

APEC protestors name Chretien and others in class-action suit

BY SARAH GALASHAN

VANCOUVER (CUP) -- A law student who was arrested at last year's APEC summit has launched a class-action suit against Prime Minister Jean Chretien, Finance Minister Lloyd Axworthy and former ambassador to Indonesia Gary Smith.

The suit, which was announced by University of British Columbia student Craig Jones last Tuesday, alleges the three officials conspired to limit the constitutional rights of protesters during the meeting of 18 Pacific Rim leaders.

According to Jones' statement of claim, any other interested parties who choose to join the class-action lawsuit may do so. "What it allows us to do really is to roll up a whole bunch of different actions that otherwise wouldn't be able to proceed on their own," Jones said.

Jones was arrested for refusing to remove a protest sign during the Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation conference held at the University of British Columbia last November. The RCMP arrested 49 people at the meeting.

He says he decided to launch the suit after documents surfaced that suggest Ottawa ordered the RCMP to limit protests at the summit to avoid embarrassment to then-Indonesian President Suharto.

Although it may take years before the lawsuit is heard, Jones says it was necessary to pursue it because the RCMP complaints commission, which is investigating security measures at the summit,

has no legal jurisdiction.

"There's no robust means of redress in this hearing. They can make recommendations to the police commissioner and that's it. What good is that going to do against the PM or Axworthy or any of the rest?" Jones said.

Portions of a recently-released e-mail from Robert Vanderloo, executive director of the APEC co-ordinating office, implicate the Prime Minister's Office in the handling of student protesters at

the summit.

"PMO has expressed concerns about the security perimeter at UBC, not so much from a security point of view, but to avoid embarrassment to APEC leaders," the September 1997 e-mail reads.

"We have to find a balance that meets both concerns (we do not wish student demonstrations and efforts by the government to suppress the freedom of expression to become a major media story)," the e-mail states.

Students told to remove Pepsi banner

BY ANGELA PACIENZA

TORONTO (CUP) -- "Pepsi owns York." That's the message a couple of York University students wanted that get across to football fans at the school's homecoming game last week.

But the banner proclaiming that statement, which the students had hung on the fence surrounding York's stadium, was taken down by school officials just 40 minutes after kickoff.

"We aren't doing anything that Pepsi isn't already doing," said Yves Zhender, a fourth-year environmental studies student who helped put up the sign to protest York's recent 10-year exclusivity contract with Pepsi.

Zhender and Diane Simon, the other student behind the sign, say they had the right to express their opinion at the stadium because it belongs to all students, not just paid sponsors.

"This (stadium) is mine

as much as anyone else's," said Simon.

Zhender added the incident represented an information war between Pepsi and students about who gets to inform the public.

But an official from the university's athletics department, who asked the students to remove the banner, says he was simply enforcing York's regulations about signs at sporting events.

The incident has caused some York students to wonder about their ability to publicly protest York's contract with Pepsi.

But the university maintains students can protest the deal provided they comply with the rules of the institution.

Under the \$7.5 million agreement between York University and Pepsi, the money is to be divided among various student organizations, including \$250,000 a year toward stadium upgrades.

Froggies

Quality Used Family Clothing



HALLOWEEN COSTUMING

and accessories -
Wigs, Hats, Beards,
Masks: 69¢ and up
Make-up: 45¢ to \$6.29
Noses, Ears, Teeth
and more!!!

Open Mon. to Fri. - 8:30 to 8:30 Saturday - 8:30 to 5:00
Located (off Allen St.) on Jordan Cres., Charlottetown Tel: 892-4606

Fiendish! Hilarious! Classic!