



Parking fees unexplained

Continued from page 1

being used within the parking and security department.

Some of the revenues are slated to be used in a "sinking fund" to build a new multi-storey parking structure on campus.

"The ministry of colleges and universities do not allow the university to fund parking costs," said

MacDonald. "If we did not introduce a sinking fund, we would have to go to the public and possibly into debt with interest rates."

The university's long-term master plan calls for a number of future parking structures. Several current lots are slated to be sold as part of the York University Development Corporation's plans to sell and lease campus land to private developers.

Marriott's china plate program dies in dorms

by Anna Di Rezz

A plan to use china plates in residence cafeterias is floundering due to student negligence.

"We are in a crisis at the moment," said Suzanne Cullen, director of food and service management at Marriot Corporation. "We do not have enough China to last through lunch because students bring it to residence and we don't get it back." Marriott Corporation operates large cafeterias in Vanier, Winters, Founders and Bethune Colleges. The corporation moved in September to eliminate styrofoam containers and replace them with "environmentally friendly" china dishes.

In an attempt to retrieve the dishes, Marriott has begun a program in affiliation with MacLaughlin College for Marriott to collect dishes left by students beside elevators on each floor.

Marriott is negotiating with other college residences for the same collection system.

"No decision has been made by the residence councils on the matter," said Albert Ng, coordinator for food and services at York.

Due to the lack of cooperation from students, Marriott has put flyers on cash registers, trays and in residences, asking students to return their plates.

Styrofoam containers are still available for take-out orders.

Pettiness prevails at CFS conference

by Karen Hill
Canadian University Press

OTTAWA — Student councillors bitched, bickered and backstabbed during the annual general meeting of the Canadian Federation of Students last week.

In a meeting more notable for its animosity and division than common interests, about 250 delegates indulged in backroom lobbying and rumour mongering, not to mention procedural wrangling.

National treasurer Lyndon Surjik successfully fought off an impeachment vote, spurred by a \$67,000 discrepancy between an auditor's report and CFS financial statements. CFS chair Kelly Lamrock was elected for another term, although 14 student councils voted against ratifying him in a highly unusual procedural move.

"It was the most divisive meeting in recent memory," said Marcella Munro, a Carleton University student councillor.

Some delegates stalked out of committee meetings, including one discussing the budget when it became clear that Surjik had no intention of resigning.

Surjik said he was targeted be-

cause he is gay, and some delegates wanted a scapegoat for the financial problems. "I got a sense on Tuesday that trouble was brewing," he said.

He said he was waiting to hear from the auditors about the difference in the figures, saying it could be a simple accounting error on the auditors' part.

At the final plenary, where the impeachment motion came up, Surjik said people had been spreading rumours and misinformation. "People could be sued for what they said," he said.

Sandeep Dhir, Alberta's national executive representative, spearheaded the drive to purge Surjik. "I think the national treasurer should have resigned immediately when he realized the discrepancy," he said in an interview.

The bitterness that pervaded the meeting came to a head during the ratification of Lamrock as chair for 1992-93 — 14 schools opposed the motion.

Lamrock said he was surprised. "That act was shameful," he said. "I guess those 14 schools don't believe in democracy."

But Patricia Barrera, president of the University of Ottawa, one of the

Candlelight vigil held for political prisoners

by Tom Schneider

A group of York students braved the cold last Monday night to demand the release of political prisoners in China.

Members of York University's Amnesty International chapter held lighted candles outside the Chinese Consulate on St. George Street in Toronto.

"We are here to draw attention to the continued human rights abuses that are occurring in China," explained Steve Birnie, treasurer for the group.

The students were protesting in support of Wang Youcai, a 24-year-

old Beijing University student, and other prisoners of conscience in China.

Wang was imprisoned for organizing anti-government demonstrations in Shanghai similar to the Tiananmen demonstration of 1989.

"We feel that as a student group, we should help represent the rights of students in other countries whose human rights have been abused," said Birnie. "We believe that everyone has the right to express non-violent political beliefs."

Fan Yan Jun, a Consul with the Chinese Consulate in Toronto, says the Consulate does not have any in-

formation on Wang's status.

"As of yet, there's nothing official coming my way in terms of that case," said Fan.

