

University and union reach agreement to avert security strike

By JAMES FLAGAL

York security and administration negotiators reached a tentative agreement in an attempt to avert a strike by security and parking staff.

Details of the agreement will not be disclosed until union members see the deal at a ratification meeting this afternoon.

According to Bill Farr, Vice-President of Administration and Finance, "a memorandum of agreement" was reached and now awaits union approval. The union entered legal striking position last night.

The administration and the United Plant Guards of America, representing about 50 university employees, resumed negotiations Tuesday following union rejection of an administration contract proposal three weeks ago.

At that meeting, union sources say, the union voted overwhelmingly to strike if negotiations fail. But these same sources also pointed out that while the union was prepared to strike, it would only do so as a last resort in order not to leave the campus "unprotected."

Talks between the union and administration began five months ago and proceeded into the conciliation phase at the end of October. After several delays, the administration tabled their counter-proposal to

union negotiators Tuesday at the Labour Relations Board downtown.

The issues in negotiations have been wages and holiday compensation. Union officials complained that past administration contract proposals put their wage increases behind those increases offered to other unions on campus. Security officers presently receive a basic wage rate of \$11.28 an hour and were offered a two-year contract with increases of 4% each year three weeks ago. The York University Staff Association ended its recent strike after accepting a two-year contract that entailed 6.4% pay hikes each year and a \$300 bonus. The Canadian Union of Education Workers, which represents York's part-time lecturers and teaching assistants, recently settled its contract negotiations, accepting 7.5% pay increases in both years of the two-year contract.

The discrepancy in holiday pay between the different unions on campus was originally a union negotiating point. According to union officials, while other University employees are off with pay from December 22 to January 3, security members have to keep working and only receive increased pay during statutory holidays. This issue, however, was eventually dropped by union negotiators, union officials told *Excalibur*.

An issue which has been settled but was separate from contract negotiations is the security work schedule. The Timkin schedule, which was a source of frustration for security officers over the past couple of years, will be replaced with a new 12-hour work schedule.

Michael O'Neil, Director of Parking and Security, said the Timkin Schedule undermined morale on the security force because it would only give officers every 14th weekend off, making their family life extremely difficult. When O'Neil joined security this past summer, he set up a labour management committee in order to establish a new schedule. The 12-hour work schedule will give security officers every second weekend off and will begin November 29.

Mystic's courses face review

By AMY MENON

In an attempt to integrate mystical teachings with the conventional psychology curriculum, Professor Christopher Holmes has submitted two course proposals to the Senate Sub-Committee on Curriculum Review for consideration.

Before the end of this academic year, the Senate will have to decide whether or not to approve Holmes' courses, which include "Mystical Psychology and the Psychic Sciences," and "Mystical Views of Consciousness and Creation," as part of the psychology programme.

The guidelines as to how the evaluation will be made are set out by the committee and demand: that the instructor explain how the course will enhance the current curriculum; and that the course have a direct relationship with other courses offered in the department. According to Holmes, he has encountered "fearful reactions" from his colleagues in the past about his course content and his approach to psy-

chology. But Holmes feels that his teachings are "absolutely profound."

"It has a broad background in modern science. In my view, there are two branches of psychology: the modern, academic branch, and the ancient, mystical branch. What I teach is the subtle, unknown dimension of creation and human evolution. My teaching of God in relation to science is most advanced. It is mind expanding," said Holmes.

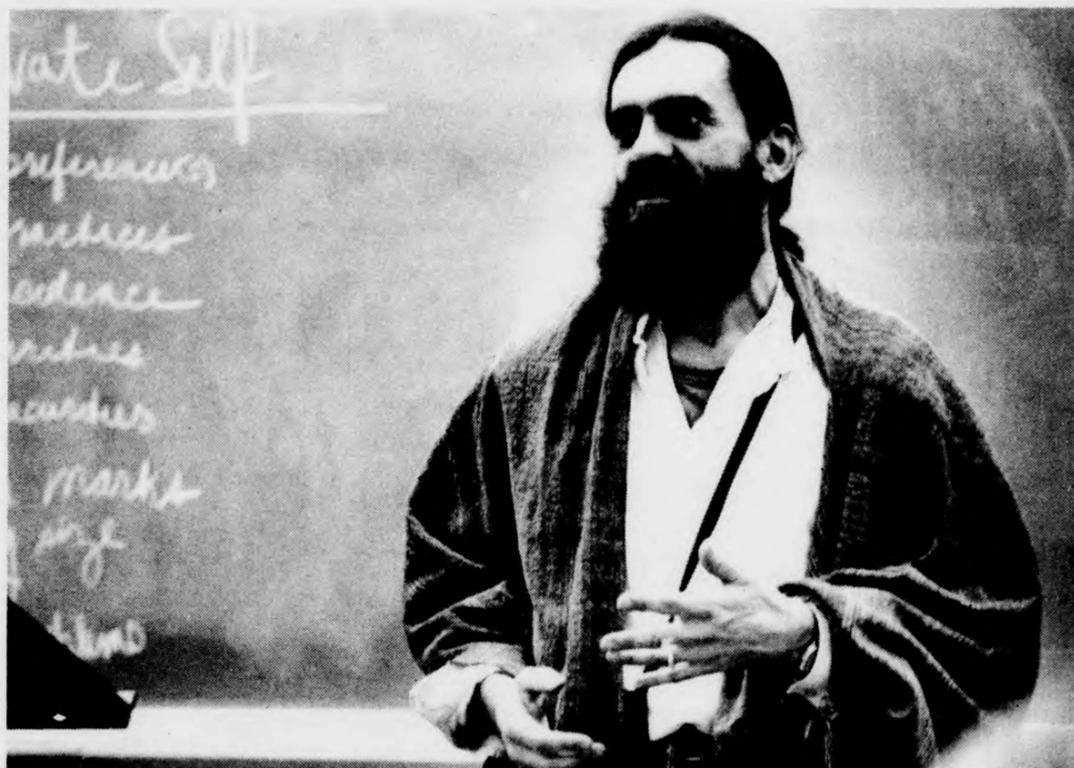
Both the Chairman of the psychology department, Dr. Kathryn Koenig, and the evaluating committee Chairman, Dr. Kurt Danziger, have refused to comment on this issue. Although Holmes is "pleased with the members on the committee," he feels that "one of the problems is that no weighting has been given to student opinion so far. Also no one on the committee has attended any of my classes, and now they will decide without even knowing what my course material is about."

