

CUPE battling with U.S. union over York workers

By BRIAN MILNER

The Canadian Union of Public Employees and the American-based International Union of Operating Engineers are locked in a struggle for control of York's skilled tradesmen — but the provincial government will decide the outcome.

Following the ouster of the Service Employees Union (SEU) which represented the tradesmen, cleaners, drivers, gardeners and parking attendants, a majority of the workers voted to bring in CUPE in October.

But the tradesmen, numbering about 20 carpenters, plumbers and electricians, signed IUOE cards and the fight was on.

At a labour relations board hearing, November 9, CUPE argued for complete control of the old bargaining unit, including the tradesmen and adding the

previously unrepresented caretakers.

"We maintain the caretakers should not be in the bargaining unit," D.J. Mitchell, York's director of personnel, said in an interview last week.

"They exercise supervisory responsibility" and are on salary, he said.

No worker with supervisory or management duties can be included in a union bargaining unit, under the Labour Relations Act.

An examiner appointed by the labour board will investigate the duties of York's caretakers and the "appropriate" position for the tradesmen. The Labour Relations Board will then make a decision based solely on his findings.

But it is unlikely the tradesmen would support CUPE in any case.

Tradesmen have expressed fears of a militant cleaner-dominated

union at York. Last year, they voted against any SEU strike action at York and they were fully prepared to cross any picket lines.

They see the IUOE as the best union to satisfy their modest demands.

"They probably identify more

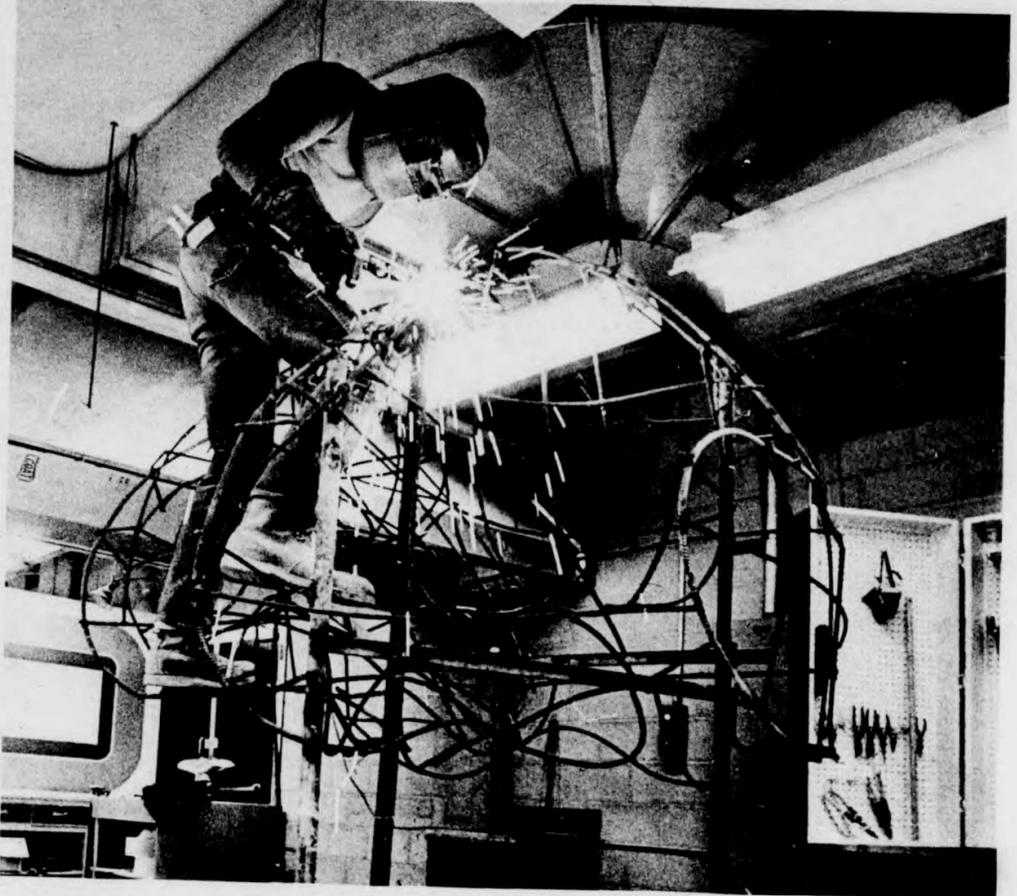
with the technical skills of the IUOE," Mitchell said.

