

# Student denied access to class, alleges reprisal

by Marcelo Alterman

York music student Ron Kelly alleges that he was not allowed to audition for Music 4029 as reprisal for the complaint he had already filed at the Ontario Human Rights Commission on March 28, 1989.

He has alleged that the university discriminated against him because he is carrying the virus that causes AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome).

Kelly said that last December, the course director of his third year music performance class, Patricia Wait, told him he would be receiving a failing grade because of too many unexcused absences. Kelly denied his absences were unexcused.

In exchange for dropping a complaint with student affairs, Kelly was given two jury exams on which his final mark in the course, a D, was based. Kelly, believing this and other treatment he had received was not fair, filed a complaint with the Human Rights Commission.

The case is currently being investigated by the commission.

Kelly now says, "They should allow me to continue my studies until the commission renders a decision."

Kelly says he received a phone call from the music department's secretary on September 7. She

informed him he would not be allowed to audition for the fourth year class because he did not have a "B" in his third year performance class.

The secretary says she cannot remember the details of the conversation she had with Kelly. She does, however, say that she phoned all of the students who were not eligible because of their grades or because failure to complete core courses which are departmental prerequisites.

Wait, the course director of both the third and fourth year music performance classes, says Kelly's complaint is misguided. She says Kelly not only does not have the necessary grade point average (which is a B+), but he does not have all of the required courses. She urges anyone in doubt to read the departmental calendar outlining curriculum, rules and regulations. It states that in order for students to pursue fourth year studies in music, they must complete core courses.

Wait compares these core courses to an apartment building where, "You cannot hope to go to the fifth floor without having passed the first."

Wait cannot understand how Kelly could misconstrue his predicament as a reprisal. "After all," she says, "the curriculum was in place long before Mr. Kelly, or I, or probably most of the others in the music department were here."

# Prof runs "academic garage sale"

by Heather Sangster

Sociology professor Alice Propper ran an "academic garage sale" of old books from her S441 Ross office throughout the month of September.

To prepare to move to a smaller office, Propper not only sold textbooks but Harlequin Romances, records, tapes and handbags from the hallway outside her office.

Provost Elizabeth Hopkins said that although an official policy may not exist, using a university office for private gain is "very much frowned upon by the university."

Propper advertised by posting in elevators and hallways. According to Hopkins, the office of student affairs will send Propper a warning not to poster in unauthorized areas.

Hopkins also contacted the chair of the sociology department, Pat Armstrong, and filed an informal complaint.

Propper said she has not received any complaints. However, she has sold most of her large collection of books.

"People thought [this] was a wonderful bargain. They were thrilled to find cheap books," she said. "Students were coming in with book lists. I thought people

were very happy."

Propper did not ask the university permission to hold the sale in her office. She said she got the idea after one of her colleagues successfully held a sale last spring.

"I realize it's an uncommon practice," she admitted, "but why is it so uncommon?" Propper said this sale made sense because "over a very long academic career, you collect a lot of books. It's better that students, staff and faculty have an opportunity to buy [the books]."

"I'd be upset," she added, "if I did anything to upset people at the university."

# York responds to TTC trouble

By Ken Turriff

Students are resting a little easier this week after a threatened TTC lockout over a union dispute was averted last Thursday.

Word of a shutdown left thousands of students and staff, who rely on the TTC to get to and from York and Glendon campuses, scrambling for alternative travel arrangements.

The prospect of a transit shutdown also left the university administration and the CYSF rushing around to find some last minute solutions to the possible crisis.

The CYSF organized a car pool sign-up table in Central Square. CYSF president Peter Donato said the student response to the car pool had been quite good. The CYSF had also planned to distrib-

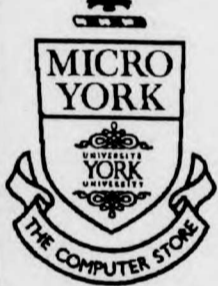
ute fliers on car windshields to convince students with cars to help provide rides to students in dire need; and a student hotline would have been set up.

The department of security and parking services also began to organize a car pool for York community members as well as setting up emergency temporary parking areas for the influx of students who did not normally drive to York.

For the most part, the administration felt it was the responsibility of staff and students to get to and from the campus. However, a spokesperson from vice-president (finance and administration) Bill Farr's office said that in the event of a transit strike, instructors had been informed to exercise leniency on deadlines for students' assignments.

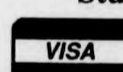
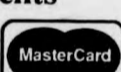
It is worth noting that while many students were angered by the TTC slowdown, the York NDP Association held a meeting last Thursday in support of TTC workers: The members at the meeting promoted the closing of the university during the shutdown. They felt this would be in the best interest of students, especially those who were entirely stranded, and would be a show of solidarity with the union workers.

York NDP co-chair Jean Ghomeshi said in a later interview with *Excalibur*, "The TTC slowdown makes me, like the rest of the student body, mad as hell. But we should channel our anger and antipathies toward the management, not the TTC workers who could lose their jobs." The TTC was back in full operation at the beginning of this week.






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