

# Excalibur

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## Union gives o.k. to strike

By Paul Kellogg

York's 230 cleaners, maintenance workers and groundskeepers may walk out on strike sometime in mid-April if a contract agreement is not reached between their union and the York administration.

The workers are members of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) local 1356. They voted almost 99 per cent in favour of strike action, rejecting the latest offer from the administration for a wage increase of 4 per cent and some non-monetary changes in the contract.

Local members earn between \$4.76 and \$8.86 per hour, and have had wage increases of 6 per cent and 12 per cent in the last two years. The union had offered to accept a 6 per cent wage increase (the maximum allowed by the Anti-Inflation Board) with no changes in the rest of the contract.

Union Recording secretary Norm

Noddle and union president Ed Gorton told *Excalibur* that even the wage offer of 6 per cent they were willing to accept was below the current rate of inflation, and in fact meant a loss in real earnings. Last year's wage increase also did not match the rise in the cost of living, they said.

The cost of living is currently rising at a rate of 8.7 per cent per year, following increases of 8.0 per cent and 7.5 per cent for 1977 and 1976.

Noddle pointed out that in addition, the wage increase they had proposed was really only 5.25 per cent. "The other three-quarters of a per cent would go towards paying for the proposed dental plan" he said.

"We're hoping we can settle this thing," said Noddle, "but this time, they've laid it right down that the 4 per cent is it and there's no room to move.

"It's one thing, to say that but say the rest of the contract can stay pretty much as is. It's another thing to say it and kick the hell out of the contract."

Noddle added that "if our hands are tied, we might take action on the strike vote. It's the strongest possibility of a strike there has ever been."

David Dimitry, Industrial Relations Officer for the administration, had "no comment". He told *Excalibur* that he thought it best not to comment publicly, as long as there was a possibility of "the parties involved" coming to an agreement in the private negotiations.

Both Noddle and Gorton said that CUPE negotiations were a "test case" for the administration in its attempt to trim \$4-million from next year's budget. When it was announced that a \$4-million shortfall between revenue and expenditures had to be made up next year, the figure was based on the assumption that wage increases for the CUPE workers, faculty and staff would not exceed 4 per cent. CUPE is the first union to negotiate a new contract since that announcement.

As well as the dispute over the wage increase, the administration and the union are at loggerheads over several clauses in the contract.

One in dispute is the "job-posting clause". The present job-posting

see STRIKE page three



Rare photo of a U.S.D. (Unidentified Standing Dog) taken by Excalibur's Gary Hershorn last week.

### Decision to be challenged

## Senate caucus nixes BOG election

By B.J.R. Silberman

A mail polling of the members of the Student Senate Caucus has decided that the vacant student position on the Board of Governors will not be determined by general election this year. The two students on the 32-member board have been chosen in general elections for the past three years.

The poll was sent out to all of the more than twenty members of the caucus two weeks ago. Seven members voted in favour of "campus-wide nominations and selection of the candidate by vote of the Student Senator Caucus". Six voted for "campus-wide election with a Student Senator Caucus meeting to ratify the results".

Enclosed with the mail-out of the ballots was a letter written by student council president Paul Hayden. It urged members to vote for open nominations but to leave the selection of the student rep. to the Student Senate Caucus.

Harvey Pinder, student representative on the Board of Governors called the inclusion of the letter with the poll "despicable." However, newly elected CYSF President, David Chodikoff said, "as far as the letter goes, I really don't think that it can be condemned. People aren't just going to listen to a letter to make up their minds. They're not that ignorant or stupid."

Celia Johnson a student senator for Graduate Studies said she was very upset about the caucus decision.

She said she is planning to challenge the validity of the ballot at the next caucus meeting. "I am going to challenge the ballot because the position paper should not have been mailed with the ballot," she said, "especially when there is no similar paper from someone presenting the opposite point of view."

Pinder stated that the decision not to have general elections was "regrettable. It reduces the amount of democracy at York. Every decision which is made by a small group of people makes it that much harder for students to have any control over their lives as

students."

The effects that the decision will have on the Board of Governors is still unknown. Hayden believes that it will have a positive effect. He said, "I'm quite sure that the Student Senate Caucus know what's needed on BOG. They're aware of academic problems as well as budgetary ones."

Pinder was more pessimistic. He remarked that "any person chosen in this manner cannot claim to represent students because they'll be chosen by a small group of less than 25 students as opposed to my election last year in which almost 100 times that number voted."

Chodikoff said the net result would be either "quality representation or cliquish representation."



Gary Hershorn photo

Joe Carione, one of the 230 members of CUPE 1356 who could be on strike in April.

Don't  
freak  
out!



## Board sets up scholarship fund

By Harvey Pinder

The York university board of governors set up a \$175,000 scholarship fund at its meeting earlier this month, in order to "sustain and enhance the university's share of the market."

The proposal was made by President Macdonald and presented in conjunction with a report on enrolment projections. The enrolment projections were much worse than the estimate the administration had used in initial budget planning. The report said, "assuming no change in our minimum admissions level," the drop in full time equivalents (five courses equals one FTE) will be between 520 and 815 FTEs. This means an additional loss in fees of between \$398,000 and \$625,000.

The scholarship proposal was based on "the need ... to sustain York's enrolment level in 1978-79 at the highest possible level." Furthermore, "it is essential to

improve our academic image and our competitive position."

President Macdonald indicated that this scholarship plan is also needed, "to offset the negative impact of the new Ontario Student Assistance Program", and that the enrolment drop might be due to indecision caused by the changes in OSAP.

The BOG was unclear on how the scholarship plan would be financed. President Macdonald proposed selling 100 Associate Memberships, worth \$3,000 each, to companies interested in helping York. Chairman of the BOG Bertrand Gerstein claimed he hadn't previously heard anything about this proposal and said, "I will vote against this, if there is no concrete proposal" for it to succeed. He said he felt that there was a possibility of failure, and it would be better not to embark on the scheme unless success was certain.

Other businessmen on the board such as

Conrad Black, a director of Argus Corporation (which controls Massey Ferguson, Dominions etc.) and John Turner, a director of Canadian Pacific (which made \$250 million profit last year) said they did not know if York could get 100 companies to pay \$3,000.

Ex-federal cabinet minister Turner was asked if York University was worth \$3,000 to Canadian Pacific but he did not answer.

The BOG tabled the associate membership proposal for further discussion as to its feasibility.

They agreed however that the \$175,000 "seed money" to start the scholarship plan would not come from any current budget, but would if necessary, be financed by means of a deficit in next year's budget. This is the first mention of possible deficit financing to lessen the impact of provincial government spending restraints.

A provision was included that any surplus from this year's budget might be used for the scholarships. When directly asked if he thought there would be a surplus, George Bell, executive vice-president said, "Hopefully we will have a surplus." At the same meeting he submitted the income and expense statement for the first nine months of 1977-78 which indicated that, even allowing for the \$1,234,000 embargo the university had spent \$436,000 less than it had budgeted for. It is very possible that, as in previous years, initial hysteria about a deficit will turn into a surplus.

It was not specified what type or amount the scholarships would be. If the \$175,000 was divided into one year of full tuition scholarships, it would result in approximately 230 being available. Whether this would make a significant impact on York's enrolment remains to be seen.