Gord Bennet, executive assistant of York's Amnesty International, said a petition with over 160 signatures was delivered to the Chinese Consulate, asking for Wang's release.

According to Fan, the petition was received, and is being examined by an officer who does not want to be identified.

"He [the officer] is still reading it and will later decide whether or not to send it to China," said Fan.

Challenges Canadian laws

Guelph student fights to bare breasts

by Clive Thompson
Canadian University Press

TORONTO — A Guelph University woman arrested for walking around topless is challenging the charge in court, claiming Canada's indecency laws are discriminatory.

Gwen Jacob, who was to appear in court on Friday, was charged with two counts of indecency for appearing shirtless in Guelph on July 17 and 18.

Jacob says she wasn't wearing a shirt because it was too hot. A man and a woman complained to the police, however, resulting in her arrest. But Guelph's finest needed a bit of an anatomy lesson.

"The cop was telling me that my genitals were exposed," Jacob said. "I told him my genitals were quite comfortably covered. Then he arrested me."

She said the charge violates her equality guaranteed under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. "It's the only thing I can think of where men and women can be doing the same thing and the women can be arrested."

Last week, a judge in Rochester, New York overturned the 1989 convictions of 10 women found guilty of exposing their breasts in public, ruling that women's breasts are the same as men's.

Jacob said this sets an important precedent for her case, but others aren't so sure it will do her much good.

Queen's University professor Gayle MacDonald, a sociologist who specializes in the Charter and sex equality rights, said that although she agrees with Jacob's argument, sexism in the legal system may work against her.

"I think she's going to have a difficult time arguing the case, because she's working against a legal system that doesn't protect women."

"It doesn't give us protection from sexual assault, or for equal pay, so I don't think it'll be much different here."

The legal system is often more lenient on male flashers than women who expose their breasts, she added. "I had people flashing me when I was going to university and that was never taken seriously."

Preparing for upcoming trials

Royal Ontario Museum protesters tour country to challenge police

Canadian University Press

OTTAWA — Black activists who opposed the Royal Ontario Museum's exhibit, *Into the Heart of Africa*, are touring to drum up support for their upcoming trials.

During an appearance at Carleton University November 9, the activists showed a video of police attacking a peaceful demonstration. During the spring of 1990, eleven women and men were beaten and arrested while protesting the ROM exhibit. Nine of the demonstrators go to trial in Toronto November 18 to 29.

The Coalition For The Truth About Afrika was formed in November 1989 following the opening of the exhibit. The coalition organized weekly pickets outside the museum, calling the exhibit an inaccurate and stereotypical portrayal of African history.

Jennifer Issac, one of the activists charged by police, told an audience of sixty people that she had been looking forward to seeing the history of her people at the museum. "I left the exhibit and I had tears in my eyes," said Issac.

She said the exhibit portrayed African history through the eyes of the missionaries who pillaged Africa. She said the exhibit "reduced me and my people to a bunch of savages." Issac joined the demonstrations in front of the museum. "The African community in Toronto came together," she said. "It was a unifying experience."

Although Issac was arrested and charged with assaulting a

police officer at the June 2, 1990 demonstration, she said she didn't touch anybody. She also said police made racist remarks about her.

The charges against Issac were dropped on condition she stay away from the museum for six months. Another coalition member was tried and found guilty.

Activist Oji Adisa was arrested as he left the demonstration on June 2, he said. Two men in business suits, who did not identify themselves as police, jumped him and threw him upside down into an unmarked car, he said after the meeting.

Adisa said he saw one police officer kick a man and another told a bystander to "fuck off and mind your own business."

Demonstrator Ras Rico said the coalition stopped the exhibit from travelling to Ottawa, Vancouver, Albuquerque and Los Angeles. He said this was the first battle won by blacks in Canada against an educational institution.

"We busted ass," he said to the audience's applause. "Feel proud — that victory is also your victory."

The coalition also convinced the Toronto School Board to not to send children to the exhibit, and won an apology from the museum to apologize for the harm done to the black community by the exhibit.

"The word is the truth and the truth is that nobody is going to speak for us," said Rico. "If you accept it, you are defeated. If you don't accept it, you can always fight on."