The American-based union is already on campus representing the 20 licensed stationary engineers, and is now trying to extend its control.

CUPE, though, wants to

establish itself at York and needs the skilled tradesmen for leverage at the bargaining table.

Officially, the university is remaining neutral in the union fight, but, as Mitchell admits, there is little the administration could do anyway.



Excalibur Dave Cooper

York briefs

Osgoode faculty says no to day off

The faculty council of Osgoode Hall has turned down a student petition asking that two Friday classes be re-scheduled so students could use that day to visit the courts. The petition, presented by Alice Kidd, first year representative on the council, contained the signatures of 69 of the approximately 75 students in section one of Osgoode's first year. Students said that while many of their professors were urging them to view court proceedings, the isolation of the York campus made the outing a practical impossibility. The Faculty Council, led by dean R.J. Gray, did not see the students' point.

Councillors spoke of last year's attempt at a four-day week, and the resultant four-day crush on library materials. They said the day off became not a day of research and visiting the courts, but just another day of leisure. The class previously investigated the possibility with the school administration and found that the proposed changes did not conflict with either the professorial or classroom timetables. However, the faculty council expressed its concern that once the precedent was set for one class, there would be wholesale changing of timetables. The petition is now back in the hands of the organizers awaiting any further appeal they might wish to make.

Students and faculty discuss grades

Students and faculty expressed their ideas on the role of grading and evaluation at York at an open, informal meeting of the Council of the Faculty of Arts last Thursday, but came to no decisions. P.J.H. Jack, Philosophy lecturer launched an insistent defence of grading.

A grade, Jack declared, just indicate to the student "the amount of confidence he can enjoy with respect to what he is doing." Marks must be determined in a consistent manner, but at present students are not sure of the standards employed in giving a grade.

Jack also argued that students should know the "standards of confidence" other students get. Another faculty member argued for trusting one's own potentialities and declared that not just those who enjoy authority should be free. He said he found a "rigid belief in grading of performance" at York after coming from New York. Prof. Donald Solitar, chairman of mathematics, was the principal advocate of liberalizing grading procedure. He called the present system "one sided". What if a professor were graded by students and his mark affected his salary or what universities he could go to, he asked. Solitar questioned whether grades represented "absolute standards" because professors vary in the severity of their marking procedure.

Sociology students start organizing

The sociology union is in the process of organizing and is looking for sociology students interested in working with them. In a position paper released recently some suggestions for improvements are made. The paper contends that though the student has been "theoretically" recognized by the department he has been overlooked in decision making. The curriculum is criticised as being "not well integrated, meaningful or comprehensive in its approach." The paper suggests that sociology should not be looked upon as a stepping stone to a BA and recognizes that there are societal implications to this view. Also viewed as problems are the evaluation system and the position of the professor and his commitment to teaching as opposed to research. (Unfortunately the union left no names or numbers at EXCALIBUR for interested students to contact. If a representative will drop into the office of EXCALIBUR this week we'll print the information in next week's paper.)

Oxfam raising money for Pakistan

To raise money for relief for the victims of the disaster in East Pakistan, Oxfam is selling Christmas cards at York. Those interested, may buy the cards in central square or from representatives who will visit the residences. There is an offer of a free trip to Mexico and a tour of Oxfam projects to the person selling the largest number of cards. Interested parties may call Mike Seaton at the Oxfam office 863-0309 or 924-2407 (home).

Film being used for college changes

A group of students and a Psychological Services staff member, Herman Madow, plan to use videotape film as a tool to generate change in the college. The technique is similar to that used in the National Film Board's Challenge for Change programme. NFB member Lorne Mitchell will be here, in 106 Vanier at 1 p.m. tomorrow to show a sample videotape film and to talk about Challenge for Change. Those interested in further information may contact Gary Woodill (home phone 924-8889) or may sign up in the master's office, Vanier College.

