

# Teachers stage last stand rally against back to work ruling

By LAURA LUSH

"It's a grim day for public service collective bargaining," said George Brown College teacher Damian Wiechula, as he marched dressed as the Grim Reaper last Tuesday, the last day of the Ontario Community Colleges' strike.

Education Minister Bette Stephenson ordered the province's 7,600 college teachers back to classes on November 12, in back-to-work legislation introduced in the legislature last week. The teachers, who are members of the Ontario Public Service Employee Union (OPSEU) had been on strike since October 17.

Wiechula, who teaches math and mechanics for 22 hours a week at George Brown College, and a group of other picketers, picketed in front of the Ministry of Education's Legislative Branch, to show their disapproval of the legislation. Union members weren't the only ones unhappy with the legislation.

The provincial opposition parties delayed the legislation by one day because they felt that a return to the bargaining tables should have occurred before Stephenson appointed a provincial arbitrator to handle the three week long dispute.

Calling the legislation an act of dictatorship, Wiechula said it wouldn't have happened if

there was a minority government in Ontario. "It's our last kick at the cat," said Wiechula as he handed out pamphlets to passersby, with a caricature of Stephenson wearing a sign that read, "dictators legislate not negotiate." Another picketer carried a sign saying, "Mourning for Education and Democracy."

The appointed arbitrator will have 60 days to settle the dispute between the colleges' administrations and OPSEU.

Stephenson said in her statement to the Legislature that the committee will "conduct a comprehensive review of all aspects of instructional assignments in the colleges." The task force will report its recommendations to Stephenson by June 30, 1985.

New Democratic Party leader Bob Rae criticized the legislation, saying "the government was undermining the arbitration process by keeping the workload issue outside the arbitrator's jurisdiction," read an article in the *Toronto Star*.

Each college will set up a College Instructional Assignment Committee, with two union members and two college administration members, beginning January 1. The committee will require instructors to fill out an instruc-

tional assignment form for each new assignment.

If an instructor feels his workload is too great, he appeals to the committee to review it. In the event of a disagreement between the committee and the instructor, a grievance process will follow.

"It seems this procedure is not substantially different from that which operates at present and has been found to be totally unsatisfactory," said an OPSEU pamphlet. Individual committees already function in the college system.

"The proposed province-wide commission on workload merely puts the entire problem on hold," said OPSEU president James Clancy in a

November 8 press release. "We need a radical cure, and we're given an ice-pack," Clancy said.

Wiechula said the union received a lot of support from students during the strike, referring to sit-ins by students in Stephenson's office. "They wanted solutions," he said.

Students will not lose their year as feared, but will have to sacrifice their march break, part of their Christmas holidays and extend their school year by one or two weeks, reported the *Toronto Star*.

"It will be a generation of students that will suffer as a result of this unthinking, heedless and inhumane law," Clancy said in the press release.

## Polit Bureau

An ongoing synopsis of the activities of York University committees, boards, senate, etc.

By Graham Thompson

Report on the York University Board of Governors' meeting, Monday November 12.

### Board to suspend pay of professors absent during recent CUEW strike

Sonja Bata, member of the Board of Governors executive committee, said she hopes the University is following up on its plans to suspend the pay of professors who did not teach during the recent CUEW strike.

The board "Agreed that pay will be suspended from any employee who can not prove that his/her classes were held at the scheduled time and location and that further disciplinary action should be taken where appropriate," read the minutes for their October 15 meeting.

"I believe you must be clear on this," Bata said, "Because if it happens again in the future it will be most unfortunate...This is a board decision and I hope it will be implemented."

Acting President Bill Found said the University's Deans are having trouble getting any attendance records because "some of those chairpersons (of the University's departments have been unwilling to give that information.

Departmental chairpersons are part of the union. They are not part of management," Found added.

Found assured Bata that the University will live up to its motion to suspend the pay of professors that were absent during the strike.

### VP Bell unveils new Science building plans

George Bell, Vice President (External Relations and University Development) unveiled the architectural drawings for a proposed \$6-million Life Sciences and Environmental Studies Building.

"I for one am very disappointed in the architectural design," said M. Kourner, chairman of the board's finance committee. "I think this is one of the most unimaginative buildings that has been put up at York."

"You can't beat a box for cost effective," joked board member J.C. Thackay, referring to the simplicity of the design.

Phil Lapp, chairman of the board's strategic planning committee, said the architectural drawings do not flatter the building's appearance.

