

# Firing sparks animal behaviour

Elliott Lefko

A little cut has turned into a big wound and the Atkinson College Student Association will have to find a way to stop the bleeding.

Last Sunday in an ACSA General Meeting, representatives carried 11-4 a motion of non-confidence in president Dario Gritti and vice-president Sonny Francois and in dramatic fashion three members, Judy Friesen, Margaret Davies and Avi Cohen, resigned. As well, the meeting began with the resignation of previous speaker Pat McDonell. All the resignations stemmed from the firing of Jane O'Rourke, previous ACSA staff secretary, by Francois. The secretary's position was temporarily filled by Dario Gritti's sister Lorena. The present secretary is Monica Masi.

The vote of non-confidence does not mean an immediate

firing. First, those who spearheaded the campaign will

have to obtain signatures from 50% of the Atkinson Students General Assembly.

In answer to the vote of non-confidence, Gritti explained, "if you lie long enough people will begin to believe. All I know is that I've got the facts."

Despite the theatrics displayed by certain ACSA members there were some very angry people who were trying to deal with some deep-seated, emotional issues which were not resolved. The assembly's new speaker called the meeting a disgraceful display of animal behaviour.

President Dario Gritti left the meeting in a performance that included his by now expected profanity. He has been repeatedly censored in previous meetings. Temper is not enough to fire a man, yet many claim that

Gritti's abrasiveness is too clenched in dictatorial fashion.

When asked by ACSA member Dan Bloom if he would resign over the events surrounding the firing of Jane O'Rourke, Gritti answered, "Yes. But first I want a full recounting of the events. And I want your resignation Mr. Bloom."

The events were recounted in detail through written reports by those at the meeting, as well as oral testimony from Francois. The vice-president admitted to writing a letter of dismissal to O'Rourke which was delivered by registered mail. He said that O'Rourke deserved to be fired.

"It was a case of gross insubordination," stated Francois. He claimed that O'Rourke had failed to come to a meeting with some ACSA executive members, including the director of Academic Affairs, Ester Sadaroy, which was called to explain some defamatory



ACSA president Dario Gritti is now facing impeachment.

comments O'Rourke had made about the ACSA executive.

"What did she think we were going to do, shoot her?" asked Saradoy in reference to O'Rourke's assertion that she was afraid to attend the meeting.

Francois claims that O'Rourke was operating under severe stress. He claimed that through her friendship with Atkinsonian

editor Jesse-May Rowntree, she was guilty of a conflict of interest. He also claimed that she had been negligent in the performance of her duty by leaving the inner door of the ACSA offices open some nights after leaving.

"As far as I'm concerned it's been a nightmare of harassment that I would prefer to forget," said O'Rourke.

The assembly is divided in their support of Gritti. Says the former speaker Pat McDonell: "The leadership of ACSA under Gritti has gone from bad to worse. We have no confidence in Dario Gritti." However Jack Gazan, ACSA's external affairs director and senior officer, feels that many ACSA executive members are just "overgrown kids. There have been mistakes made," he said, in an emotional address, "but those people (other ACSA executive members) are only interested in blood."



## Some cross the line

Berel Wetstein

Despite receiving what CUEW chairperson Janet Patterson described as "a strong mandate" some particularly glaring cracks have surfaced in the union's solidarity.

After a call to strike by CUEW on Monday, many of the Science Graduate students decided to cross picket lines and continue their work. A strong anti-strike faction emerged in the Biology Department where T.As held a separate vote and decided to scab.

Patterson stated that the main reason for the break from union ranks on the part of the Biology Department was the pronoun-

ced anti-union, anti-strike sentiment running through the entire department.

Richard Dubinsky, president of the Graduate Students Association, says that there are other factors involved. Dubinsky focuses on the fact that unlike Arts tutorials, science classes are not infinitely expandable because of equipment limitations.

Patterson and Dubinsky also agreed that the relationship between science professors and their T.As is much closer than that between arts professors and their graduates—a factor which may also help explain the scabbing. Because Dean Lundell of the Faculty of Science admits many professors in the faculty are anti-union, Dubinsky sees how it is possible that they can make life difficult for T.As who join the strike. Many science T.As are dependent on their professors for much of their funding.

Ms. Patterson states that no disciplinary action shall be taken against union members who have chosen to cross the picket lines. Dubinsky noted that any action against science students would probably spur them on to forming their own bargaining unit.

