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YORK UNIVERSITY'S COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

Five students, janitor found guilty

By SANJU VASWANI

York University has recently gained legal ground in its fight against all forms of academic dishonesty.

Last Wednesday, in an unprecedented decision, the provincial court of Ontario convicted five York students and a caretaker with offences in connection with organized cheating. The five York students, Joseph Sgro, Pasqualino DiFiore, Mazahir Najjar, Mohamad Ali, and Lyndell Gill, plus a York janitor Eugenio Guccione, were charged with possession of property obtained by crime and possession of burglary tools. The charges were laid after the Faculty of Arts, York Security, and the Metro Police used surveillance methods to capture the culprits. Economic and math exam booklets were stolen, answers re-written, booklets replaced, and participating students then petitioned for new grades.

The sentences handed down by the Finch Avenue West Court include three years probation, 300-400 hours of community service, and tutoring underprivileged kids. Prosecuting Crown Attorney Steven Leggett said: "We've never heard a case like this in Canada, with criminal charges being laid . . . This was a lot more than sneaking answers into an exam, this was organized cheating which included break and enter, and the forging of papers."

Another form of cheating which will carry stiffer penalties in future

for all parties involved is the submission of purchased or plagiarized written assignments. According to York Provost Tom Meininger, the charges under the criminal code of Canada are forgery, being a party to a forgery, uttering a forged document, and being a party to uttering a forged document.

Recently a number of essay writing services have advertised alongside legitimate proofreading and wordprocessing enterprises in some university newspapers, including the *Excalibur*. While newspapers often attempt to verify the activities of their advertising patrons, it is generally difficult to be sure that "editing" services are not essay writing services.

Associate Dean of Arts Mark Webber with the assistance of this reporter obtained an essay from such a service at the end of last semester. The total cost came to \$140.00. This included a \$15.00 rate per page and a fee for the pick up of source materials and delivery of the final product.

The owner of the essay service claimed the paper would receive a least a grade of B. He also attested to his high satisfaction rate. When first called he said that he was extremely busy at that time of year, but recommended a friend of his who would be able to complete the paper by the due date.

The pick up date was arranged for Thursday December 9. During the

meeting which lasted for approximately ten minutes, the essay topic was discussed and the writer was very reassuring as to the quality of his papers. The final product was delivered and paid for on Saturday December 11th.

According to Webber, both individuals have now been identified and the administration is now considering legal action in this and future cases.

The essay topic the service used was from a legitimate assignment in the social science course "The Corporation and Canadian Society." Webber submitted the bought essay to the course director, Professor Dalton Kehoe.

After reviewing the essay, Kehoe pointed out that the readings he provided were not discussed, and the essay addressed topics in the previous year's assignment. The fact that the essay writing service in question stored all of its past clients' essays on floppy disk explains Kehoe's findings.

He also stressed that such a paper would receive a grade of C, because although well written, it did not address any of the key issues in the assignment. Compared with the claims made by the owner of the service, Kehoe feels that this is clearly a case of *caveat emptor* or "let the buyer beware." Students are not only liable under the Criminal Code of Canada if caught, they're also not getting what they paid for.



STOP! IN THE NAME OF DANCE: Dancer/choreographer Roderick Johnson is just one of many artists gearing up for the upcoming Fine Arts Festival. The annual event, which features plays, performances, readings, gallery shows, screenings and more, will run from February 8-12. More details on page 12.

OFS fights UWO housing by-law

By GARRY MARR

Over 100 delegates from Ontario universities and five colleges gathered in Guelph last week for the

annual Ontario Federation of Students (OFS) winter conference.

UoT was given a one year trial membership which entitled them to four votes, despite the fact that they only paid a nominal membership fee of one cent per 33,000 plus students. In contrast the Council of York Student Federation (CYSF) pays \$3.00 per head for 10,000 plus students and only holds two votes in OFS. Tammy Hasselfeldt, CYSF director of external affairs, said, "I'm not opposed to UoT joining, but I am opposed to them only being charged a total of \$300 for four votes, whereas York is paying substantially more."

Sheena Weir, chair of the OFS, supported the discount for UoT saying that it is common to lower the fee for prospective members. "Not many prospective members have had to pay large fees, and York as a founding member did not have to pay anything," said Weir.

In addition to the UoT the OFS is also trying to add some colleges to its ranks. Duncan Ivislon a spokesman for the OFS, said, "Unity is our principle goal." Presently the colleges do have their own organization, but Ivislon indicated he felt the two organizations could complement each other.

