

See *Music* on
page 21



The

CHRONICLE



See *Tennis* on
page 29

VOLUME LI, ISSUE 2

OCTOBER 1, 2013

Welcome to Eat St.



Giorgio Berbatiotis

LIGHTS, CAMERA...BBQ!: Michelina DiPasquale, who works at Durham College, enjoys some of Urban Smoke's food while talking to the crew of the Food Networks *Eat St.*

See *Eat St.* on page 9

DC/UOIT withhold SA funds

Giorgio Berbatiotis
The Chronicle

DC and UOIT are refusing to hand over millions of dollars in collected student fees that would normally be given to and distributed by the Student Association for the 2013-2014 academic year.

An email sent to students on behalf of DC/UOIT presidents Don Lovisa and Tim McTiernan referred to "a responsibility to the students from whom the fees are collected" and "significant challenges" faced by the SA to explain why the action was taken.

"Governance and financial concerns were raised," said Tony Doyle, assistant to DC president Don Lovisa. "At a meeting about a week before the [email] was issued there was a discussion that there would be steps taken."

This comes after a series of resignations and terminations that have plagued the SA in the last year, culminating in the dismissal of former executive director Kelly Morrison on Sept. 9.

Doyle would not elaborate on what specifically are the concerns being raised with the SA, saying: "This is a process you have to go through, you have to investigate concerns, and see what is out there, and from there you can determine if further action is needed... we've asked the SA to address a

couple of issues." Asked if these issues will ever be made public, Doyle said: "We have to wait and see what happens in the coming weeks."

Doyle did say that DC/UOIT are asking the SA to provide the completed audits of the finances for the 2012-2013 year and to provide a governance plan that "addresses good governance practices, policies and procedures, including equal representation and voice for students of both schools."

He also said there has been a series of meetings over the last several weeks between the SA and the leadership teams at the college and university to discuss these issues and to request the financial and governance documentations.

The SA had expressed to DC/UOIT leadership, over a series of meetings, that the requested documents "would be forthcoming" according to Doyle. DC/UOIT have not yet received those documents, so the decision to take this next step of withholding funds was then agreed upon by both DC and UOIT.

"There are no immediate effects, and the SA will operate as usual," said Dina Skvirsky, the new interim executive director of the SA. "In the longer term, any service disruptions will impact students, as our advocacy, services and events would be jeopardized." Skvirsky expects the audit to be completed in October, but says that DC/UOIT wants to see "changes in bylaws

and policies" that would require members to take action at the next annual general meeting or AGM. This means it could be some time before the SA gets control of its finances back.

"The SA will submit bills to us to be paid and we will make payments," said Doyle. So for now the SA will still operate as normal, but they will have to work out the unspecified issues and concerns DC/UOIT leadership have with their governance and finances before they will be allowed to disperse funds themselves again.

"We don't have any set timeline. We hope the SA addresses the issues we've brought forward," said Doyle. "We have to have the pieces in place that we've requested."

"The institutions have concerns... which we are currently addressing," said SA president Peter Chinweuba. "The SA is, however, an autonomous organization and as such the institutions do not have the right to withhold our fees." He did not answer any other questions, instead pointing to responses provided by Skvirsky via email. "We are not issuing a press release since we are still in the process of clarifying processes with the institutions. We want to communicate complete and accurate information to students," said the email, explaining why there has been no official announcement from the SA regarding the matter.

Bistro 67 set to make historic debut

Reshanthy Vijayarajah
The Chronicle

Get ready for smoked BLT, steaks, chicken and freshly made salads right in front of you.

Bistro 67 will be opening its doors soon, the very first green-certified teaching restaurant in Canada. A state-of-the-art restaurant located in the \$20-million Centre For Food at Durham College's Whitby campus, the Bistro will be in full cycle of food production to both the college and the general public.

See *Bistro* on page 2