

# Ontario ponders keg registry after rise in raucous parties

Party-throwers in Ottawa may have to start registering their beer with police

FRANK APPLEYARD  
The Fulcrum (University of Ottawa)

OTTAWA (CUP)—The next time Ottawa students prepare to tap a keg, they may have to register the brew at the beer store.

A new initiative proposed by the Ontario Association of Police Chiefs (OAPC) at a January meeting with the Ministry of Government Services hopes to see all kegs sold in Ontario registered upon their sale.

The goal is to better track ownership of both the beer and the ensuing party.

According to Damian Parrent, a superintendent with Niagara Police Services and the chair of the OAPC's Alcohol and Gaming Committee, the move is in response to an increase in police intervention at student-run keg parties.

"The issue of the keg registry has come about because of the growing problem of alcohol in postsecondary facilities. It's not the problems on the actual campuses, but in the neighbourhoods surrounding the campuses," he said.

"It's grown to a point where these parties are a huge tax on police resources."

The primary issue from an OAPC perspective is that many of the parties are involved in the unlicensed serving of alcohol—including underage drinking—and are therefore illegal.

"The kegs need a registry number, in our view. The person buying

them needs to show some kind of identification so that if the party goes south, and the police are there, and nobody's admitting anything, then there's accountability as to who is responsible," he said.

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DAMIAN PARRENT  
NIAGARA POLICE SERVICES

Ottawa Police Services Sgt Kal Ghaban told the CBC on 30 August that the initiative isn't an effort to eliminate keg parties.

"If people want to party [...] we're not trying to stop them from partying. What we want to happen is [for] them to do it safely and in a safe environment," he said.

Some students, however, have raised concerns about students' privacy in such a registry.

François Picard, a Vice-President with the University of Ottawa Students' Union, is opposed to the idea.

"Obviously, my reaction's not so positive to such an initiative. It seems to be quite a strange step in terms of privacy. You'd think this kind of information would be protected," he said.

However, Ottawa city councillor Georges Bédard—whose ward includes Sandy Hill, a neighbourhood with a large student community—is supportive of the proposed registry.

Bédard said that, apart from helping fed-up neighbours, it may even help party-throwers.

"I think it's even beneficial for people who throw the parties. They'll know where they stand in terms of the law and their responsibilities," he said, adding that he's not against keg parties as long as they are lawful.

"Actually, from an environmental point of view, having one keg is better than having hundreds of other containers," he said.

From a policing standpoint, Parrent said that the registry would make it easier for police to respond to complaints of out-of-control parties.

"The work is already there because we've got the call about a crazy party going on. It's more frustrating trying to track down who's responsible," he said.

"Let's say there's damage. [With a registry], you just go to the party and say, 'Well, so-and-so registered a number of kegs to this address.'"

However, Picard said he is uncomfortable with police being able to access personal information before any problems are reported.

## Nudes removed from bookstore

LAURA GODFREY  
Excalibur (York University)

TORONTO (CUP)—Artists and members of the Art Gallery of York University (AGYU) were shocked after they were asked to take down the Playing Doctor exhibit from the York University Bookstore one week after its installation.

The AGYU's exhibit, intended to remain in the bookstore's front window from 26 September–9 December, was taken down in what the artists and the gallery are calling an act of censorship.

The collaborative piece between artists Shannon Gerard and Stef Lenk is an attempt to facilitate awareness about peoples' bodies and the importance of being checked for testicular and breast cancer.

The display was a larger-than-life representation of the popular board game Operation. It included life-size cutouts of a nude man and woman with a crocheted penis and breasts.

Stones were placed inside the crocheted pieces to replicate the lumps found in the body of a cancer patient. The display was accompanied by a printed statement of the artists' intentions.

According to Steven Glassman, manager of the York University Bookstore, complaints were received between 24–26 October while the exhibit was being installed.

"From what we [at the AGYU] understand, there's one professor who's particularly upset about it," Lenk said.

Glassman denied that the complaint was from a professor.

"I got this complaint, or comment,

that this fellow, who I think is learned, but not a professor by any means, innocently asked me, but certainly not in a demanding way, when it was going to be removed because he wants to avoid having his child walk past there for the duration of that exhibit," Glassman said.

**"I guess censorship does that better than anything, so on one hand, I'm not disappointed about this censorship. I think it's a great way to bring attention to the idea of discussing fears"**

SHANNON GERARD  
YORK UNIVERSITY ARTIST

Gerard maintained that the exhibit was not supposed to be "an inflammatory project."

"It's supposed to start a dialogue about fear," she said.

"I guess censorship does that better than anything, so on one hand, I'm not disappointed about this censorship at all. I think it's a great way to bring attention to the idea of discussing fears."

Glassman insisted that the removal of the exhibit was not an act of censorship but a misunderstanding about where it was to be displayed and for how long.

"The key thing is that there's a

misunderstanding because the front window display was something that was not anticipated or planned in advance," he said. "When [the artists and curators] came in to do the final planning of the exhibit, I expressed surprise, and I refused the front window. I was convinced [by them] to put it in for a week—seven days. It was very clear to me."

Emelie Chhangur and Michael Maranda, assistant curators at the AGYU, both denied that such an agreement was made.

