

Faculty walkout averted

By DAVE BYRNES
and CAROL BRUNT

The threat of a faculty strike here is over. Last night the York University Faculty Association (YUFA) voted to accept the University's latest settlement offer.

Last Friday 58 percent of YUFA had voted to strike if the administration didn't come up with a better offer. Friday's motion read: "YUFA is extremely unhappy with the results of mediation. If there is not an agreement by Sunday at 3:00 p.m. YUFA will complete preparations for a full withdrawal of services, beginning at 7:00 a.m. Monday morning."

With the help of a provincial mediator the union and the administration went back to the bargaining table over the weekend and managed to hammer out a last-minute agreement.

"At times it was touch and go," said Bill Farr, the administration's chief negotiator in the dispute.

According to YUFA negotiator Hollis Rinehart, the administration failed to realize how serious the situation was until the strike vote was held last week.

An exhausted Rinehart told *Excalibur* that "the whole problem" was that the administration refused to take the union's demands seriously. "It's very clear that they did not believe that the negotiating committee spoke for the faculty. That's why we had to have a strike. That's the only way the faculty can show they mean business."

The administration discovered support for the union "ran very deep" last weekend, Rinehart said. "It wasn't just a question of a few wild-eyed radicals . . . normally conservative people realized that it (voting to strike) was the only thing to do."

Farr conceded that YUFA had "a very tough negotiating team" and that they "drove a hard bargain."

The main bone of contention in the dispute concerned money. The Board of Governors

(BOG) had refused to offer the faculty a wage hike over the provincial wage guideline of five percent. As a result of BOG's firm stance, YUFA members became "increasingly agitated by their own sense of injustice that the administration would stay at five percent," said YUFA chairperson Janice Newson. YUFA had initially bargained for a 10 percent 'catch-up' wage increase which would make York faculty salaries equal to the average wage for the University of Toronto's faculty. Presently, York faculty salaries are approximately three to ten percent below the provincial average, according to Stats Canada figures.

Although a news blackout is in effect over the details of the settlement offer, a YUFA member admitted Monday that the administration had offered a six-and-one-half percent wage increase.

The *Globe and Mail* reported Tuesday that the BOG had offered more than the five percent provincial guideline. Asked if the administration had gone as high as the rate that the *Globe and Mail* reported, Farr explained that a six-and-one-half percent level would be accommodated within the guidelines depending upon delayed implementation of some parts of it," Farr explained. For example, he said, a "merit component" of one percent in the agreement could be added onto the initial five percent offer several months after the new wage is implemented.

Other details of the settlement were still unavailable at press time.

According to Farr, the BOG approved ratification of the administration negotiating team's offer on Monday night.

YUFA will start negotiating with the administration over their next contract in February. "It's getting to be a year-round occupation," Rinehart said. He added that he hopes future negotiations will be conducted "in the spirit of finding a mutual compromise" which he felt was lacking this time.



YUFA chairperson Janice Newson: the union's strike vote last Friday was inspired by "a sense of injustice" over the administration's hard-nosed bargaining tactics.

Bovey protest organized in Metro

By ELLIOTT SHIFF

A protest against the Bovey Commission will be held at noon on Friday, September 28 at Bay and Wellesley, "symbolically coinciding with the last day of the Bovey public hearings," said Ontario Federation of Students (OFS) Field Staff and campus organizer Tim Fair.

Those taking part in the protest include the Metro Regional CYSE of Ontario, comprised mainly of York, U of T, and Ryerson students, along with a few of the community colleges. In addition, two universities from outside the Metro region, Guelph and McMaster, will be participating. Faculty staff and TAs will also be showing their support.

Fair went on to say that contact has been made with people in the public sector, most notably parent groups in Metro. He described the upcoming protest, however, as "a student

pressure tactic" aimed at what he termed "the arrogant response to problems of the Bovey Commission."

Fair cited the fact that the commission has made no reference whatsoever to increased funding, and has instead pursued finding ways to rationalize or streamline the university system. Stating that "Ontario has the richest tax revenue base, yet stands tenth among the provinces when it comes to government funding for university institutions," Fair said that "the recommendations of the Bovey Commission are a foregone conclusion and increased tuition and the cutting of courses will be the direct result."

At a meeting held on Monday at the University of Guelph, attended by Fair, proposals were put forth recommending the tripling of professional student fees as a way of offsetting

costs. Fair says that this is inevitable under the recommendations of the Bovey Commission, as the government is not offering increased

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Student centre referendum in February

By GRAHAM THOMPSON

A York-wide student referendum that would decide the fate of the proposed student centre may be held early next February says Chris Costello, Chairman of the Student Centre Committee (SCC). Yet, if the SCC does not get a "go ahead" from student council representatives in their next meeting on September 24 the project will die on the discussion table emphasized Costello.

The referendum would be voted on by full-time and part-time students at both the main campus, and Glendon College, stated Costello. To pass it would need a "majority vote from all students," he continued.

Concerned about college council reactions to the student centre proposal Costello went on to state that the student building would not compete with the colleges for student involvement, but instead would compliment the services they offered. "Colleges must maintain their autonomy," said Costello. He said the centre would be for "services that don't have space," and also function as an "information centre for students."

Costello was also quick to assure the colleges that "any space we (students) have we would keep," and that an agreement with the University to this effect can be reached.

At this stage of the discussions there is "no sense discussing what would go in" the building, commented Costello, saying that the SCC is presently "discussing the concerns of the colleges," because it "can't work without the colleges."

The actual cost of the building will not be known until the architectural designing is complete, said Costello. Thus the cost per student will not be known until they are complete. Before students could arrange for loans to

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CUPE position same as YUSA

By CAROL BRUNT

Negotiations with the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) broke down this summer, and the union is currently awaiting a conciliation date, according to Local 1356 President Ed Horton.

The contractual dispute with CUPE, which represents maintenance workers on campus, is the fourth in a long summer of labor problems faced by the York administration. The University has just made a last minute settlement with the York University Faculty Association, and negotiations are still in progress with the Canadian Union of Employment Workers and the York University Staff Association (YUSA).

CUPE is asking for a one year contract which would allow the union to deal with issues such as wages, Gorton said. And although their contract was up at the end of April, Gorton says the union members have been "very patient" thus far in awaiting a contractual settlement.

Gorton did not wish to elaborate further on the union's position at this time, saying only, "We (CUPE) are in the same position as YUSA with regards to our contract." YUSA, which represents clerical staff on campus, is currently going into conciliation over the issues of job security, retraining, benefits, and wages.



Meanwhile, back at the Green Machine: "Think of it as a student loan."