

Student Security officer fired over unpaid parking tickets

By LORNE MANLY

Fired from his job because of \$200 in unpaid parking fines, a student security officer yesterday filed a wrongful dismissal grievance against the Department of Security and Safety.

Claiming that his "fines had nothing to do with my ability to work for Student Security," Ivan DeLuca turned down an offer to work as a parking lot attendant while paying off the fines. Following repayment, he would be reinstated to his security position.

DeLuca, a fourth year political science major, wants to return to his job as a student security officer immediately and filed the grievance with the United Plant Guard Workers of America to accomplish this goal.

Eric Pond, an assistant director in the Department who is responsible for Student Security, said that the decision to fire DeLuca was made in October but held "in abeyance" after DeLuca reached an agreement with the Parking Office on a schedule of repayments. DeLuca, however, has not made any of the installments on the fines accumulated during 1983 and 1984. (DeLuca paid off over half of the fines, which totalled about \$420, two years ago.)

To Pond, "the crux of the matter is that he (DeLuca) failed to meet an obligation he was aware of, that he did agree on, and didn't follow through on. Not taking action would have set a very poor precedent; it would throw us (the Department) open to more accusations. It could be seen as condoning and harbouring someone not paying debts."

Pond justifies his actions by pointing out a clause in the Student Security Operating Guidelines, a form which all student security officers have to sign when they are hired. Paragraph 2.03 states: "students in violation of...other acts which bring discredit upon the Department or themselves, are subject to immediate termination or a one-time only formal warning..."

"If he's a member of the Security section," Pond said, "there's more of an obligation to be squeaky clean. If he's working anywhere else he doesn't have the same obligation, (but) our people have to be seen as being honest, trustworthy and reliable. In security, we're under a closer look from people on campus, and we expect our people to be ideal and straightforward."

"If put in a position of trust, and if that person breaks the trust or abrogates his responsibilities, he should be prepared to accept some sort of chastisement," Pond added.

DeLuca does not accept this logic and refused Pond's offer as a result. "The parking fines have nothing to do with my duties," DeLuca said. "If I had assaulted someone then it would (have some effect), but this is a wrongful dismissal and I'm taking it up with the Union."

DeLuca refused the job as a parking lot attendant for a number of reasons. "Being a parking lot attendant means fewer hours and less pay as they only get five dollars an hour (student security officers make 50 cents more)," DeLuca said. "It's not my job; I want my old job back—none of this dilly-dallying around, it's absolutely ridiculous. Either I'm right and they give me my job back with a formal apology or it was right to fire me."

DeLuca also claims he never signed the form stating he had read and understood the Operating Guidelines. Pond, however, says that DeLuca did, in fact, sign the form.

Peter Struk, the assistant vice-president of Physical Resources and in charge of the Security Department, expressed disappointment at DeLuca's refusal. "I felt that we had come up with a reasonable solution to the problem in keeping with the policies of the Department."

Struk said he was operating under the maxim "you have to appear to be fair besides being fair, and, as a result, I suggested to Eric (Pond) that we offer him a position away from Security (but still in the Department) as a part-time parking lot attendant, but have a commitment that money from his paycheque will go towards paying off his fines."

Pond added that "as soon as the debt is paid, there will be no problem reinstating him."

Cultural clubs get indigestion from expense and poor quality of University 'catered' food

By SUJATA BERRY

Unhappy with the University's policy concerning the catering of ethnic foods at York, three cultural clubs have registered their complaints with the Council of York Students Federation (CYSF).

Michael Latchana, CYSF's Social and Cultural Affairs Director, explained the present catering policy as "if you want something catered and if they (the caterers) can't do it, then you have to modify the request."

This has led to two problems with the cultural clubs. Firstly, the clubs consider the catering on campus to be overly expensive and of poor quality. Secondly, and more importantly to the clubs, they find the caterers are unable to accommodate the special needs of the cultural clubs.

According to Norman Crandles, Director of Housing and Food Services, "the University employs cater-

ers which it selects from a tendering competition. When the caterers bid, they understand the nature of the business and pay the University to participate in it. To call off-campus caterers interferes with the integrity of those contracts."

"The University is committed to a monopoly food department," Crandles said, "but it also allows for exceptions. For example, orientation week and the multicultural festival are exempt. Exemptions are allowed by me (for special occasions), thus allowing sufficient flexibility."

