

# Student union report

## Rally addresses student concerns towards tuition hikes

By Jamy Ellen Proud

Man. Just let me catch my breath for a second.

What with the rally last week, an internal campaign, breaking in all the new councillors, several successful events at the Barn and all the "regular" stuff that goes on at the Barn, it sure has been a hectic two weeks!

First things first. The rally at Province House, which took place on Wednesday, November 12, wasn't as big as expected, but was successful nonetheless. The rally was given media coverage in the Guardian (a great picture was also published on Thursday, November 13<sup>th</sup>), on Compass, and on several local radio stations. Perhaps of greater importance, Education Minister Chester Gillan and Premier Pat Binns were each asked several questions by Dr. Herb Dickieson (3<sup>rd</sup> Party MLA in the provincial legislature) on behalf of students. (An interesting side note: Herb Dickieson and by-election candidate Leo Broderick actually walked from the gazebo on campus down to Province House with the march. Free hot dogs (generously donated by the Atlantic Superstore and Sobey's) were handed out to participants, as well as beer tickets for the following day's Makeel concert.

In an effort to ease the pain of early morning pre registration and to get some last minute promotion for that day's rally, the Student Union Executive and a few very dedi-

cated councillors handed out coffee and hot chocolate to folks waiting in line at the field house on Wednesday morning. This seemed to be a popular endeavour, and put a smile on at least a few faces!

Anyone who couldn't make it to the rally, but is still concerned about increasing tuition, can skip down to the Barn and buy a spiffy protest t-shirt (the caption is "admin and gov't, we are students, WORK FOR US!"). The student union is selling them at cost (\$7). They are a great way to express your frustration over a deaf ear that seems to have been turned towards the concerns of students.

A student union booth was set up in the breezeway on Thursday, November 13 and Friday, November 14. The goal of the booth was to promote pride in our University and to hand out study tips to students stressed with papers and tests and presentations. Posters with facts about our University were hung, and information about the student union and the hierarchy of the University was distributed. A good idea put forward by a former student was executed. Students were asked to fill out a "what makes you angry?" form and to hand it in to the union. Once enough forms have been collected, they will be posted on the wall outside President Epperly's door. A surprisingly high number of students have already filled out forms, and everyone who

would like to express a "beef" still has the opportunity to fill out a form (they too are down at the Barn).

As for breaking in new councillors, Adam "Coffee Boy" Kenny, our new VP External, hit the floor running, and immediately pitched in with preparations for the rally. Stephen and Kyle Hann (Senate and Business reps respectively) made it over to the Field House last Wednesday at 6 o'clock in the morning! To help hand out coffee, and stuck around to help out with the rally later that day. And then they came back the next two days to sit at the booth in the breezeway. Pauline Tran, Science Rep, has also shown a lot of energy and enthusiasm for the Student Union, and also pitched in with the SU booth this week. Amazing how first year councillors are putting veteran councillors to shame with their dedication.

By all accounts, the Halloween Pub was a rousing success. Congratulations to Tim, Cheratien, Jesse, and the staff at the barn for fixing (or at least reducing!) many of the problems from previous years. Several other events have been held at the Barn since the Halloween Pub, with varying degrees of success. Keep your eyes peeled around campus for posters advertising upcoming barn events, and come on out to support your student bar. See you there!

## Cup briefs

### Opposition to honorary U of T degree for Bush heats up

BY SARAH SCHMIDT AND VITO M. LABATE

TORONTO (CUP) It is less than a week before the University of Toronto confers an honorary degree on former U.S. president George Bush and protests against the award are reaching a fever pitch.

Faculty are being encouraged to sign up for the Nov. 19 ceremony's academic procession so that a massive walkout can be held when Bush is awarded his degree. Earlier this fall, over 100 U of T professors signed a letter condemning the decision to honour the former president.

The campus chapter of the Ontario Public Interest Research Group and other organizations have launched a letter-writing campaign against the granting of the degree, and are planning a demonstration

outside the convocation. OPIRG at U of T has even requested that the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration prevent Bush from entering the country on the basis of the atrocities committed in Latin America and Iraq under his leadership.

But Bush's spokesperson says no amount of political protest will keep the former U.S. president off campus.

Probably the most graphic illustration of campus displeasure with the Bush degree took place at a recent meeting of the Governing Council, U of T's highest decision-making body. Over 200 students, faculty, alumni and community members descended on the council chambers Nov. 3 to protest the decision as the usual dynamic of a crowded table of governors and an empty gallery was reversed.

Protestors waved placards with blunt messages "Will Pol Pot be next?" and stuck equally subtle stickers "Bush Off" on clothing, furniture and walls.

As demonstrators were herded out of the chambers so governors could discuss Bush's right to an honorary degree behind closed doors, they continued to make themselves heard.

After over 40 minutes of deliberation, which was filled with demonstrators chanting and mocking outside the chamber doors, the governors voted to maintain their decision to grant Bush a degree.