

Strike looked dismal to some on picket line

By Kim Llewellyn

As the York staff union strike entered its third week Monday, Excalibur visited the picket lines to find out how some of the strikers were getting by.

Most of those interviewed were either married with working husbands, or single and had enough funds to hold out as long as the strike lasted. At the beginning of the week, it looked like it would be a long, dismal stretch.

That is not to say the effects were minimal. "We're living in limbo," said one striker. "I don't want to spend money for anything that isn't absolutely essential."

"I'm a widow," said another. "My rent goes up six per cent every year. If I accepted a four per cent total package, where would I be?"

When asked if she was experiencing a financial crunch, striker Ramesh Dargan replied, "Sure. Do you think everybody can live without money? If we could we wouldn't be working."

A mother of three, currently putting her husband through his final year of law school, termed her financial status as "severe".

"We won't be able to meet our November mortgage," she said. "As of this week I won't have any money for anything. My 13 year old daughter is running into trouble at school. I can't give her money to buy her gym clothes and running shoes and her teachers are giving her a hard time about it."

She says she is not eligible for a bank loan because she is the family's sole breadwinner and her only recourse is to turn to friends, "something I hate to do."

"The worst thing about this is my attitude now towards the university. I feel the university doesn't give a damn about me. When I get back, I have to go on as if nothing ever happened and I don't know if I can pull that off. I'm more determined than ever now to continue my own personal schooling and get out of the position I'm in."

The strikers unanimously concurred that they didn't feel any resentment towards faculty members or students who crossed the picket line "If they are not doing my job", as lab technician Irene Roach put it. "I know that a few have been. There's been a few labs that have gone on. I feel bad that they would do that."



Putting in time on the picket line. From left to right, Laurie Turpenney, Lauma Avens, Linda Dilorio, Marilyn Kensey, Joan Coormbs.

Law students suing York

By Kim Llewellyn

Ten Osgoode students are suing the university for \$1 in damages for one class each that they missed while the York staff union was on strike. Their total claim is \$10 plus the costs of the action which to date has amounted to \$8 for bailiff services and clerk's fee.

The claim was filed by Frank Farfan, Michael Markoff, Paul Lantz, William Bennett, Michael O'Brian, Leslie Wright, Michelle Fuerst, Laureen Yu, Maillihai Wilson and Bertram Dandy on Monday. After the summons it is served the university will have 10 days to dispute it. If the university does file a dispute a trial will follow.

"We have a contract with the university," said Paul Lantz, one of the plaintiffs. "We're paying

them tuition and their providing us with certain educational services. Whether the strike interferes with their providing those services is not my problem. That dispute concerns somebody else. We're suing because they're in breach of their obligation."

According to Lantz, if the students win the suit a specific precedent will be set and this could become a problem for the university in future lawsuits.

"I'm sure we'll defend ourselves successfully," said Bill Farr, York's vice-president for employee and student relations. "It sounds like a Obiter Dicta back page comic rather than anything serious. They'll be back to their classes tomorrow and it will be difficult to tell what they've been deprived of."

York staff strike wrap-up

The administration and the staff association have reached an agreement on almost 40 points in 10 areas of the new, one-year YUSA contract. Here are the highlights:

work...where it would result in a loss of hours of work or pay of any employee.

- **LAYOFFS:** Every employee shall have four weeks notice of layoff.
- **TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE:** Three months notice to the union required if the University decides to introduce new equipment or material, or if there is a change in operations due to new equipment.
- **PAID TIME OFF:** All employees working on a Saturday or a Sunday of a holiday weekend shall be paid at 1-1/2 times.
- **CHRISTMAS BREAK WILL BE FROM FRIDAY 22 DECEMBER 78 TO 1 JANUARY 79.**
- **SICK LEAVE:** An employee shall now be entitled to a use sick leave to attend his or her spouse as well as his or her child.

- **SALARIES:** An employee whose salary is \$10,000 per annum or less, shall receive \$600. If his or her salary is more than \$10,000, the employee shall receive an increase of six per cent. All employees shall receive a retro-active settlement of \$80 in the November pay.

- **BENEFITS:** The insured benefits program has been extended to include temporary employees.

- **JOB SECURITY:** No employee shall lose his or her employment at the university as a result of the university contracting out for work projects. No supervisor shall perform bargaining unit

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20 kilos walk for the deaf

Come out and volunteer for the October 14 walk-a-thon to raise money for the new Ontario Community Centre for the deaf.

This special one-time walk will provide the funds needed to complete construction of the centre at 2395 Bayview, where construction is currently underway.

The Centre will have a huge combination auditorium and gymnasium which will provide the deaf with facilities for dramas and various other activities. It will also provide a congenial social centre for the old and lonely deaf.

At this time, 93 per cent of the funds are available, and your walk can help make up the balance.

The walk starts at the Evangelical Church of the deaf, 19 Elmhurst Ave, (2 blocks north of Sheppard and east of Yonge). It will then proceed on a 20 kilometre route along Sheppard to Bathurst,

north to Steeles, east to Bayview and down to the new centre.

Application forms are available at the office of the Council of the York Student Federation, 105 Central Square, and at all Radio Shack stores in Toronto, or call 889-9262.

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