

Prominent lecturer Paul Buchanan dismissed

Paul Buchanan, Politics Department celebrity, international relations expert and former 'security advisor', has been terminated with extreme prejudice. *Craccum* can confirm almost nothing because nobody is saying anything, but this much is certain: Dr Buchanan has been sacked.

When questioned about Buchanan's dismissal, the University of Auckland's Senior Communications Advisor Bill Williams commented, "all I can say is that he is no longer employed by the University." Williams refused to discuss the circumstances leading up to Dr Buchanan's dismissal, and would not disclose when Dr Buchanan's employment was terminated.

Dr Buchanan gained a reputation as a commentator on issues of international security, in both mainstream and alternative media. According to his CV on the University web site (which you can no longer see, because it has been removed) he has lectured or conducted research at the Universities of Arizona, Chicago, Notre Dame, California at Berkeley, California at San Diego, California at Santa Cruz, the Naval Postgraduate School, the Library of Congress, the US Air Force Special Operations School, the US Army School of the Americas, The US Navy Special Operations Command, CEDES in Argentina, IUPERJ in Brazil, and CIESU in Uruguay. He has served in the US State and Defense Departments, and as a consultant to various US security agencies as well as the Agency for International Development, McArthur Foundation, and other private entities.

Other web pages on the University server which have recently been modified includes those of the NZ Centre for Latin American Studies and the Working Group on Alternative Security Perspectives, both of which Dr Buchanan was involved with.

There are those who say that influential elements in global politics conspired to have Dr Buchanan removed, because they wanted to silence him for speaking out on matters of international security; but then these people are plainly nuts.

So why has he been sacked? *Craccum's* sources could best be described as "tight-lipped." At worst they could be described as "ignorant." In short, they know nothing. However, one source speculated that Buchanan was dismissed following a strongly-worded email to an international post-graduate student from the United Arab Emirates. *Craccum* received a copy of Dr Buchanan's supposedly contentious email from its recipient, who had asked the lecturer for an extension on the grounds that her father had died:

I say this reluctantly but not so subtly: you are not suitable for a graduate degree. It does not matter if your father died or if you have a medical certificate. I have been too nice and given you too high marks all along (at C+). I do not anticipate that you will do better in the final exercise. You are already a day late. The extension is meaningless because you have not attended the last few classes and are the worse performer in the class. Of course by a far stretch, you will have the obituary of your father, but even if available and the student health people might have believed you, I do not. You are close to failing in any event, so these sort of excuses--culturally driven and preying on some sort of Western liberal guilt--are simply lame.

Prove that your father died and your were distraught and unable to complete assignments--in spite of your abysmal record to date as an underperforming and underqualified student--- and perhaps you might qualify for an extension to get a C-. But as it stands, you will flunk since you are already a day+ late, and your track record is poor.

By the way--are you a Hoadley student? That would explain a lot of things.

In a word: NO--I do not accept your extensuon request.

Dr Buchanan's reputation as the Chuck Norris of the Politics Department can only be enhanced by the tough love he displayed in this letter. However, *Craccum's* legal advisers suggest that it would not be enough to get someone sacked, and the University is refusing to comment. There must be more. If you know more, we want to know the more you know.

Craccum also understands that reports of Associate Professor Stephen Hoadley skipping gleefully down Symonds St may be exaggerated.



This week's Canada News comes from Fort Frances, in North-western Ontario. Fort Frances is the administrative centre of the Rainy River District and is located on the international border with Minnesota. Fort Frances is connected to International Falls, Minnesota by the Fort Frances-International Falls International Bridge. Our news stories come from the Fort Frances Times.

Fort Frances is famous for the annual Fort Frances Canadian Bass Championship, which is held on Rainy Lake. This year's contest, held between July 22nd and 28th, was won by Minnesotans Jim Moyrigh and Joe Thrum. Their three day total of 53.36 pounds gained them their third title in this journey. Coming in second was Ted Olson (Littlerick) and Rob Hall (Duluth) with a 56.43 pound total. "Every big fish we had we had," Hall noted. "But it doesn't happen out here at all."

Fort Frances beat International Falls in the second annual cross-border tug-of-war. The teams of 50 pullers from each side of the border squared off after the enormous tug-of-war rope had been stretched across the width of the upper Rainy River near the Sorting Gap Marina. The Fort Frances team included Mayor Ron Avis and several Councillors, as well as town management staff.

The Fort Frances Power Corporation has appointed Jorg Ruppenstein as its new Chief Executive Officer. Ruppenstein will be replacing Jim Kibink, who has accepted a position with the Abitibi Consolidated biomass project. Ruppenstein holds a Bachelor of Electrical Engineering Degree as well as an Electrical Technologist Diploma from Lakehead University and brings with him eight years of project, operations, financial management, and leadership experience. He and his wife, Christine, are current residents of Fort Frances and have one daughter, Monika. In his free time, Ruppenstein enjoys playing soccer, hunting with his brothers, and the lake.

At its regular meeting on Monday night, town council:

- Awarded the tender for museum landscaping to Darryl's Custom Landscaping for \$69,954.50 and directed the necessary bylaw be prepared.
- Approved the renewal of the town's agreement with Rainycrest Long Term Care Facility for the provision of transportation services for the disabled and directed the necessary bylaw be prepared.

With downtown traffic being rerouted due to the construction on Central Avenue, the town is reminding motorists that parking is banned on the west side of Mowat Avenue between First Street East and Church Street.

"We've put up the signs on the west side of Mowat Avenue, and people are just parking there like crazy," said town CAO Mark McCaig, adding that the "no parking" signage is substantial.