

Students' Union signs Bear Scat Memorandum of Understanding

Agreement assures continuation of popular service until after fall registration

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Deputy News Editor

After months of uncertainty regarding the future of the popular Bear Scat registration system, the Students' Union has reached a deal with Bear Scat creator Steve Kirkham that will see the system be fully operational until at least October of this year.

Kirkham and the SU had been in talks about continuing to support the service in May 2007, but by the end of the summer, no deal had been reached. The SU also introduced a policy in July that limited their ability to support Bear Scat, but an amendment was made in mid-September that allowed them to.

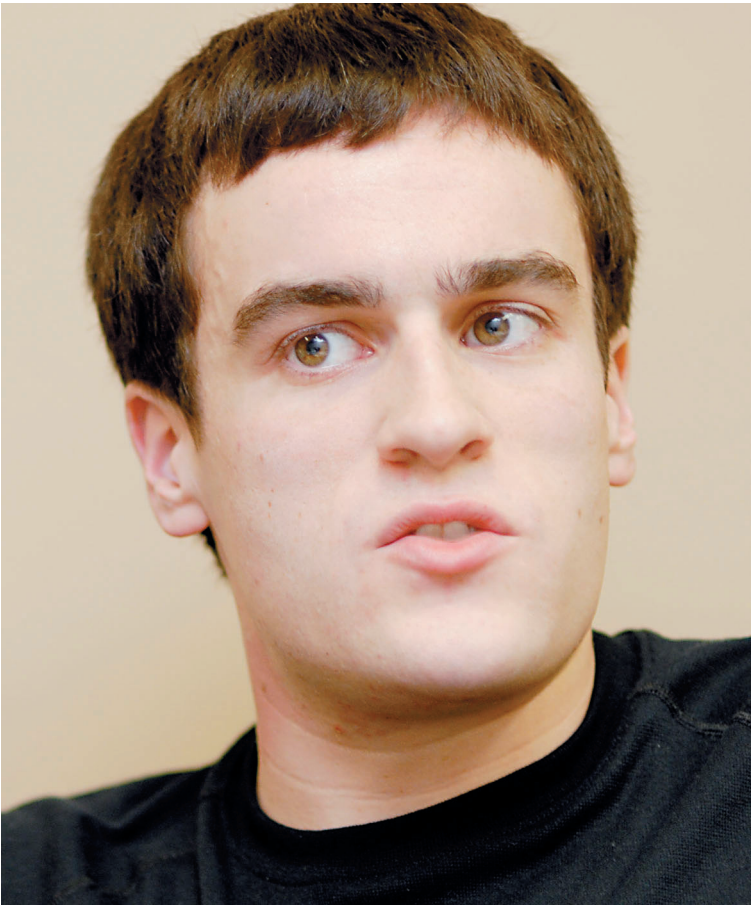
In a recently signed memorandum of understanding, the SU has opted to support the service at least until the University improves its own registration system, Bear Tracks.

"Bear Scat will be kicking around at least through October, as a November-scheduled upgrade is planned for Bear Tracks," Kirkham said. "A re-evaluation will take place at a later time to see if Bear Scat is even necessary once the new Bear Tracks has been released."

In an email to the Gateway, University Vice-President (Information Technology) Dr Paul Sorenson outlined the progress of the Bear Tracks upgrade.

"This upgrade will have students review and have input into Bear Tracks. The upgrade is scheduled for production in November 2008, and we are at the stage of reviewing the new features and making comparisons with our current functionality. Reviews with students are being scheduled over the next two or three months. In conclusion, the University is committed to use this upgrade as an opportunity to involve our students in continuing to improve Bear Tracks for our students," he wrote.

The SU's primary concern in the past with supporting Bear Scat was a fear that they would erode their ability to lobby the University to improve Bear



FILE PHOTO: MIKE OTTO

SCAT ATTACK Steve Kirkham says he's happy Bear Scat will continue for now.

Tracks. However, after many councilors and students spoke out against abandoning the service, the SU reneged on its stance and struck a new deal.

"The Students' Union is supporting it from a physical hardware point of view," Kirkham explained. "So, fortunately, they have purchased and set up new servers for me, so there is enough hardware to support the service through the schedule-design process that's going to start in March for the fall and winter [semesters, and] when September rolls around, there will be enough hardware for the 65 per cent of the student body that regularly uses Bear Scat."

