

Enrolment decrease

Higher fees = less students = smaller budget



By B.J.R. Silberman

Projected enrolment figures are down four to five percent this year at York. While most of the departments suffered declines, the worst hit were Atkinson, Glendon and the Faculty of Arts.

David Atkinson, executive assistant to York vice-president George Bell, estimated that there are roughly 1000 less students attending York this year. Part-time students (two courses or less) make up forty per cent of this total.

When asked how this drop in registration will affect York financially, Atkinson responded by quoting Bell who recently stated at a BOG (Board of Governors)

meeting that the 1977-78 budget would have to be cut by \$1,500,000.

Atkinson indicated that the cutbacks would primarily affect operating supplies such as pens and paper. He said that travel allowances would shrink and that the hiring or continued employment of temporary, casual and support staff would be reduced. Overtime will also be affected.

According to Atkinson, York, in the early stages of registration had anticipated an increase of enrolment this year.

The number of preliminary applications sent in were up by five percent. York sent back a proportionate amount of acceptances to the applicants, but many first year

students decided at the last minute not to register.

York is not alone in this year's enrolment decrease.

The decline in registration appeared at most Ontario universities this September. McMaster University reported that preliminary figures projected an overall drop of five per cent in enrolment.

When asked the reason for the decrease at York, Atkinson responded that a number of factors would have to be studied by the university. He said that some students may have decided to go to another post secondary school at the last minute, because the courses offered at York did not appeal to them.

More generally, Atkinson said higher tuition fees and the change in student loan policies may have prevented students from returning. Specifically, he pointed out that many students were being affected by the tighter economy in Canada.

High unemployment figures may have persuaded some grade thirteen students who were employed during the summer, to remain in the work force rather than attend university this year.

All faculties have not suffered major enrolment decreases. There was only a slight decrease of registration in the Faculty of Education. Osgoode Hall remained stable.

GAA choses tactics for showdown

By Agnes Kruchio

A strike vote and open letters to professors and students at other universities were among the tactics a meeting of about 150 graduate assistants selected earlier this week in order to bring the university back to the bargaining table.

"The onus is now on the university for us both to go to mediation," said Ilene Crawford, executive co-ordinator of the Graduate Assistants' Association (GAA), representing 850 graduate teaching assistants and part-time faculty. The university broke off negotiations after the third conciliation meeting two weeks ago today.

"Despite the fact that we have considerably revised our demands, the university negotiating team headed by (personnel services director) Don Mitchell was unwilling to negotiate and called our proposals 'garbage' and 'an insult'," Crawford stated in a letter to the general membership of the union.

A spokesman from the negotiating committee, Evan Morris, suggested on-campus demonstrations, disruptions of university meetings, a strike (either an "all-out" or a rotating one) withholding grades, and gaining the support of staff, students and faculty as possible strategies. Some science professors

already oppose the increase in the number of hours worked by science TAs, he said.

But the remainder of the discussion regarding a possible strike took place behind closed doors. Following majority vote, the rest of the meeting was closed to *Excalibur*.

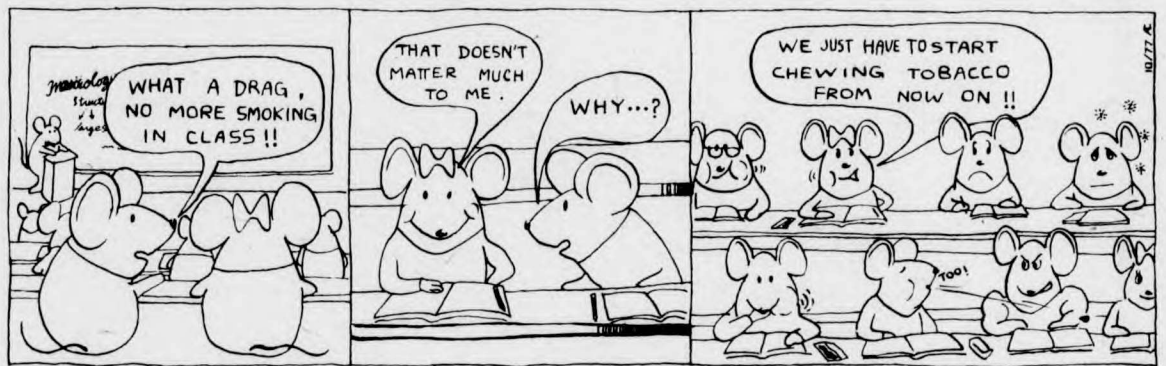
Crawford later said the union will write letters to conventions that come to the university in the summer, saying it "could not guarantee no disruptions in services" due to labor disputes. Starting with one conference at a time this would pressure the university to start negotiating if it did not want to lose its lucrative summer business, Crawford stated.

Another pressure tactic decided on by the union Crawford said, was a letter to undergraduates at other universities, telling them not to come to York because of "poor salaries and working conditions" for graduate students. This would make deans and university administrators uneasy, because fewer graduate students mean a decrease in provincial grant revenue for the university, Crawford said.

The GAA will also hold study sessions on the subject of the negotiations, but no definite times have yet been decided.

