

Excalibur

Everything secret degenerates; nothing is safe that does not show it can bear discussion and publicity
—Lord Acton

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The faculty union is a foregone conclusion but questions remain

York University Faculty Association chairman Jack Granatstein announced this week that the unionization of York's faculty was a foregone conclusion.

As far as the faculty is concerned, it couldn't have come at a better time.

The Ontario government's Special Program Review committee recommended two weeks ago that Ontario cut back its spending in the area of post-secondary education. Primarily this would be done in one of two ways. Either through a 65 per cent tuition increase or through faculty cuts —4,000 of them.

While it may be comforting to disregard the report, file it away and carry on as usual, the report is not likely to go away. For York's faculty, it is a definite threat to their job security. It also spells the end of the expansion era in post-secondary education in Ontario, limiting the number of new posts available to graduating Ph.D.s, in the next few years.

Most of York's faculty are presently protected by tenure, which gives them job security for as long as they wish to remain at this university. But even a tenured professor can be dismissed in emergency situations, such as a budget crisis.

And come to think of it — what is the Special Program Review committee talking about if not a budgetary crisis for the Ontario government, which would in turn be passed on to the individual universities?

Despite these very real threats to the security of York's faculty, there remains something contradictory about the notion of a unionized faculty.

Historically, unions have united workers, who by themselves could not protect their rights, nor obtain an equitable salary offer. These same people, once protected by a union, were able to negotiate on an even footing with their employers and obtain many wage and fringe benefit concessions, previously believed to be impossible.

But in what way is a faculty member, even in light of the government report, in the same boat as the labourer? Professors at this and other universities, already command \$20,000 - plus salaries, and were their jobs to disappear tomorrow, they would have little difficulty acquiring similar positions elsewhere, either in universities or in the private sector.

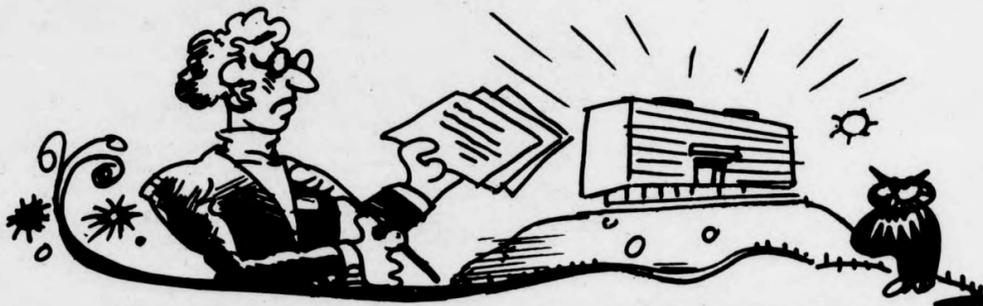
Unions serve a useful purpose as economic levers, but there is a limit to the types of professions which can reasonably expect to make use of this tool. But this is an unpopular view, therefore, we won't be too surprised when the announcement comes that the Association of University Administrators, has been certified as a bargaining unit by the Ontario Labour Relations Board.



YUFA goes to Ontario Labour Board for certification as a union.



The Excalibear wishes to invite you to the staff meeting today - 2 p.m. room 111 Central Square



YORK YOU, BUDDY

By RICHARD WALKER

Individuals must contribute more effectively to the solution of world problems on a spiritual basis, James Spencer told a campus audience in Bearpit One last Thursday. "The world," he said, "can't coast any more. It's got to find solutions or bury itself in the fallout of its own physical and moral rubbish."

Spencer told how a friend of his, a teacher, was able to change a difficult classroom situation into a rewarding experience by turning his thinking to a spiritual basis. "Just after completing his undergraduate work a friend of mine took a job teaching elementary school in what was classified as a depressed area. Pupil control in the

school was practically nil. Class sessions were more like trying to keep the lid on a volcano rather than trying to teach."

The teacher decided, Spencer continued, "in the light of Christian Science metaphysics, to hold firmly to the right basis of thought. Each

morning before he went to class he took time to plumbing down to the bedrock of right thinking. He began to see more clearly that there was one creative Principle, God. That this divine principle from its creation, motivates it, governs it, controls it.

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