Kirkham said he is pleased with the resolution.

"I'm certainly happy that the Students' Union has come around and understood the importance of Bear Scat and why it should at least stick around until we know what Bear Tracks will look like come November," he said. "It was slightly disappointing that it took this long, especially even when students made their opinions known in September—when unfortunately part of the functionality of Bear Scat had to be disabled—that they really wanted it. It's unfortunate that it took this long for the SU to come to its senses."

Due to the up-coming SU elections, Vice-President (Academic) Bobby Samuel was unable to comment on the agreement.

CAMPUS CRIME BEAT

Compiled by Cody Civiero

WAKING TO A DIFFERENT TUNE

At 8:15am on 19 February, Campus Security responded to a noise complaint from HUB Mall. A male had apparently been walking up and down the mall while playing his trumpet and singing, waking several HUB residents. The amateur musician stated that he had previously been busking by playing his trumpet in the LRT station. He explained that he had needed to use the washroom, at which point he headed into HUB Mall. CSS members spoke to the man and advised him that 8:15am is early for some residents and asked that, in the future, he keep his trumpet-playing confined to the LRT.

BAD BEHAVIORALISM

On 19 February at 12:45pm, officers responded to a complaint of a student making threats against staff members in the Biological Sciences building. The student was apparently upset over his grades and subsequently began threatening staff when they wouldn't change them. Due to concerns for the student's health, he was taken to the hospital for further care.

BEEN CAUGHT STEALING

On 20 February at 10:45am, Campus Security was contacted by EPS, who had stopped a vehicle off campus and found the driver in possession of a laptop that had been stolen from a University staff member's residence a few days prior. The driver was subsequently charged with possession of stolen property as well as numerous other offences.

THIEVES BOLT WITH MORE SEATS

On 21 February at 1:30pm, Campus Security received another report of stolen chairs from a lecture hall in the Tory Lecture theatres. There have been two previous thefts of a similar nature since the beginning of January 2008. The chairs were apparently unbolted from their bases before being removed. The chairs are valued at approximately \$1000, and the total cost to the University of the three thefts totals approximately \$3000.

WATCH FOR THE HAND, 'CAUSE THE MAN AIN'T FLASHING

At 1:00am on 22 February, Campus Security officers observed two unaffiliated males jaywalk directly in front of a CSS patrol unit, causing the officer to stop. The males were stopped for the offence and identified. One male was discovered to have several outstanding warrants. He was subsequently turned over to the EPS with a ticket for jaywalking.

The second male was also given a jaywalking ticket and left the University on foot.

THIS IS MY BROOMSTICK!

On 24 February at 11:15pm, CSS responded to a complaint of a disturbance in ETLC. Upon arrival, 5-0 members discovered that a cleaner had become upset when asked to clean in an area he wasn't responsible for. He had apparently assaulted his supervisor by throwing an identification card at him and hitting his supervisor in the face. The cleaner was subsequently removed from the building and sent home. The investigation is currently ongoing.

CU ON THE OTHER SIDE

At 3:15am on 25 February, Campus Security received a call from the EPS regarding a break-in at South Campus. Upon arrival, CSS officers discovered that a male had been observed by a security guard working at the new LRT construction site. The guard had observed a male drive his car up to a gated compound, jump over a barbed wire fence, and proceed to steal large amounts of copper wire from the University. The guard called the EPS who arrived and placed the male under arrest. A significant amount of copper wiring was recovered, and the suspect was charged with breaking and entering as well as possession of stolen property.

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Hummus • Paninins • Chicken Caesar Pitas • Salads-Tuna Melts • Hot Soup Of The Day and more...

»TUESDAYS FROM 2 PM TO CLOSE \$3.75 Grasshopper Pints

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» **FRIDAY, MAR. 7TH @ 5:00PM**
oilers vs. columbus blue jackets

GIVING AWAY TICKETS THAT NIGHT TO THE

» **TUESDAY, MAR. 11TH @ 7:00PM**
oilers vs. st. louis blues

MONDAYS - ROCK BAND!

Jager Bombs-Rock Star & Jagermeister-on special

TUESDAYS - dub that ditty!

the fun starts at 9 p.m.
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WEDNESDAYS - KARAOKE

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FRIDAYS
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HOURS
monday-friday | saturday
11AM-2AM | 3PM-2AM