

...only pay is in dispute

# SU workers request gov't conciliation

## The Gateway

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### McKenzie's Right meets the Left

The debate yesterday between the Young Socialists and the Students' Union executive could have been the debate of the century. Unfortunately it wasn't.

About 50 students witnessed the Young Socialists, represented by Mark Prigert and Chris Bearchell, and SU President Don McKenzie and Treasurer Frans Slatter debate whether or not the Students' Union should be for radical political changes.

McKenzie and Slatter seemed to base their argument on the shaky premise that the Students' Union should not be a radical force because being a student divorces the student from the rest of society. Slatter said the Students' Union "is here to spread the views of the majority of students" and indulging in radical politics "would not be following the wishes of these students."

He felt the Union should have as its "highest priority the quality of education for students." Prigert said, "Nobody knows what students think...except on very broad issues. You're never going to be able to find out how they feel just sitting on your ass!"

Bearchell commented, "We can talk about representing the students, but when it comes down to everyday things, it's a lot of shit!"

"The small number of university students who showed up at the Amchitka protest may show the level of concern on this campus," said McKenzie.

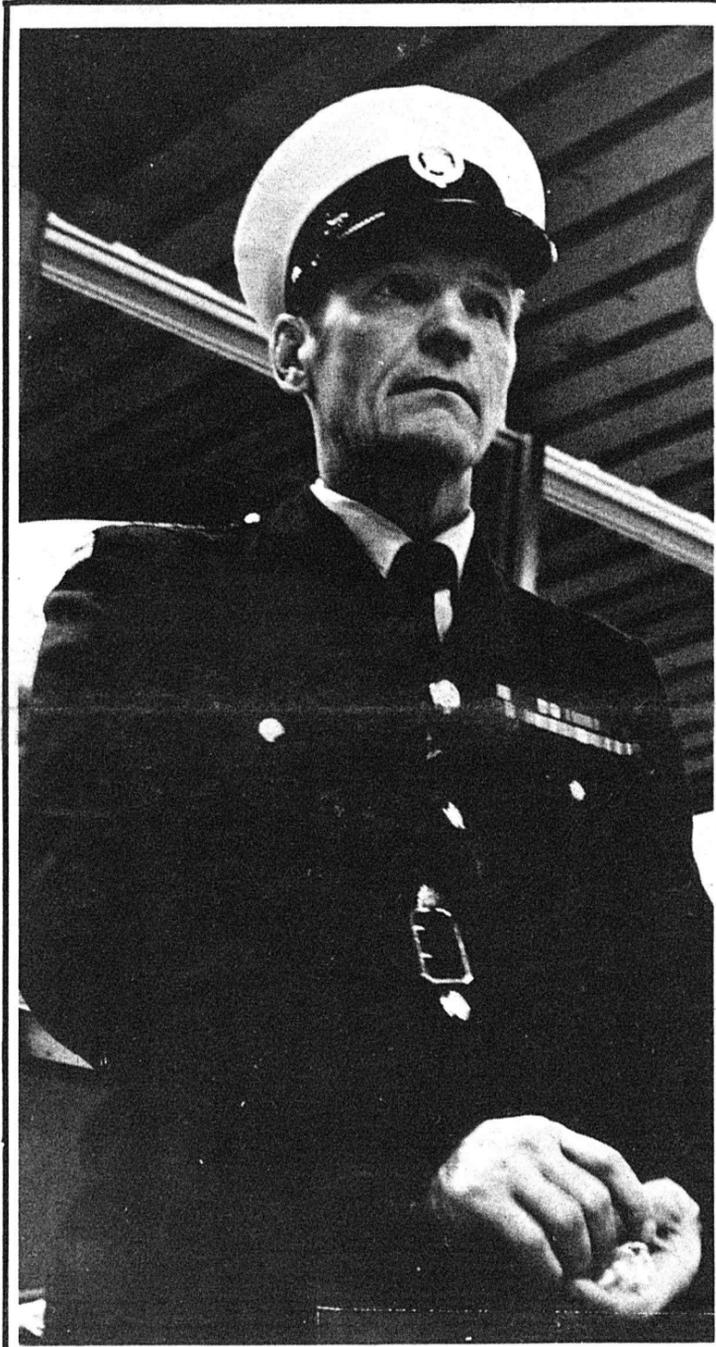
Chris Bearchell added, "The apathy on this campus that a lot of people talk about isn't apathy at all, but alienation. People feel that they are being processed from university like robots from a factory."

She spoke about the oppression of women. "In University, many women have been 'sucked into' certain educational roles. Things like household economics, nursing, and teaching. The population of this university is 40% women, yet there is only one token member on the executive--and she is a secretary!"

In reference to the Day Care Centre she asserted, "If we had an activist council we'd have a Day Care Centre and not still be planning for it."

