three issues published before the closure, local news coverage in the chevron was up 23 per cent from last year's paper.

Docherty says the staff is pledged to fight to publish "until the end." He asks students from other campuses to support them by sending protest letters to the UW student federation and by sending donations care of local campus papers so they can continue to publish.

## Uninvited visitors not welcome in Vanier

By ANNA VAITIEKUNAS

Since the introduction of stricter security regulations in Vanier College one part-time York student, a Scarborough fireman and a third unidentified person were arrested for petty trespassing two weeks ago.

At midnight two Mondays ago, the three men were seen wandering the 13th floor of Vanier residence when three college dons — Bill Bain, John Ho, and Bill Villano — approached and asked them what they were doing in the residence.

When it became clear that the three were not invited or authorized to enter the building, "they were asked to stay while the York security and the Metro police were phoned," according to Bill Bain.

"We were in our rights to arrest them though," said Bain.

When a York security officer arrived one of the trespassers left "because he claimed the other two men knew his telephone number and address," said Bain. When the Metro police arrived, half an hour later, however, the two remaining

men denied knowing the third.

The trespassers were arrested, and several days later a summons was issued ordering them to appear in divisional court for prosecution under the petty trespassing act.

The fines for petty trespassing range from \$10 to \$100.

'No trespassing' signs were posted on all the entrance doors last September in Vanier College in an attempt to restrict all uninvited visitors from entering the college residence.

Stong College last month also posted 'no trespassing' signs in its residence building.

York security director George Dunn refused to comment on the incident.

## United Way

The United Way campaign is now underway at York. Any students wishing to contribute are asked to contact the Development Office, 200H, Administrative Studies Building or call local 2495.

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