

Pillar of Shame must move for campus work

Students fear statue will lose prominent position

The *Pillar of Shame*, the politically sensitive sculpture commemorating the Tiananmen Square crackdown of 1989, has to move and activists fear it may end up in an out-of-the-way spot.

The two-tonne *pillar*, a gift from Danish sculptor Jens Galschiøen, was carried to the University of Hong Kong by students in 1997 after being shown at the annual candle-light vigil in Victoria Park.

The concrete statue, depicting 50 torn and twisted bodies, was erected at the university's Haking Wong Podium in 1998. But it will be moved in November to make way for campus expansion work, and the university has yet to decide where it will go.

"The *pillar* symbolises Hong Kong students' support for the democracy movement in mainland China and thus it shall continue to be exhibited on the campus," said Richard Choi Yiu-cheong, vice-chairman of the Hong Kong Alliance in Support of Patriotic Democratic Movements in China, who helped carry the *pillar* to the campus after hours of skirmishing with police and university guards.

"We hope HKU will not make use of the construction project to put the *Pillar of Shame* in an unnoticed nook."

Under the HK\$2.5 billion expansion, the university plans to extend its campus westwards with three new teaching blocks to accommodate 40 per cent more students by 2012. It will build a University Street from the uncovered portion of the Haking Wong Podium to connect the old site with the new campus. The street will also give access to the central gate of HKU station when the MTR Corp completes the West Island Line in 2014.

The students' union will move out of its headquarters next to the podium in June and its canteen will move to the podium's covered portion.

"All this construction and demolition will unavoidably affect the *Pillar of Shame* and we have to find a safe and quiet place as its temporary shelter by November," said third-year student Fion Yip Yan-ting, chairwoman of the union building relocation working group.

Yip said the sculpture's future had been discussed briefly, but the issue had been in limbo since the executive committee of the Students' Union fell apart last year. Previous union president Ayo Chan Yi-ngok was ousted in a campus referendum in April last year after he said some of the mainland student leaders in the June 4, 1989 movement had to bear responsibility for the bloodshed.

Yip said she had been told the university had two tentative proposals for the statue's long-term relocation: University Street; or in Learning Commons, a study lounge on the new campus. But it is not known where it will go during construction.

A university spokesman said: "We will continue to support putting the sculpture on campus."

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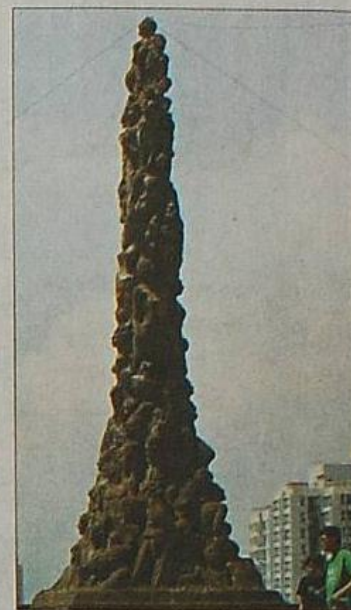
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The statue was erected at the Haking Wong Podium in 1998

Hong Kong & Delta

New site for [Pillar of Shame](#)

The [Pillar of Shame](#) will be moved and activists fear it might be shunted to an out-of-the-way spot. The sculpture commemorating the Tiananmen Square crackdown of 1989 has to make way for campus expansion work. Full report A3

