



The York University Staff Association is composed of technical workers, clerk-typists, library workers and secretaries like Diana Millen and Patricia Bahen from Personnel services.

YUSA members discuss organizing

By ROBIN ENDRES

About 250 York workers attended an open "information meeting" called by the executive of the York University Staff Association (YUSA), Nov. 22.

The meeting was called to answer questions about the decision taken last Oct. 25 by YUSA to form a voluntary association rather than a certified union.

Answering questions were YUSA's lawyer, Ernest Rovet (of Stikeman, Elliott, Roberts and Bowman) and Phil Arnold, general secretary of the voluntary staff association at the University of Alberta. Arnold spoke briefly about the success of the association at U of A, saying there have been five successful arbitrations since the inception of the association.

The U of A Association has an independent constitution which does not comply with the Alberta Labour Relations Act. The association is therefore susceptible to raiding by unions, but according to Arnold, "if the association is doing a good job there is nothing to fear."

The major advantage of a voluntary association over a union is that all salaried workers are eligible, Arnold said. U of A has 385 different job classifications and salaries ranging from \$350 a month to \$2,000 a month.

Many questions from the floor indicated that the YUSA membership was still unclear about the desirability of a voluntary association.

One member asked why anyone wants certification if there is so much

to commend the voluntary association. YUSA lawyer Rovet replied that employers are traditionally anti-union and certification implies greater protection. The university, however, would prefer a voluntary association to a union, Rovet said.

Some YUSA members expressed concern about the executive's failure to make an official presentation to the administration. The motion passed Oct. 25 gave the executive 60 days to come back with a reply from the administration. At the time of the information meeting, 30 days had already passed.

Don Hathaway said the executive wanted to be absolutely sure of all the details before sending an official letter. "Monday is the target date," Hathaway said.

He also said that the remaining 30 days was sufficient time for the administration to respond. No response will be interpreted as a negative answer and YUSA will then consider whether or not it should attempt certification.

Dennis Russell, president of the York Faculty Association, spoke from the floor in favour of a strong staff association. "Unity is going to be strength, and any liaison (between YUSA and the Faculty Association) that could be generated, I would welcome," Russell said.

Elsie Hanna, past president of YUSA and YUSA representative on the senate, was greeted with hisses when she stated that "we should trust the university."

Union organizer says

"Police are strikebreakers"

By ROSEMARY McCracken

John Lang, organizer for the Canadian Textile and Chemical Union, spoke with York students last week about the Artistic Woodwork strike.

At a meeting in support of the strikers sponsored by the York Waffle, Lang commented on a video tape presentation of the demonstration in front of Artistic Woodwork that occurred on Monday Nov. 12. Three hundred people participated on the picket line that day.

The video tape showed the police assaulting two people. Picketers could be heard on the tape protesting the removal of identification numbers from police uniforms, a tactic which, according to Lang is used "so they can get away with pounding people."

Lang feels that it is important to expose the police in this strike as strikebreakers, rather than impartial observers. He said that it is not the duty of the police to interfere in

strikes, and that the struggle should be between workers and bosses.

"In Toronto, from the very beginning of this strike, the police have seen it as their duty to break the strike," Lang said.

He feels the Toronto police do not recognize that outsiders have the right to support strikes by joining picket lines. According to Lang, police say that it is only outsiders who get into trouble in picket lines. In the Artistic Woodwork Strike, however, the first 15 people who were arrested were strikers.

Lang summarized the main issue of the Artistic Woodwork Strike as the attempt of the company management to smash the strike for the workers' first union. Although workers in Canada are supposed to have the right to form unions, the fact remains that the management of companies can evoke all the rights of private property to the letter of the law.

According to Lang, the Artistic

Woodwork Company has added a clause in their ruling to say that any infraction of any rule is grounds for firing. Furthermore, the company insists on the right not to publish the rules. Therefore, a worker can be fired for breaking a rule he doesn't know about.

Lang stressed the fact that these unpublished rules can be used as a tool to break the formation of unions, for someone can be fired for being involved in the union on another charge.

A second major issue cited by Lang is the fact that the Artistic Woodwork Company is one of an estimated 6,000 small (250-300 employees) Toronto factories employing largely immigrant workers, that have not been organized into unions.