The three-story structure will have science teaching laboratories occupying the first floor, with most of the second floor allotted to the Ecology department. The faculty of Environmental Studies will take over the third floor and the remainder of the second floor.

A substantial amount of space from the Farquharson building will be freed to house research laboratories which Bell said later, will "provide capacity for a greater interaction between research companies and government."

### Bovey report to be released within month, says Found

"The Bovey Commission report is expected to be on time," Found said. The report is to be handed to provincial Minister of Education, Bette Stephenson, today.

"It will be out as soon as it translated (into French)," Found said.

The government will include a short reply to the report when it is released "within a month," of its submission, he added.

### Asbestos at Osgoode "not health hazard," says VP

Student representative Martin Zarnett asked about a capital project request to remove asbestos from the steel structure of Osgoode Hall.

"Possible deterioration of asbestos can increase health risks," if it is not removed, read the board minutes for October 15.

"There is no current risk to anyone at Osgoode," Vice President Bell said, "unless we seriously disrupt the asbestos that is there."

Bell said tests conducted at Osgoode show the only significant asbestos readings come from sources external to the School, such as automobiles.

The asbestos removal was priority number four on a list of 39.

## Socialists urged out of closet

By ALEX PATTERSON

A British aristocrat was in Toronto last week—to preach socialism. Tony Benn (formerly Lord Anthony Wedgwood Benn), *enfant terrible* of the British Labour Party's left wing, preached his concept of 'Democratic Socialism' from the pulpit of St. Paul's on Bloor St., November 7.

The man who had caused an uproar in the early 1960s for renouncing his peerage (because of his hatred of the class system) gave a lively, eloquent and impassioned talk on some of the key issues of the decade, including what he said were the dangers of the 'New Right.'

Benn began by haranguing the camera crews of the local media to get them to turn off their stage lights, which were irritating the audience. Benn then launched into a discussion of why people become socialists, arguing that it is not usually a result of reading the classic texts on the subject, but of direct experience with the 'unjust capitalist system.'

Why, Benn asked, should a country with a 1,000 year supply of coal have old people dying of hypothermia?

## EAT fast will aid Ethiopians

By STEVE STRIBBELL

How does it feel to be really hungry?

This Friday York students and staff will get the chance to find out, if they want to, during "Give Up Your Lunch Day," when Toronto citizens will be asked to pass up lunch and donate the money they save to the famine stricken people in Ethiopia.

"Give Up Your Lunch Day" is the brainchild of an organization called the Ethiopian Action Train, or EAT for short. They have already approached a number of charitable and religious organizations, including Metro Council, in an attempt to raise funds for the relief of the starving people in Ethiopia.

EAT's committee chairman Ina Andre said

"Change comes from underneath, not from the top down," Benn said. "It comes from people when they are treated unfairly."

"Coal-miners and gays would appear to have little in common," he said, nothing that politics often creates strange bedfellows.

What brought gays and blacks to the support of miners, he said, was their empathy for anyone facing police harassment. Watching news reports of the picket lines, these groups recognized the faces of some of the troops in Day-Glo riot-gear who they have confronted in the past.

He later attacked the media for generating the notion of a popular political swing to the 'Right,' when what is happening, Benn said, is a polarization of political opinion. He noted that Canada's New Democratic Party improved their standing in the public opinion polls in the face of the recent Progressive Conservative landslide, saying that "there are probably more socialists in the closet than there ever were gays in the closet. At 59, Tony Benn may be graying, but he shows no sign of slowing down.

the response has been very good so far. Toronto Mayor Art Eggleton has made an official proclamation concerning the "Give Up Your Lunch Day" and Metro Council has promised to aid Ethiopia.

EAT hopes the majority of York students will give up their lunch money on Friday and donate it to the cause. Andre suggested this could be a good experience for some students as they will get a chance to feel, in small measure, what it is like to be hungry.

The money collected by EAT will be transferred directly to the Canadian Red Cross Society.

Donations can be made to EAT at any branch of the Toronto Dominion or Royal Banks, or directly to the Canadian Red Cross Society at 95 Wellesley Street East. Cheques should be marked "EAT", but made payable to the Canadian Red Cross Society.

People who wish to help on a volunteer basis can do so by calling the EAT line at 929-0926.

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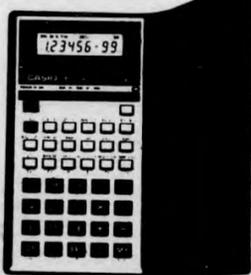
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