The clubs, however, feel that there is not enough flexibility. The Jewish Students Federation, for example, in a letter of complaint, wrote, "Marky's is a meat restaurant and as such can not supply anything dairy... the lack of variety when restricted to one restaurant is also unfairly limiting. There are a number of special foods that we would like to bring in

York moves to cash in on housing market

By LORNE MANLY

In order to take advantage of a 'window of opportunity in a hot housing market,' the York University Development Corporation (YUDC) will entertain proposals for selling or leasing a 20-25 acre parcel of land next to University City.

On Monday, York's Board of Governors (BOG), responsible for the financial affairs of the University, unanimously approved a resolution stating that if a suitable deal is reached, York will be predisposed to sell the land. The YUDC will be inviting selected developers in the next month to submit proposals outlining the company's intended projects and how much each developer would pay for the acreage.

"The reason we're doing this is so we can properly quantify the financial benefits of such a development," YUDC vice-president Greg Spearn said. "From the beginning (since YUDC's formation in the summer of 1985) we've said that we want to respond to market opportunities as they come up... We now have basic planning (for a new Campus Concept plan) done and the plan shows where housing could happen on campus."

"The housing market is still hot but this window of opportunity could close at any time," Spearn said. "We owe it to ourselves to see what we could get for this land. This land could give us good housing and

net York a sizeable return."

Spearn remarked that the YUDC does not have guidelines for the form the housing will take but has a broad indication of York's needs. "We want multi-family housing," Spearn said. "Any development should provide housing options for faculty, staff and students." As well, the University will retain control over what's built on the land in terms of architecture, density and design.

"Everyone is starting to understand the depth and significance of the (space) problems York faces," Spearn said, referring to the estimated half a million additional net assignable square feet of space York needs for new classrooms, labs, offices and student and faculty services.

"There are very few areas to turn," Spearn said, "and land is an area in which York can help itself. We have land we don't need for educational uses in the foreseeable future."

By selling or leasing land, the YUDC hopes to raise funds to fill this pressing need and begin completing a half-finished University. The housing project would enable a greater number of people to live on campus as well as provide a substantial financial boost to York, according to Spearn. (Estimates for selling the land vary from \$1/2-million to over \$1-million an acre, depending on the development's density.)

With BOG approval of the proposal call, Spearn feels that a "pretty



ROBERTA DI MAIO

STABBED IN THE BACK: Third year York fencer Warren Kotler (stabber) lands a perfectly legal hit on 'stabbee,' a member of York's C team.

and Marky's just does not fulfill our needs... the exorbitant prices and lack of discount for bulk items puts unfair financial burdens on programs that have very limited budgets." Similar views were echoed in the letters from the Malaysian and Singaporean Student Association and the Iranian Students Association.

The net effect has been "a general tendency of clubs to not hold events on campus," noted Latchana. "On one hand the University promotes multiculturalism and on the other hand it is pursuing a policy that hampers the efforts of the clubs."

University Provost Tom Meininger has requested the University

Food and Beverage Services Committee (UFBSC) to review the situation in greater detail. (The UFBSC is responsible for approving any changes in policy.) With the help of Latchana and Adam French, the Director of Internal Affairs at CYSF, a committee is being formed to represent the cultural clubs at the next UFBSC meeting scheduled for February 26.

Crandles refuses to speculate on the committee's reaction to the proposal. Similarly, George Doxey, the chairman of the UFBSC, said, "We have not decided anything just yet... (We will) find out more about the matter at the next meeting in February."

BOG approval. This, of course, is all conditional on getting North York and surrounding communities to agree," Spearn cautioned, "so we'll be working with them all the way through."

INSIDE

OPINION

LIBRARY COMPUTER OVERCHARGING STUDENTS: Scott library's GEAC computer system is penalizing students for overdue reserve books after closing, yet library policy indicates that students should not be charged overnight. Though modifying the software to erase this inconsistency is quite simple, York still continues to overcharge students for overdue books. Page 7

FEATURES

JUSTICE DENIED? Yesterday marked the 23rd birthday of Nova Scotian native Bruce Curtis, an inmate in a maximum security prison in New Jersey. Convicted of aggravated manslaughter in 1983 for shooting a friend's mother, Curtis was sentenced to 20 years, the stiffest sentence ever given for a first offense in New Jersey. Curtis supporters from across Canada and in the U.S. are still asking: Did Curtis get a fair trial? Pages 10-11