Lang said that organizing the unorganized is one of the biggest blows against the establishment. "Company management know very well that getting workers' rights will have a profound effect upon the economics of this city."

Community input ensured

Independent board for Excalibur

By ALAN RISEN

After seven years in print, York's university newspaper, Excalibur, has an official publisher.

The results of several seasons of Excalibur demands for a politically independent board of publications took tangible form last Wednesday when the newly elected board held its first meeting in the Founders faculty common room.

The culmination of a two month task force investigation last summer, the board draws on a wide range of representation from the York community. Its 11 members include:

- three undergraduate students from constituent colleges of the York Student Federation
- two Excalibur staff members
- The York Student Federation's director of communications
- one non-executive CYSF member
- one graduate student
- one professional journalist from the York Alumni Association
- one member of the support staff selected by the staff association
- one member of the teaching staff chosen by the faculty association.

The need for an independent board became urgent when the CYSF executive committee attempted over the summer to suspend the paper's operations for the 1973-74 season.

On July 12, the seven-member executive, led by President Michael Mouritsen, approved motions to suspend the paper, fire its staff and seize its property.

The council justified this move by stating there was "widespread dissatisfaction among the faculty, staff and students with Excalibur, (and) the Council could not justify a grant to the newspaper until it was accountable to a representative Board."

By virtue of their annual grant to Excalibur, which subsidizes less than one-third of the paper's operating costs, the council considered itself the newspaper's publisher—a position rejected by the paper.

Since the formation of the Excalibur board, the Laurentian Lambda and McGill Daily have requested copies of its constitution for study in formation of similar bodies at their respective universities.

At its first meeting, the Excalibur board decided to take action by offering Brian Milner

the position of editor-in-chief of the newspaper. Elected for this position last spring by the paper's staff, Milner has been staff spokesman acting as editor since the July 24 council meeting.

A motion to incorporate the board was set aside until more information could be brought forward on the subject.

Responding to recommendations from the task force report, the board set up an ad hoc financial sub-committee which will determine the size of the grant to Excalibur as well as ratify the paper's yearly operating budget.

A grievance committee will soon be formed to deal with any complaints against the newspaper.

The next board meeting will be 9 a.m. Monday morning at the Excalibur offices. One of the items on the agenda is a meeting with editor-elect Milner.

All board meetings are open to the York community.

Anyone wishing to contact the Board of Publications can do so by writing to the board, c/o Excalibur business manager, Rm. 111, Central Square.

Queen's faculty, staff unite to save jail

KINGSTON (CUP)—Queen's University students and faculty joined city residents and high school students in a demonstration Nov. 16 to save Kingston's county jail.

The jail, built in 1857, is being torn down to provide courthouse parking space. City officials say the costs of upkeep and renovation are prohibitive.

The protest organizers, architect Lilly Inglis and art professors Pierre Deprey and Doug Stewart claim the jail is an historic site and want to preserve at least one of the walls. They led about 70 people in a demonstration at the jail.

Concerned residents and students asked that the stones from the wall be preserved so it might be rebuilt. The county reeve did not reply but ordered the demolition.

The protesters gathered early Friday to prevent entry of the bulldozer which was to begin the destruction. While the demolition was halted and police made unsuccessful efforts to quell the demonstration, protesters carried off the most important rocks making up the entrance way.

The reeve has refused to halt the demolition despite a plea from Kingston's mayor.

French chairman resigns at Loyola

MONTREAL (CUI) — The Chairman of the French studies department at Loyola College has resigned amid reports that the faculty council had approved a motion of nonconfidence in him.

The chairman, Gaston Laurion, had faced mounting opposition from the students' council which claimed he had attempted to sabotage the French Language Centre programme introduced this year to give English speaking students proficiency in French.

The council charged he had tried to discourage students from registering in the Centre's courses, telling at least one student they "were not worth taking."

Laurion said it was his duty and right, as head of the department, to counsel students that the courses were "inadequate". The centre's courses were not connected with the French department.

Sam McEvenue, an associate chairman in the Theology department, was appointed interim chairman. McEvenue said he would like to break up the political polarization between the French department and the Learning Centre. He is in favour of putting the Centre within the French department.