Both groups did agree that Gateway could be doing a better job in news reporting. In fact McKenzie said "I will even cover council meetings for Mr. Beal."

During the question period McKenzie was queried about the Students' Union role if the provincial government's proposed



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Mr. L. Young enjoys his job and his involvement with students as he polices the halls of S.U.B. in the evenings. His only hassles are with the non-students during the weekends, especially the younger ones. The purpose for hiring this gentleman arose last year, when vandalism was quite extensive within S.U.B. But this year vandalism is at a minimum due to his efforts and his job now consists of just being on hand when people are locked out of their offices and being a deterrent to any destructive individuals.

abolition of tuition fees is not carried out.

McKenzie replied, "Lowering the fees does not alter the basic make-up of student bodies in universities. The rich kids are still going to university." He suggested that the government should pay instead, for the living expenses for needy students.

McKenzie said he had not supported the Citizens Committee Council of Inquiry into the War Measures Act because it was a stacked committee that can only reach a forgone conclusion. "We are not going to legitimize that kind of a commission."

The Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) has requested the provincial Minister of Labour to appoint a conciliator to attempt to settle the current dispute between the SUB workers and the Students' Union.

The members of the SUB CUPE local voted unanimously Tuesday in agreement with Leo Lancaster, the CUPE negotiator, that Students' Union General Manager, Darrel Ness, "has pulled the wool over our eyes...we have no other alternative but to refer the wages to a conciliation officer."

The SUB workers decided to refer only the issue of an individual's wages to government in their request for conciliation. They are apparently happy with the vacation pay, maternity leave and other benefits granted them during the negotiations with the Students' Union.

Two weeks ago the workers and the Students' Union seemed to have easily settled on a mutually satisfactory agreement. However, a subsequent dispute over the interpretation of individual's jobs and where they would fit into the agreed-upon salary grid caused a complete breakdown in the negotiations.

The two parties were so divergent in their interpretations of individual's salaries that CUPE's Lancaster decided to cancel a meeting scheduled for yesterday with Ness.

Ness said he regrets "that the meeting scheduled for Wednesday was cancelled." "I'm an optimist," he said, "I think it would have been worthwhile to sit down and attempt to work out an agreement when each side knew the other's position."

Ness sent a letter to Percy Wickman, president of the SUB CUPE local, saying he will meet with the CUPE representatives to discuss the differences "at their (CUPE'S) convenience and prior to the appointment of a conciliator".

Wickman says he "will bring Ness's letter to the attention of the staff and Leo Lancaster" but he thinks it is doubtful "we will want to negotiate with him again and expect it to be in good faith."

He claims this is the "second time we have negotiated with Darrel and both times a different interpretation has been attached a couple of days later."

Ness says the total difference between the two interpretations would be about \$20,000 for this fiscal year. That is, the CUPE local is asking for a total increase in wages for this year of about \$20,000 more than the Students' Union is prepared to give them.

"We weren't pushing for that much!" Wickman says. However, he hasn't seen Ness's interpretation of what the salaries for each individual should be and is basing his comment on the report in the last issue of The Gateway.

Students' Union President, Don McKenzie, says the intricacies of the disagreement are "mind boggling". He says it's best to "let a conciliation

officer who's had some experience with this sort of thing figure it out."

He says he "is in favour of the concept of increasing the workers' wages and that, at the moment, the SUB workers are receiving more in benefits and wages than other employers would be prepared to give them."

General Manager, Ness, agrees. He says the workers benefited, prior to the negotiations from higher wages and "substantively more comprehensive benefit plans" than the university gives for comparable jobs.

Even given the supposedly better-than-average benefits and wages, the negotiations have broken down because of a dispute over the interpretations of what each employee should be receiving due to Darrel Ness's revised job descriptions which specify qualifications for each job.

Leo Lancaster says he has "never before encountered the situation where a change in the job descriptions under a new contract has affected a person who was there before the new descriptions."

Myra Davies, director of the Students' Union art gallery and vice-president of the CUPE local, began three years ago as the first director of the art gallery. Since then the gallery has progressed due, at least in part, to her efforts. The director's job has, because the gallery has progressed, become more complex. Ness says that since this job has become more complex, it should have a higher salary and that the qualifications should be a university degree and three years of related experience. Therefore Davies is just now qualified for a job which she virtually created over three years ago, and, according to the Students' Union interpretation, must receive a starting salary.

*For those of you out there who are really interested in just where the CUPE/Students' Union negotiations broke down, we made two typographical errors in the background story "The apparent dispute" in last Tuesday's paper.*

*At the end of paragraph 18, the figure quoted should have read "\$386", not "\$368". This really makes a hell of a difference cause the 368 fits into the damned salary grid and makes the story totally non-understandable if you've read it up to that point.*

*And, The last sentence in paragraph 24 should have been omitted since it is the opposite of what really is.*

**staff meeting  
today.  
everybody  
must come.**