Yeomice

by AC



YUSA talks enter mediation, strike vote next Thursday

By Ted Mumford

The university and YUSA (the York University Staff Association) have entered the mediation stage of negotiations over YUSA's 1977-78 contract.

Ministry of Labour conciliation officer Jean Reed filed a "no board" report Tuesday after talks came to an impasse last Friday. The countdown now begins towards a possible strike at the end of October.

Friday's final conciliation meeting saw virtually no progress made, with only a few minor points agreed upon. The university bargaining committee refused to budge

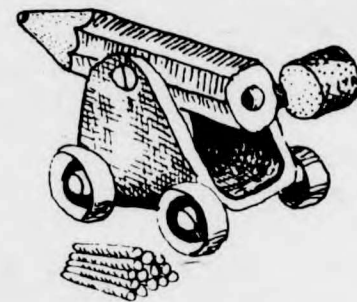
from its wage increase offer of 6.5 percent and 50 percent of a dental plan.

YUSA had made a counter-offer of 10 percent or \$1000 (whichever is

greater for individual members) plus 75 percent of the dental plan at conciliation meetings September 27 and 28. YUSA's original proposal was 13.5 percent or \$1350, and 100 percent of the dental plan.

The university also refused to change its position on other contract articles still in dispute including ones dealing with displacement due to technological change, benefits for part-time employees, hours and overtime.

The 1000-odd YUSA members will take a strike vote October 20. A mediation officer is expected to be appointed by the Ministry of Labour shortly.



World news at a glance
by James Brennan



Yugoslavia — The four day opening debate of the Belgrade Conference to review implementation of the 1975 Helsinki Accords has ended. The 35 signatories of the Helsinki Final Act now break up into working groups for a full review of their respective records, as requested by the Americans.

The opening speeches were much as expected. The American delegate focused on the issue of human rights and while not naming any specific nation clearly directed himself to Soviet violations of personal freedom.

The Soviet Union, for its part, defended its record in implementing Helsinki. Soviet delegate Yuly Vorontsov called for the "strict respect for the sovereignty, and for the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs, laws and regulations of every country."

He went on to say that human rights are automatically guaranteed in the new Soviet Constitution. However he attacked the United States for escalating the arms race through introduction of the cruise missile and neutron bomb.

On the whole the west maintains that detente depends on human rights while the east believes it can only develop through arms reduction.

Ironically, the least controversial

area at Belgrade, and the one in which the most success is expected, appears to be economic co-operation.

Soviet Union — Last week saw the unanimous approval of the new Soviet Constitution by the 1,517-member Supreme Soviet, USSR's parliament. At the same sitting, the Supreme Soviet also elected President Leonid Brezhnev's choice for vice-president, first deputy foreign ministry Vasily Kuznetsov, who is expected by some to become Brezhnev's successor.

Kuznetsov, a steel metallurgy expert who studied at Carnegie Tech in Pittsburgh and worked at Ford

Motors in Detroit in the 1930's is also a veteran diplomat.

The new constitution replaces the Stalin Constitution of 1936 and incorporates foreign policy, and guidelines in the area of civil liberties; grants freedom of press, assembly and speech but qualifies these by saying that they can't be against the interests of the state. An ambiguous statement to be sure.

In Brezhnev's address to the Supreme Soviet, he said: "This day in October will always remain in people's memory as a clear manifestation of the triumph of Lenin's principles of the power of the people."

India — Following her arrest on charges of corruption on October 3rd, and subsequent unconditional release the following day, former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi has been ordered to show cause why she should be released from police custody.

India's Home Minister Charan Singh said Friday that Mrs. Gandhi will be arrested again because the charges of corruption against her were well-established and her release was ordered only on technical grounds.

Gandhi is presently drawing huge crowds on a tour of the western state of Gujarat.



35 nations meet in Belgrade

France — At the end of the International Energy Agency's meeting of 17 western industrialized countries in Paris, the delegates have agreed to reduce their dependence on oil by cutting down imports. The Energy Ministers plan to reduce their countries' ever-increasing oil consumption to reach no more than 26 million barrels a day by 1985 — only 4 million more than the group presently imports.

The ministers also approved twelve policy guidelines on rapid development of energy resources other than oil.

South Africa — More than 196,000 Afrikan pupils are currently boycotting school in Johannesburg, in a spreading wave of defiance against South Africa's segregated education system, officials said Friday.

The massive protest is linked to nationwide sympathy for Black nationalist leader Steve Biko who died mysteriously in a police cell in



Pretoria on September 12 this year.

Police, justice and prison minister Jimmy Kruger made an official protest to the Press Council last week after the *Rand Daily Mail* reported that Biko had died of brain damage as a result of severe bruises, rather than the hunger strikes as officially reported.

United Kingdom — At the British Labour Party Convention in Brighton last week, Foreign Secretary David Owen said he hopes to get ceasefire negotiations started in Rhodesia within week. A free Zimbabwe, he said, is within reach.

Against the advice of the party leadership, the Labour Party then adopted a resolution calling on the British government to give material and moral support to Rhodesia's nationalist guerrilla movement, and to impose economic sanctions on South Africa to stop the flow of goods to Rhodesia.

