

## U of T students hold sit-in

By LAURA LUSH

Claiming that the usual process of letter writing to the Administration "was not effective," a "hands-on approach" was taken by about 40 U of T students during a 24-hour occupation last Thursday at the Office of the Dean of Arts and Science in protest of underfunding.

An ad hoc committee calling themselves "The Occupation '84 Committee" came together to raise public attention and to mobilize students in the face of funding cutbacks. Committee member Ava Szczurko, a fourth year political science and sociology student, said the "symbolic gesture" arose out of overcrowded classrooms during the first week of classes.

The Press was on hand to witness a "stunned" Dean of Arts and Science, Robin Armstrong, receive a petition with 400 signatures citing five demands.

Szczurko said the Dean, "obviously shaken up," agreed to negotiations which ended after two separate student negotiating teams spoke to the Dean. "It was pointless," Szczurko said, referring to Armstrong, who "wasn't giving much" during the talks.

The first of the Committee's demands was Armstrong make a public statement conceding that the "measures adopted to relieve the pressures of underfunding, balloting, limited enrolment and redistribution of funds within the Faculty of Arts and Science are both inadequate and constitute impediments . . . to a quality education."

Armstrong said he was aware of the problem, "but had problems acknowledging it," Szczurko said.

A "ballot" system was implemented by the departments in order to deal with higher student enrolment and fewer available spaces in courses. With the ballot system, students must sign a sheet by July 15, requesting their desired courses for September and the criteria, such as previous academic standing, that they feel qualifies them for the course. The balloting procedure allows professors time to plan for and decide upon the size of their classes. Since student selection by professors is not made until September, many students do not know what classes they have been officially accepted for.

The Committee also requested the Dean extend the enrolment deadline by one week to September 28 to give extra time to students who are in limbo as a result of the balloting procedure. Armstrong only agreed to extend the deadline to Tuesday, September 25, because of the Pope's visit.

Lack of funding has also resulted in the dropping of tutorials and courses, particularly in the upper year levels. Szczurko cited instances of 50 students vying for as few as 15 spaces in some courses. Also, the Department of English had to contend with a 10 percent enrolment increase and a 15 percent drop in tutorial assistants.

The Committee would like to abolish limited enrolment in courses, saying the lack of funds should not result in limited accessibility for students. Armstrong answered that enrolment accessibility would "be discussed" and a review of the balloting system is underway by the administration.

Concerning academic incidental fees (extra fees paid by students on top of regular course fees), the Committee felt that the government should "absorb the extra costs," said Szczurko. The Dean was opposed to incidental fees, but did not agree that the government should make up for the extra costs. Instead he implied that the extra costs should "be built into the program structures" which would probably be reflected in increased tuition fees, Szczurko said.

The last demand put forth by the Committee concerned student representation in departmental committees. The Committee would like to see student input into such decisions as limiting course enrolment and the balloting procedure. Armstrong was in favor of student involvement, but only in the form of student lobbying within the departments. The Dean said it was "not in his power to change student representation" in departments, said Szczurko.

Although the committee was "not satisfied with the Dean's overall response" to its demands, they felt the "whole thing was a success in raising public awareness," Szczurko said. Armstrong was unavailable for comment.

The next step in the Committee's action is to have another meeting to decide if further steps would be supported by the members, said Szczurko.

## CUEW seeks strike vote as negotiations break down.

By CAROL BRUNT

The executive and negotiating team of the Canadian Union of Educational Workers (CUEW) "will be asking (its members) for a strike mandate," said Charles Doyon, Chairperson of CUEW Local 3 when the members are slated to meet October 2 and 3. CUEW represents all part-time faculty and teaching assistants at York.

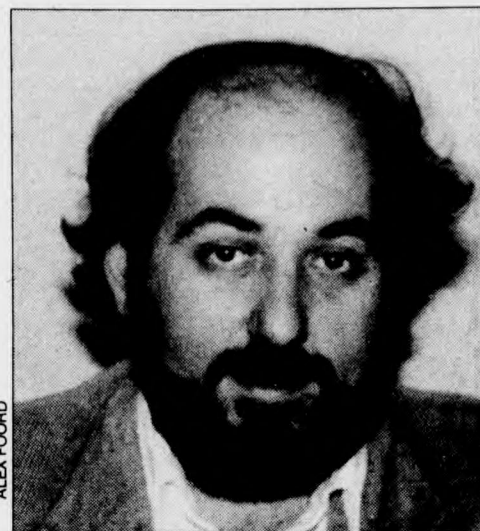
After a conciliation meeting with the administration September 18, the union requested a "no-board" decision. A "no-board" decision is handed down when no further progress can be made in negotiations and a mediator is then appointed by the provincial government.