## Helpful tips

Security Chief George Dunn has some helpful hints for students who want to know how to cope with the CUEW strike. Chief Dunn recommends:

- 1) Leave home earlier than usual
- 2) Use common sense if crossing the picket line—we are all a part of the York community—we should respect the property of others
- 3) Driving fast through a picket line only endangers the safety of yourself and others

## Senate motion says:

# No academic sanctions

Gary Cohen

In hurried efforts to protect students who are not attending classes in support of the CUEW strike from academic sanctions the York University Senate has passed a motion which seems to be suffering from a bad case of ambiguity.

Senate chairman Howard Adelman says that "the spirit of the motion was to give students total freedom of choice concerning whether or not they should support the strike and not attend classes." In its original incarnation the motion called for no academic consequences for students who did not attend their classes. They would not have been required to know their work, submit essays or write examinations.

The motion, as it first stood, did not seem to have the support of Senate members and an amendment, introduced by Howard Buchbinder, qualified the initial motion by introducing the term "no administrative academic sanctions". Unfortunately the meaning of this term is vague and clarification of the narrowly passed motion has been dumped in the lap of the Committee on Academic Standards.

Adelman admits that by the time the CAS comes out with a decision, the strike will likely be over, leaving York students in a quandary as to what is expected of them and what type of consequences they can expect to face when they return to the classroom.

Adelman interprets the motion to mean that students should keep up with their work, but that during the strike essays do not have to be handed in on time and examinations should not be held. In a memorandum to all deans, Adelman noted that the minimal meaning of the ambiguous phrase is that "examinations should not be held in classes where students are observing the picket line."

The Senate chairman points out that although the motion passed by only a 25-22 margin he believes that it indicated "quite a degree of sympathy on the part of Senate members. I've been in the Senate for a number of years and I've seen a lot of motions rejected not on their merits, but on the basis of problems with interpretation.

Many people voted against the motion on that basis, but were still sympathetic. I was very surprised to see the motion pass."

Both Adelman and CUEW representatives suggest that students consult closely with their course directors and professors to determine what is expected of them academically. Both feel that freedom of choice is implicit in the motion, but are not sure what type of interpretation will finally be accepted.

CUEW chairperson Janet Patterson says that her union will support students facing academic sanctions as a result of the strike. "We will back them all the way," she said, "right

through petition procedures and other recognized channels." CUEW is even prepared to file a class action petition on behalf of students who might face consequences, according to Patterson.

CYSF president Greg Gaudet does not share the optimism of Adelman and Patterson concerning the motion. According to Gaudet the CYSF Strike Information Committee has been advising students to "ignore the motion, because it doesn't necessarily mean anything." He does concur that course directors and professors should be contacted by students who are interested in supporting the strike, but don't know what to expect.

## A day in the life: York strikers interviewed

Leora Aisenberg

CUEW picketers may not be teaching classes, but they certainly are getting an education. Life on the picket line is a study in sociology, judging by the various reactions that strikers are witnessing.

"It's a mixed bag," says teaching assistant Alison Wilson. "Some people are extremely hostile, some are in-between and others are plainly supportive."

The majority of drivers stopped by picketers at campus entrances are willing to listen. Some, however, demonstrate their animosity by stepping on the accelerator, regardless of who stands in their path.

One picketer was hit by a car on Monday and rushed to the hospital. He was not seriously injured. Union chairperson Janet Patterson recently expressed fears about the safety of her members.



Strikers walk the line.

Patterson pointed out the seriousness of an incident at the Sentinel entrance, in which a driver "charged" the picket line, turned around, and repeated his actions. "That's a criminal offence," she said.

Picket captains have been instructed to record the license numbers of "dangerous" drivers. The union is consulting its lawyer about the possibility of laying charges.

Nevertheless, morale on the picket line remains high. The number of student marchers is

"generally sympathetic"

increasing, as is the number of drivers who decide to turn back.

"People are generally sympathetic," noted picket captain Keith Doubt. Many demonstrate their support by purchasing buttons or signing petitions.

Some drivers who choose to cross the picket line are CUEW members. When that happens, says Doubt, the situation can become fairly uncomfortable.

"We tease them and try to make them feel guilty," Doubt explained. "But they're your colleagues; you don't hate them. This is a mature union."

As some picketers have discovered, not all lessons are learned in the classroom.

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