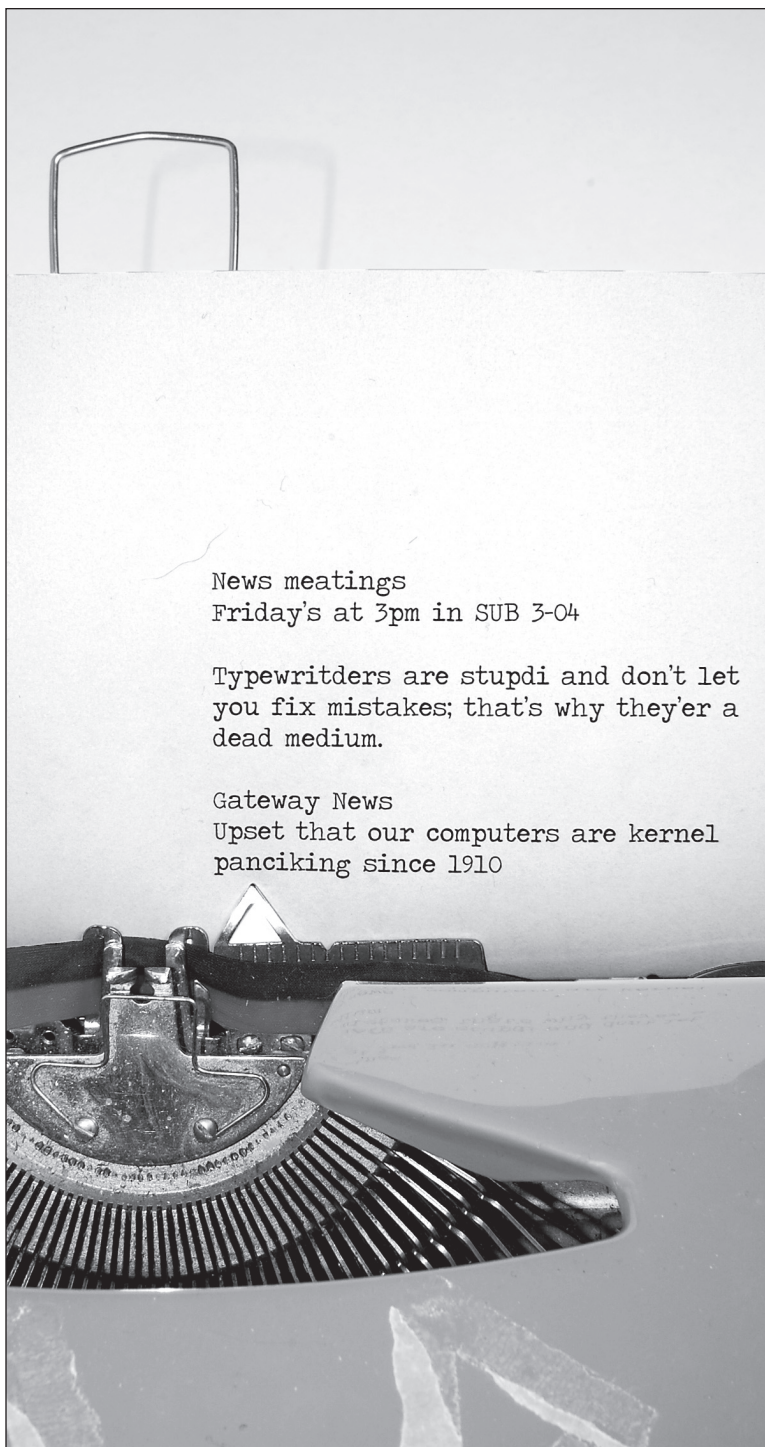
"AGYU would not speak publicly about its removal if this were the case," Chhangur said.

Maranda insisted that the verbal agreement was for the exhibit to remain in the window until 9 December.

He also expressed frustration that the gallery hasn't had the opportunity to speak to those who were uncomfortable with the content of the exhibit.

"There's always a certain amount of discomfort with contemporary art in the general public. Usually how that would be dealt with in the gallery is by trying to have a conversation with people who feel offended by the work [...] which wasn't possible in this case, not knowing who was making the complaints," she said.

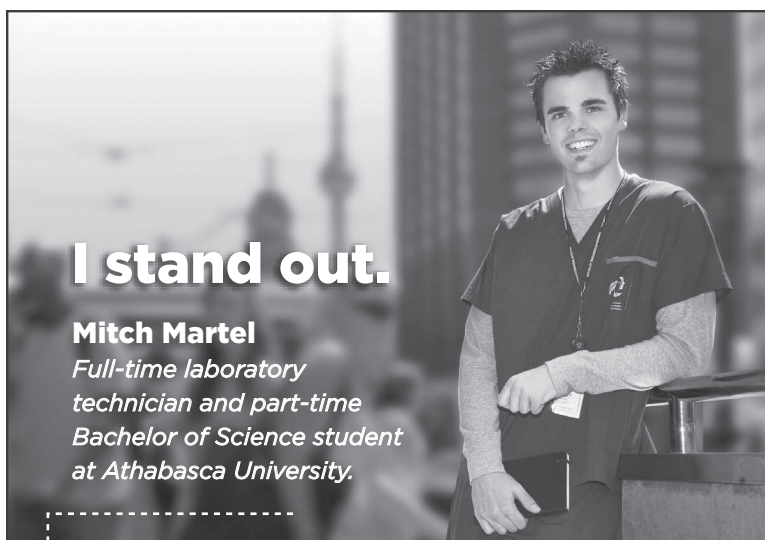
According to Glassman, the front window should be used to display bookstore promotions and merchandise. However, he said he "would love to continue working with the art gallery if [they] can clear up misunderstandings."



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