No oversupply of PhDs, dean says

By BARRY LERNER

There is "no national oversupply" of Ph D graduates according to dean Michael Collie of York's Faculty of Graduate Studies.

Dean Collie was responding to a University of Toronto Graduate Students' Union study released last week which reported that only 105 of the 190 Ph D candidates of last year were able to find jobs and that only 73 of the employed were happy with their jobs.

The report claims that there is "an employment crisis affecting our highly educated, expensively trained people." The report recommends a "Canadians first" hiring policy in universities, expansion of industrial research in Canada and regulation of graduate school registration.

Dean Collie warned against accepting the report as an indicator of the Ph D job market as a whole. He pointed out that the report included a number of persons who had applied for jobs but did not have their degrees.

Collie also questioned the willingness of many of the job applicants to leave the Toronto area. He suggested someone might actually turn down a job offer at a distant university.

"Of course there is a problem," Collie said. But he thinks that it does not lie with overproduction of graduates but with underutilization of their talents in Canada.

He pointed out the extremely low percentage of graduates who are used in industry.

He wants to know if there can be too many educated people in a country.

Between two years ago and last year, the numbers of graduate students rose 25 per cent. Between last year and this year, the numbers rose only 9 per cent.

Some universities are making severe cutbacks in the numbers of students to be enrolled. For example, the U of T is cutting down on the numbers of graduate students in the basic sciences by 25 per cent.

Collie terms any such cutbacks a "national disaster".

The Ontario Council of Graduate Studies in August, 1970 released a study of where those Ph D's who graduated between 1964 and 1969 were employed. Of those who graduated in the field of Humanities, 96% were employed by universities. Only 8 per cent of the Social Scientists were employed in industry. The remainder mostly found work in universities

(73 per cent) or in government (11 per cent).

Industry employed 17 per cent of the graduates in the physical sciences while 29 per cent worked in universities and another 38 per cent accepted post-Doctoral fellowships. Figures for the graduates in life sciences are — 34 per cent employed by universities, 13 per cent by government and only 3 per cent found jobs in industry.

Convocation was a bore

By WENDY DENNIS

If Mackenzie Porter had been there, he would have loved it. All that was missing was the Queen.

Dave Slater was carrying his robes of academia in a stately manner, but the closest he came to looking like royalty was a rather comical resemblance to the Queen of Hearts.

Bill Farr, who knelt to receive the symbolic super-B.A. for all those students who couldn't make it, kept wondering to himself why they didn't have to come and he did.

Jack Saywell, whose panted-on smile never wavered the two hours he was called upon to perform these staid duties of his office, was finding it very difficult to look groovy with that ridiculous hat on his head.

Convocation is the education business' way of saying "thank you". And so, crowding into Tait Mackenzie gym to watch the semi-annual Academia Awards, we tried to forget the faint but lingering smell of dirty sweat socks amidst the pomp and pageantry of the afternoon.

The conferring of a degree at a university is a little like giving an employee a gold watch after years of devoted service. Only not quite. Because, if the going gets rough, one can always pawn the watch. There's not exactly a screaming market for BA's. Or Ph.Ds.

The Chancellor of the university kept tipping his hat and granting to each degree candidate all the "rights and privileges" that went with his respective degree. And I, who had just received a hundred form letters from a hundred people saying BA's were nice things to have but not very dependable in an emergency, was feeling only slightly skeptical of the Chancellor's good words.

The freckled kid behind me who had come to see his brother graduate was bored.

"When is it gonna be over?" he yawned, all fidgety and confined having to sit in the bleachers while a million people filed before him. He tugged at his mother's sleeve and asked for a drink of water.

"Listen kid, I thought out loud, if you think you're bored, what about all those crazy people who had to go to school for so long?"

The little old lady with the mink stole and lopsided hat who could have been anyone's grandmother was screeching her delight at her grandson's gargantuan accomplishment. Her pride and joy was a "doctor", and although she wasn't quite sure what it meant to be a doctor of philosophy, she was almost convinced that it was as good as being a "regular doctor".

I envied that little old lady. She was 60 years old and she still put all her faith in the value of an education. I am only 20, but my faith is going fast.