

# CYSF and clubs protest

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and Nancy Phillips

## U P I N A R M S

A decision to clear tables from all but the bearpits in Central Square had clubs and the CYSF up in arms this week.

The North York fire marshal, Captain David Gazey, ordered that all tables be cleared from the hall connecting the bearpits last Thursday, said York University's fire marshal John Colpitts.

In response, last Monday morning, CYSF and club volunteers filled the halls of Central Square with club tables and blockaded the Tim Horton stand. Volunteers also circulated flyers detailing grievances.

In a flyer issued Tuesday by the CYSF and a number of clubs, the protesters said that "business revenues have been earned at the expense of students and chronic government underfunding has intensified this trend." The flyer said also that "the administration has pushed their luck with the North York fire marshal to get a hot dog stand vendor in Central Square" which resulted in the expulsion of club tables.

The result has been what CYSF vice-president (external) Peter Merrick has called "an amazing and unprecedented" show of solidarity and student support for an issue at York. An "information session" held yesterday in the east bearpit was planned totally by the clubs, he said, without any CYSF guidance.

He said that the clubs have also expressed interest in other issues

facing the York community and will discuss them in a meeting today.

The order to remove the tables appears to have come after director of housing and food services Norman Crandles called Gazey to enquire about a suitable Central Square location for Marriott's hot dog stand. There is, however, much confusion at the university as to whether or not a second, malicious phone call was made to the North York fire marshal in an express attempt to clear the tables from Central Square.

Crandles denied that anyone from his department made a malicious phone call with the intent to provoke the eviction of the clubs. Gazey said he only received one phone call about Central Square — Crandles'.

Crandles explained that Colpitts told him to phone North York to resolve the issue of the hot dog stand's location.

Two weeks ago, according to Crandles, the stand was forced out of its position in front of the west bearpit after the department of student affairs complained about it blocking the flow of traffic with vendors and programmes. It was then set up in front of the library and was forced from that position after an anonymous complaint to Colpitts.

Colpitts said that Crandles' call to ask if he could put the stand in the same area as the vendors and the clubs led to the North York fire marshal calling him to issue the eviction order. He said that the North York fire department told him to clear the area in 1987 but

that he has been lenient in order to help as many people as possible have access to the space.

"[The issue of clearing Central Square] was brought to the forefront again by the phone call," Colpitts said. "It's out of our hands now and we have to do what North York said."

In spite of this, some university administrators still think a second malicious call was made.

Vice-president (finance and administration) Bill Farr said he has not narrowed down who called North York, but he has some ideas. He said it was "unnecessary rudeness" to call without first discussing the situation with student affairs.

He also apologizes to both the clubs and vendors who had their space confiscated. "I'll make them an apology," he said, "since it's my department."

Farr said he is upset that the clubs were not consulted or warned about the possible disruption in advance. He said, "I think actions that will have unsettling implications should not be taken in an arbitrary and non-consultative fashion."

Provost Elizabeth Hopkins said, "It is not at all clear who individually is to blame." She said she supports the students in their protest and said that Crandles should have informed the administration of his actions.

"The proper people were not notified when the [North York] fire marshal was called nor were the proper people called when the hot dog stand appeared," Hopkins said. "My position is that he

should have checked [with her and vice-president (finance) Bill Farr] before he made that call and he knew perfectly well what he was doing."

After a meeting of clubs, Crandles and director of student affairs Cora Dusk on Monday, Dusk said she was satisfied that Crandles had not acted maliciously by calling the North York fire marshal.

CYSF president Peter Donato, however, was not satisfied.

"[Crandles] knows the fire regulations and where it is acceptable to put his stuff," Donato said. "He was only doing this to cause trouble and maybe win a war, but he's going to lose this war."

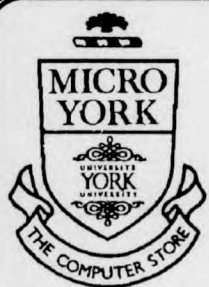
"I think things should continue for the next six months as they have for the last two years," Donato said Monday, saying the new Student Centre will alleviate the problem by next year.

At the meeting, Dusk said that clubs will be allowed to set up tables in and around the bearpit areas and will share space with student affairs' programming. She said that vendors will have access only when there is room.

Crandles also said the hot dog stand will be removed from Central Square until a compromise satisfactory to all parties has been reached.

A meeting of CYSF representatives, Dusk and Colpitts took place Tuesday in an effort to reach a compromise in light of the need to enforce the fire marshal's 1987 directive.

Look for continuing coverage of these events in next week's *Excalibur*.



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