In 1983, Professor Holmes filed a

grievance after his application for tenure was denied, on grounds that members of the review board were biased against his work. On August 13 of last year, Holmes and the University agreed on a settlement of \$95,000 and an appointment as course director to teach eight 3000 level "special topic" half courses on mystical Psychology over the next two years (1986-87, 1987-88). But Holmes cannot be granted tenure at a future date as Senate policy dictates that professors can only apply once; if rejected, they cannot re-apply.

Holmes now feels, however, that a full professorship would be too limiting. Teaching his course on a part-time basis has allowed him to continue his work at the Institute of Mystical and Spiritual Science where he investigates psychic phenomenon.

For more information on Holmes' work, a colloquium on "Mysticism" will be presented at 5 pm on the 25th of November at the Stong Junior Common Room.



ANDRE SOUJOURN

WITHIN WITHOUT: Professor Christopher Holmes' courses on mystics provide an eclectic experience for students, combining the scriptures of many religions with the scientific analysis of the universe by several prominent physicists.

Students' alcohol consumption unchanged

By SANJU VASWANI

While recent studies indicate that the rates of cannabis consumption among students in both high school and university have declined, alcohol consumption levels have remained the same. As a result, both the Council of York Student Federation and the Office of Student Affairs planned an extensive campaign to educate students about the dangers of alcohol consumption during "Addiction Awareness Week," taking place November 16-20.

The week coincides with the release of the Addiction Research Foundation (ARF) report Tuesday, which reveals a 5.3% drop in marijuana consumption over the past two years among high school students, while alcohol consumption rates show little change. Another ARF report, released in early September, entitled "Alcohol and Drug Use

Among Ontario Adults," also showed a drop in cannabis consumption rates among 18-29-year-olds from 28.5% in 1984 to 20.9% in 1987. Alcohol consumption rates again showed little change.

According to Edward Adlof, one of the authors of the reports, alcohol consumption has shown little change because "it's a substance that has been embedded into the culture that's (been) around for a while." Adlof explained that unlike cannabis, researchers should not expect the "prevalence in the use of alcohol to decline, but instead perhaps the amount consumed will decrease over time." He says that the decrease in cannabis use can be attributed to many factors, including changing attitudes towards drugs, health consciousness, and education programmes.

Cora Dusk, Director of Student

Affairs, agrees with Adlof's explanation and said that alcohol consumption levels probably remained the same because it is socially acceptable. Compared to other Ontario universities, Dusk feels that York has good policies in place regarding the sale of alcoholic beverages in pubs and at licensed campus events. Servers, said Dusk, are trained to decline serving alcohol to patrons who are discernably intoxicated.

A study conducted at York in 1985-86 warns of the potential liability cases which York could face as a result of injury after a patron has become intoxicated at a campus pub. The report said that it's hard to draw the line where the responsibility of the pub ends, especially with the recent Ontario Courts' emphasis on "institutional liability." The University, for instance, could be used even by a victim of an accident involving a

drunk driver who became intoxicated at a campus pub. The report says that "such cases could cause severe financial problems for York, not to mention the accompanying individual tragedy and the detrimental publicity."

But, according to the report, York experiences a lower case of alcohol related incidents than other campuses across Ontario. Dusk agrees with the report's conclusion that York's cultural diversity, with ethnic groups that promote responsible drinking, contribute to this low total. The report also says that instructional programmes on the dangers of alcohol are a must, not only because of their educational value, but also to demonstrate that York has a responsible attitude towards drinking, in case such a liability suit is filed against the University.

INSIDE

WARRIORS: A militant group of students has been formed to fight against what they see as the university's conservative policies.

A CASE FOR THE DEFENSE: Prominent criminal lawyer Colin Greenpan has been involved in many controversial cases during his legal career and has been a strong advocate for the abolition of the death penalty. Greenpan elaborated on his experience and views in an *Excalibur* interview. . . . Pages 7-8

GOING SOLO: Former York student Djanet Sears has recently opened up a one-woman show based on her recent travels through Africa. . . . Page 9

GETTING SET FOR SUCCESS: Chalk Circle's recent performance at Founders Hall shows that they are definitely a force to be reckoned with in the Metro rock scene. . . . Page 11

FIGHTING APATHY: York's new Athletic Events Manager Rob Martellacci hopes to solve the problem of student apathy towards inter-collegiate athletics. . . . Page 15

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