

# It's volunteer time at Harbinger

By Al Bell

Next year Harbinger will operate during restricted hours and without full-time co-ordinator Sue Kaiser. She will be replaced by two part-time heads.

"That's two part-timers at 12 hours each as opposed to Sue Kaiser's current full-time 60 hour week," said Harbinger volunteer Chuck Wheeler. Harbinger will be open just 4 hours a day as opposed to its 9 1-2 hour day now.

Increasingly, Harbinger will be forced to rely upon its student volunteers. Next year, 40 regular volunteers will be required to run the offices — double this year's force.

In the past six months, some 1600 York men and women have made use of Harbinger's services, and the point has

been raised that perhaps these people should speak out in support of the peer counselling and referral centre.

"If you'd been raped would you like it publicized?" asks volunteer Jan McNaughton. "If you do something for someone for free, you don't make it conditional that they do something for you. You don't impose on them."

It's exactly this quiet confidentiality maintained between Harbinger and those it services, which leads some students to believe the organization is unused and unnecessary.

"I really resent it when people say we're not useful," said Wheeler. "The people we help are important and I don't think they should be passed over. Certainly, people have criticized us for being non-professionals. We're here as peer

counsellors — as fellow students who have gone through the same kinds of things.

"The whole point of us being here is to deal with things that are otherwise seen as subjects that are unacceptable and should be hidden away."

"When people have a head problem we want to tell them that they're not alone, that it's okay to be upset here where there's no moral trip put on them, and, most of all, that it's not hopeless. There are always options."

"We're not here to fight the student council," added McNaughton, "we're here to help people and so is the student council. It's frustrating that we have to fight the very people that should be helping us."

**FINAL**

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## Unions say pay "hike" is pay cut

By Paul Kellogg

A five percent cut in wages is in store for York's 220 maintenance and cleaning staff, if the administration's proposals for next year's contract with their union are implemented.

This was pointed out in a joint statement issued by York's faculty, staff and graduate assistant associations. The statement was commenting on the negotiations between the administration and the Canadian University of Public Employees (CUPE) which represents the maintenance and cleaning staff. The administration has offered a 4 percent wage increase, but inflation is running at 9 percent, which means that the "increase" would amount to an effective wage decrease of 5 percent.

Talks between CUPE and the administration have broken down, and the CUPE members could be out on strike as early as April 17, if an agreement is not reached.

The union has indicated it is willing to accept a wage increase of 6 percent (the maximum allowed by the Anti-Inflation Board) — a figure which still falls some 3 percent below the rate of inflation.

Don Mitchell, director of personnel services for the university, told *Excalibur* that "as of this moment there are no plans for any talks" between the union and the administration. "Sometime next week, a mediator will be appointed, I imagine, and perhaps we'll get together the week of April 10."

Commenting on the breakdown of talks and the possibility of a strike, Mitchell said, "We've gone this route before. CUPE is faced with rough times, just like everybody else, so their reaction is understandable. The relationship between the two parties is still very good," he said.

The statement from the other three campus unions on the talks amounted to a statement of support for CUPE's bargaining position. It is the first time that the other unions on campus have publicly taken a joint position on another's contract talks. For the full text of the statement, see page 7.



Groucho Marx is alive and well and living in the Scott library. Bob Ryan photo.

## Senator didn't get a ballot

# Controversy shrouds caucus vote

By B.J.R. Silberman

Growing controversy surrounds last week's decision by the Student Senate Caucus to eliminate campus-wide elections for the vacant student position on the Board of Governors.

The 7 to 6 vote-against campus-wide elections and in favour of the BOG position being filled by a vote of only the two dozen student senators, was conducted by mail, and at least one student senator did not receive a ballot.

Gordon Cochrane, one of the two senators for Glendon College, told *Excalibur* last week that he did not receive a ballot and is contesting the results of the vote. Cochrane is in favour of universal suffrage for BOG elections.

On Monday, Glendon College Student Union unanimously passed a motion denouncing the mail ballot's result because Cochrane was not sent a ballot, and because

CYSF President Paul Hayden enclosed a letter with the ballot urging members to vote for closed elections. Nothing in favour of universal suffrage for the student positions on BOG was enclosed with the ballot.

The executive of Osgoode Hall's student government (the Legal and Literary Society) is strongly urging the Student Senate Caucus to officially declare the ballot invalid because of the Hayden letter and other doubts about the ballot. If the caucus does not comply, Legal and Lit plans to "make representation to the BOG that such appointees not be recognized as properly chosen representatives."

Lex Dunkleman, the other Glendon senator said that the vote was a "farce" and "completely disorganized". He added that he was worried about the conduct of the actual election.

Dunkleman went on to say that Cochrane had been "avidly against having closed elections" at a recent caucus meeting and anyone on the caucus would have known he was against it.

Cochrane said that he was firmly in favour of having university-wide elections. He said, "I hope that the students of the university will fight the decision. I just don't see the reason behind the argument that somehow the student caucus is more qualified to choose the representatives of the board than the students."

Cochrane said that Bob Cash, the Chairman of the Student Senate Caucus, did not contact him until the Monday of the ballot deadline. Cochrane was told that he had to come up to the York campus by 5 pm or he would lose his right to vote.

In a recent letter addressed to Cash, (who is against campus-wide elections and is running

for the BOG position) Cochrane responded, "You have no right to demand that I desert my now-heavy workload to vote when it is your fault ... that I did not receive a ballot".

The Student Senate Caucus will take a vote at their meeting today to decide whether or not the results of the mail polling taken last week are valid.

## summer's coming



This is our last issue of the year - but we'll be back in the fray in the fall. If you're going to be back and are interested in writing, photography, cartooning, layout, having say in the way the paper is run and what it says, drop by the office (111 Central Square) next week or in August and September (or leave us a note anytime in between). Everyone is welcome to join the staff - no experience necessary.

The Excalibur party for staffers and friends is tomorrow night. Drop by the office today or Friday for details....

have a good one!



Quebec premier René Lévesque will pack 'em in at Burton auditorium, tomorrow at 2 p.m.

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