

## Pension plan is voluntary

### Building services union accepts contract offer

Members of the building services union at York have accepted the university's contract offer.

At a meeting Monday morning the members agreed to the latest offer by a vote of 95-94, narrowly avoiding a planned strike vote. The main improvements in the new contract are:

- a voluntary pension plan;
- a 17 cents-an-hour wage increase for women cleaners and a 21 cents-an-hour increase for male cleaners;
- wage increases of between 39 and 44 cents-an-hour for general maintenance men, electricians, plumbers, mechanics and equipment operators;
- time-and-a-half overtime for weekend work;
- an eight cents increase in the hourly differential rate for night staff workers and a three cents-an-hour increase for afternoon shift workers;
- increased health and welfare benefits of between three and five cents;

- a three week vacation period after seven years (instead of after 10 years by the old contract).

The new contract also gives the workers Boxing Day as a holiday and allows them jury leave. Pay increases are retroactive to July 1 on overtime and straight pay.

Many cleaners in the union, which represents all of York's cleaning staff, maintenance staff, parking attendants, equipment operators and bus drivers, had been pressing for the voluntary pension plan. Some cleaners were still not happy at the meeting because the money they have paid into the plan cannot be reclaimed until they leave their jobs at the university.

Explaining the new contract to the members, Norman Harper, the union local's secretary treasurer said: "You can go on strike for 50 years if you want but on that point you've gotten as much ... as you can."

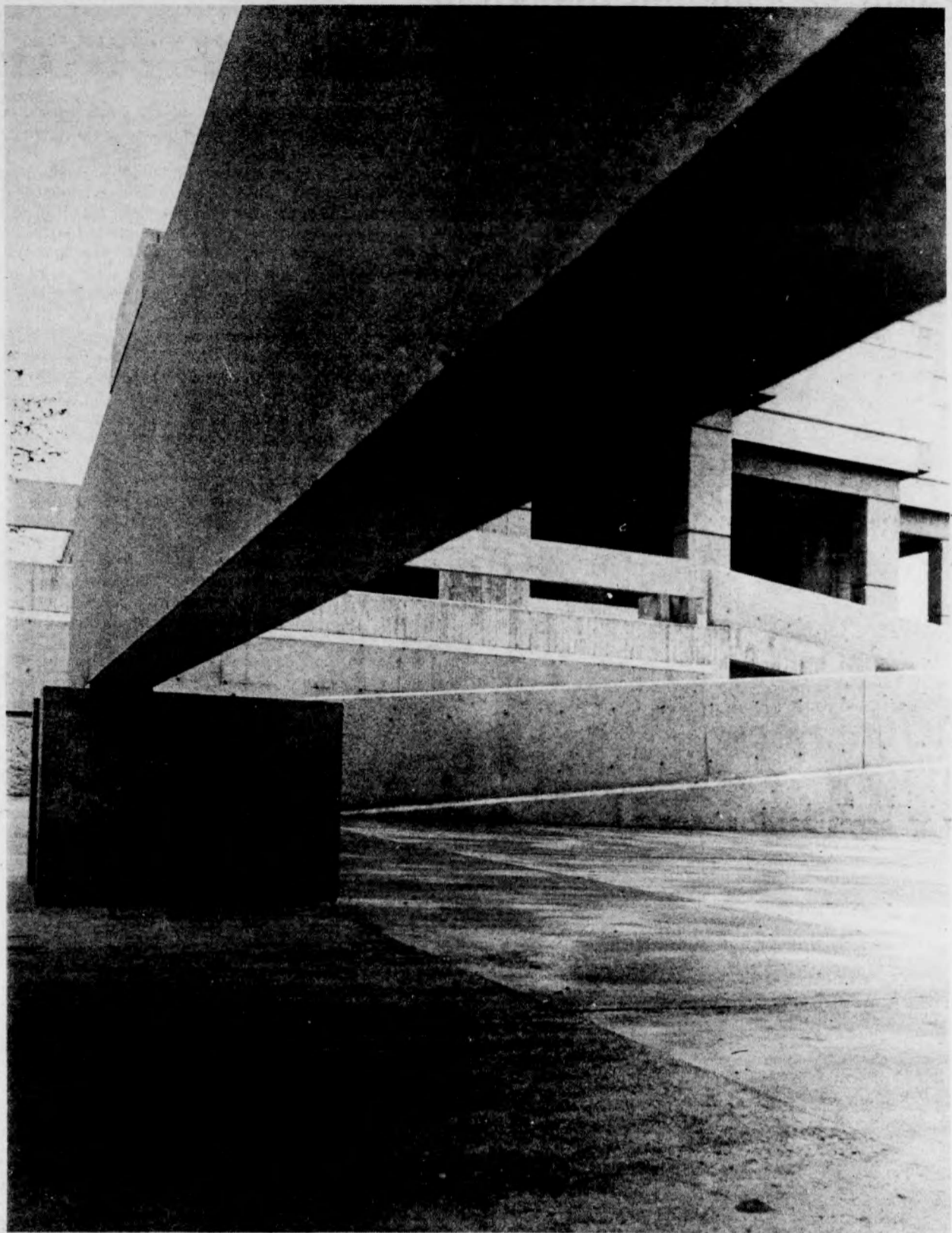
Harper explained that the new rates were almost the same as the rates for similar jobs at the University of Toronto.