The conference had a number of notable speakers including Gord Wilson, President of the Ontario Federation of Labour (OFL) who addressed the free trade issue. Hasselfeldt said the talk was interesting particularly because Wilson's free trade speech was received by an OFS comprised of many Tories.

Other speakers at the conference were Lynn McCleod, Minister of Universities and Colleges, Cam Jackson, PC critic for post secondary education and MPP for Burlington South, and Richard Johnston the NDP critic. Hasselfeldt indicated that she and other OFS members were not satisfied with McCleod's responses to some of their questions. "She didn't give full answers to questions," said Hasselfeldt.

Among the specific issues at the conference was Bill C-94, a private member's bill initiated by PC MPP Jackson that is attempting to overturn the by-law which many municipalities have passed that restricts the amount of unrelated persons to four that can live in a single dwelling.

In London, the University of Western Ontario is vigorously fighting the law because it directly affects many Western students. The city of North York has a by-law to the same effect, which also affects the York Students, but there is question to as how rigorously the law is enforced in North York. The Liberal government has not indicated whether it will support the bill, although the New Democrats and Conservatives are in full support.

The conference ended with some resolutions that included a planned march during the month of March down to Queen's Park in order to protest the chronic underfunding of post secondary education. Ivislon said, "the general feeling is that things have been left too long." The conference concluded with a commitment to seeking comprehensive approaches to the post secondary problems of overcrowded institutions, research development and teaching, an Ontario aid programme (OSAP) which fails to help enough students in need, and a chronic shortage of affordable housing for students, especially in Metro Toronto.

Women's Centre agrees to per-project funding

By DEBORAH DUNDAS

The York University Women's Centre and the Council of York Students Federation (CYSF) have reached an agreement regarding funding of the Women's Centre.

On January 17, 1988, Marcia Cooper, Director of Women's Affairs for CYSF and Pat Vamvakidis of the Women's Centre Collective met with Joan Stewart, Advisor to the President on the Status of Women, and drafted an agreement which will see CYSF funding the Women's Centre on a per-project basis.

Funding had initially been suspended on the recommendations of a report made for CYSF by Rob Castle. The principal problems cited in the report were that the Centre was not being financially accountable to CYSF in that CYSF was not receiving comprehensive financial reports.

The Centre was subsequently asked for all financial records, and a history of the Women's Centre. The Women's Centre noted that CYSF had received all of this information.

The problem, apparently, was that the Women's Centre had given the information requested to Catherine Lake, Director of Women's Affairs at CYSF for the 1986-87 year. However, Ms. Lake had not forwarded

the information to Marcia Cooper. Therefore, Cooper was under the impression that the Centre had not complied with CYSF's requests.

All that CYSF is requesting from the Women's Centre now is receipts for the WACO tour, which CYSF helped to fund.

The agreement which resulted from the meeting on Jan. 17 includes the following stipulations:

- that the Women's Centre will report to CYSF through the Director of Women's Affairs and will report only those projects which are funded by CYSF.
- the Centre will give an accounting of monies received from CYSF;
- neither group will tell each other what to do although they may make suggestions to each other;
- CYSF will not fund political action but will fund other events; and
- funding will be given to the Centre on a per-project basis.

Pat Vamvakidis noted that, "This conflict has helped us to spend a lot of time together as a collective—so it's actually been beneficial."

Marcia Cooper also seemed pleased with the outcome of the talks, noting that the lines of communication between the two groups are now open.

INSIDE

"The idea of a senate is to get input and opinion from all areas of the university, unfortunately at York, that just isn't happening."

PAUL DUTKA, CHAIRPERSON, STUDENT SENATE CAUCUS

THE HIDDEN FACE OF MEXICO:

Ixtapa, Acapulco, and Cancun: there are the places most Americans identify when they think of Mexico. But few have seen the small, impoverished towns like Valle de Bravo which dominate the Mexican countryside. Pages 10-11

A CRAFTY LAWBREAKER:

Radical American feminist Niki Craft kept an audience spellbound last week with her explicit tales of protests and subsequent arrests. Page 12

FINE ARTS FESTIVAL: Read all about this upcoming, exciting extravaganza on Page 12

STANDING ALONE: York Professor B.W. Powe's latest book discusses men who have had the courage to stand up to our complacent "post-literate" society. Page 15

BLACK AND BLUE: The Yeomen and Yeowomen basketball squads suffered devastating losses at the hands of the U of T Blues. Page 16