

UNIVERSITY NEWSBEAT

Prepared and paid for by the Communications Department, S802 Ross, 667-3441

New agreements reached with YUSA and CUEW

REPORT BY H. IAN MACDONALD

Two weeks ago in *Excalibur*, I described our objective in the recent mediation sessions with the York University Staff Association (YUSA) and the Canadian Union of Educational Workers (CUEW): negotiated settlements. With the exception of a handful of people, the many faculty, staff, and students with whom I discussed these matters shared that objective.

Although our agreement with the CUEW negotiating team is still before the membership for ratification, we hope that it will be approved as was the case with YUSA where some 86 per cent of the members present at their meeting last Friday ratified their new agreement.

During the few days prior to the two mediation sessions, one matter caused me some concern because it bore directly on my relationship with members of the community. I refer to that matter now in order to rectify any false impressions that might have been created.

On Wednesday, October 15, posters appeared about the campus in the name of the "Student Strike Support Committee" indicating that I had been invited to a meeting in the Bearpit of Central Square on Friday, October 17. It would have been fair to draw the conclusion that I had agreed; otherwise, there would surely be no point in

implying that I would be there. Consequently, I wrote immediately to Keith Smockum, President of CYSF as follows:

"I was surprised to learn that notices had been distributed around campus indicating that I have been invited to an open meeting sponsored by the CYSF Student Strike Support Committee. No such invitation had been received in my office prior to the distribution of the notices. If you or any representatives of CYSF had spoken to me about your intentions, I could have explained why it would be most inappropriate for me to participate in such a meeting at this time.

"As you know, we are presently in the final mediation stages with two of our Unions - YUSA and CUEW. Our clearly enunciated objective in each case is to reach a negotiated settlement without a strike. As I discussed with you earlier, I trust that objective would also be supported by CYSF. In these final stages, it is important that no action be taken or nothing be said that might prejudice the successful outcome of the meetings. Therefore, the appropriate place now for discussion between the parties is at the bargaining tables.

be drawn that members of the administration are unwilling to discuss the issues with the community. As you know, I recently made myself available to students and other members of York at five public forums while Mr. Farr and I attended a regular meeting of CYSF and a meeting of the elected student presidents of colleges and faculties where any question could be discussed. I also invited you to address the last Board of Governors' meeting, and I presented a Report to the student community on our attitudes toward current relations in the *Excalibur*.

"I would be grateful if you would convey this response to your meeting on Friday."

I am grateful that my letter was read to the meeting. In addition, I understand that there is some question about the official status and funding of that Committee as far as CYSF is concerned. In particular, Keith Smockum advised me that he sought a ruling to permit him to withdraw his presidential approval.

Elsewhere on this page is a sketch of the basic terms of the agreement with the representatives of the two unions. However, one factor is not revealed in that chronicle, and probably is not fully appreciated: on each side of the bargaining table

is a small group of people who sacrifice countless hours of personal time to represent the interests of the two parties to the collective agreement.

In particular, 24-hour continuous sessions as in the case of YUSA last Thursday, or a marathon 50 hours as in the case of CUEW last week-end, impose extraordinary burdens on the participants. I doubt that any of them really aspired to adding such a chore to their busy working lives.

In the case of the YUSA negotiations, the "management team" was composed of: L.A. Draper, York University Libraries; George Fontaine, Office of the Registrar; Margo Hooker, Atkinson College; Joyce O'Keefe,

Faculty of Arts; R.L. Tobin, Physical Plant; Gayle Dennison and Bev McKee, Personnel Services; and Don Mitchell, Personnel Services, Chairman.

In the case of CUEW, our corresponding team was composed of: Robert K. Allan, Faculty of Science; Ron Bordessa, Atkinson College; Pauline Callen, Faculty of Graduate Studies; Edward S. Spence, Faculty of Arts; and Kaye MacDonald, Office of the Vice-President (Employee and Student Relations), Chairman.

May I express publicly my gratitude to each of them. Like their counterparts on the union side, they have worked long and hard to achieve the recently negotiated settlements.

Settlement with YUSA and CUEW

"During the past week, agreement was reached on new one year contracts with YUSA and CUEW. YUSA has ratified its agreement; CUEW will be voting during the next few days. The new YUSA contract includes salary increments of 9.9% or \$1150, whichever is greater (where \$1150 is greater than 9.9%, the difference is to be a one-time only payment), and University holidays at Christmas for the

days December 22, 23, 24, 29, 30, 31, and January 2, in addition to statutory holidays December 25, 26, and January 1. Existing sick leave provisions were maintained. The agreement with CUEW includes salary increments averaging about 11%, a joint study committee on class size, unit-specific job posting rules, and an academic freedom clause, among numerous changes from the previous contract."

Introducing

The Opening of
Elegant Tailors
in the
Downsview Plaza



- Made-to-measure
- Formal rentals

Special Discount to Students
and other members of York
Community
2 pairs pants — just \$25.00
(with Identification)

**Elegant
Tailors**

1078 Wilson Avenue West (633-5495)

**Excal staff
meets at 1 pm
Thursday.
Be there.**

CUEW

Contract Ratification Vote

Mon. Oct 27

thru

Thurs. Oct. 31

9 a.m. to
7 p.m.

Central Square
Look for the CUEW table