Doyon said it is the union's opinion that the administration is refusing to bargain seriously until the union has the mandate from its members. "We feel that the administration is pushing the union into a strike position that they are totally irresponsible to our members and to the students on campus," said Doyon.

The union is awaiting the receipt of the official "no-board" decision when they can then commence mediation. Possible strike dates are October 8 or 15. Should CUEW go on strike the University will lose 45 percent of its in-class teaching, all tutorials and labs would be stopped and approximately 35 percent of lectures themselves would be stopped, said Doyon.

In his brief to the Bovey Commission last Friday, acting President Bill Found said CUEW handles only 30 percent of the University's teaching.

The last strike by CUEW officially lasted nine days in October 1981 at which point Atkinson faculty cancelled all classes and much of the



CUEW Chairperson Charles Doyon.

Faculty of Arts was disrupted, said Doyon. He added that the union received great support from the full-time faculty and secretaries and expects similar support this time around.

The fact that the University and the union have not reached an agreement on a single issue has "made membership particularly angry at the administration . . . members don't understand why the administration is negotiating in a crisis type of atmosphere jeopardizing the academic term from their unwillingness to bargain. It has made members even more committed to achieving a just and equitable settlement," said Doyon. The head of the administration's negotiating team, Vice-President (Finance and Employee Relations) Bill Farr, could not be reached for comment.

## YUSA votes in favor of strike if mediation effort fails

By CAROL BRUNT

York University Staff Association (YUSA) members voted 79 percent in favor of striking if an agreement is not reached in mediation before October 10.

"We have no desire to disrupt the students' lives but we have been forced into a position where a strike mandate was required," said YUSA spokesperson Shirley Ittas.

Ittas said that "after the executive recommended that the membership vote for a strike," the 1,000 member union voted in favor of job action at Glendon on September 20 and at the York campus on September 24.

With the signing of a "no-board" report on September 20, the union will be in a legal strike position midnight October 6.

The next step for both parties is provincial mediation, although the Ministry of Labor has not yet appointed a mediator.

To date, there has been no significant change in the administration's position. Although YUSA is prepared to commence mediation earlier, Don Mitchell, the University's chief negotiator, said the administration will not meet with the union until 24 hours before the strike deadline.

Ittas said YUSA is in a good position to strike

with respect to strike funds. YUSA is not willing to accept less than YUSA received in their settlement. Should YUSA strike, she said, the university will find it difficult to function for any length of time.

## CUPE Local in conciliation

By CAROL BRUNT

The Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Local 1356 is presently in conciliation with officials representing York's administration. Since a breakdown in negotiations during the summer between York's administration and CUPE, which represents maintenance workers on campus the union had been awaiting a conciliation date. When last contacted CUPE Local 1356 President Ed Gorton said that CUPE is in the "same position as YUSA with regards to our contract." YUSA has since received a "no-board" and the membership has voted 79 percent in favor of a strike.

Vice President (Finance and Employee Relations) Bill Farr could not be reached for comment.

## news bits

### \$80,000 error

By EDO VAN BELKOM

While the Pope's visit to Toronto was considered by many to be a great success, there is at least one man at York to whom the event was less than a blessing.

That man is John Becker, York's Vice-President (Business Operations), the unfortunate soul in charge of the 'Papal Parking Project.'

"We could end up out of pocket \$70,000-\$80,000," said Becker, who was expecting a modest profit.

Becker's staff had put a year's planning into the project to provide spaces for an expected invasion of 25,000-26,000 automobiles. They also provided food services, telephones, temporary washrooms, set up a 10,000 square foot tent, and employed 135

student workers who were paid \$5.00 per hour to help direct traffic.

A total of 269 cars showed up, paying \$10.00 each for the parking service.

Asked if he or his department had any plans for the Queen's visit to Canada, Becker wryly answered, "No."

### We'll work

By NATALIE CAJIC

Job prospects are improving for university graduates, according to a provincial government labor study released by the Institute for Policy Analysis at the University of Toronto last week.

"Job openings requiring post-secondary education will almost match the number of new entrants with these qualifications," the study reads.

For the unskilled worker, however, the report predicts future employment prospects will be very poor, whether the economy improves or not.

## Welcome New Members

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