"If U of T wants to work for that price let them work for it," shouted Osgoode cleaner Pat Purcell. "For the first damn time we have the students and faculty behind us."

Other cleaners shouted approval.

Harper denounced the claims of student and faculty support if the union went out on strike.

"If they're going to be behind you they'd better come up with some money," he shouted. "The biggest bloody scabs we have at the present time are the students ... Every little cigarette butt they remove is a strike against your strike. They don't know what they're talking about half the time."



Solid power

Excalibur -- Mark Garscadden

### Forum

on Americanization of our universities at 12 noon today in the Winters music room. On a panel: George Hagggar, Dan Drache, John Huot, David Hoffman.

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by John FAULKNER

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### Petition may go to faculty council

## Natural science course attacked

The natural science course in science, technology and society is once again coming under its annual attack by students who feel the course places too much emphasis on science and not enough on society.

Only this time the students intend to do something about it.

During the last three years students taking the course have continually complained of its shortcomings, but nothing appears to have changed significantly.

Now a group of students, with a petition carrying over half the signatures of the 175 people now in natural science 176A, are prepared

to take the matter all the way to faculty council.

"We'll draw up a brief that can be presented first of all to the professor and if he rejects it, it will just keep on going as high as it can," explained student Bob Colson.

The course is "much too heavily science oriented," he said.

"The only social implications that he (the professor) brought into the course were 1) that grain growing led to the building of the pyramids and 2) if it weren't for the invention of the stirrup, feudalism would never have been brought about."

Last year a group of students in the modes of reasoning course carried out a similar struggle to have their course changed.

By January they were successful in forming a "counter-course" which was given full accreditation by faculty council.

When told of the petition in Natural Science 176A, course director J. A. Burt labelled it "insignificant."

He suggested that people who were hostile to the course might have "personal problems."

As of Tuesday, 96 students had signed the petition expressing dissatisfaction with course content, the lecture format and the style of examinations.

At a meeting Tuesday between Burt and 45 students, the grievances were aired.

One student described a recent test as "the most ridiculously worded exam I've ever written."

Other students burst into laughter in agreement.

The exam was in part multiple choice and contained such questions as "computers can think - A) yes; B) no; C) not yet but maybe later; D) not yet and never; E) digital computers can think but analogue computers cannot."

Another question asked students to decide if "A) Galileo slowed falling bodies by rolling them down an incline; B) Galileo was inclined to follow rolling bodies; C) Galileo timed falling bodies by his pulsebeat; D) Galileo timed falling bodies by throwing one out and dropping one straight down; E) none of these."

Some students argued that it was impossible to pick a right answer in many cases. One student suggested afterwards that it would be impossible, for instance, to know if "Galileo was inclined to follow rolling bodies."

### Advance polls

An advance polling booth will be open from 8 am-6 pm today, Friday and Saturday in the new city hall for voters who cannot get to their local polling booths Monday, but who wish to vote in the upcoming municipal elections.

### Emergency number

York Psychological Services Department now has a number which can be called in emergencies at night or during the weekend. This number can be obtained from York telephone information or from the Bell information number (411).

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