

# Excalibur

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## YUFA rejects admin. offer ballot asks full mandate

By BONNIE SANDISON &  
JULIE BUCK

The administration's latest salary proposals to Faculty were rejected at a York University Faculty Association meeting Jan 24.

YUFA members rejected a proposed seven per cent cost-of-living increase, a one per cent merit increase (to be distributed as an equal dollar amount to all faculty), and one per cent in anomalies (to bring into perspective, wages of individuals below the current standard).

YUFA is asking for an 18.5 per cent increase, following a settlement of 4.35 per cent last year. YUFA considers last year's raise inadequate.

The average Ontario university settlement last year was about seven per cent, according to a report from the YUFA executive and negotiating committee.

Settlements at other universities this year are averaging about 10 per cent, the YUFA report says. Increases over the two-year period (1973-75), approximate 17.7 per cent, according to the report.

### BALLOT SENT

D. C. Russell, a mathematics professor and president of YUFA, said in an interview Tuesday that York would need a substantial increase to meet the standards accepted by other universities.

YUFA has 800 members who comprise 85 per cent of the faculty.

A ballot has been sent to faculty members to obtain a full mandate for YUFA's negotiating committee. The ballot consists of three questions requiring yes/no answers.

- 1) Do the members accept the present offer for salary negotiations?
- 2) Should the university enter into voluntary binding arbitration?
- 3) If there is no response to the arbitration proposal or if the principal of arbitration is not acceptable, will they discuss possibilities of sanctions.

The results of the ballot should be available Monday. An executive meeting of YUFA is planned Tuesday night for further discussion.

Russell is confident YUFA will seek binding arbitration. The fact that the association is a voluntary organization means that arbitration cannot be forced on the administration in any legal form.

"People at Osgoode know about the plans the association has and they are working on the matter," reported Russell. Russell said that because of the deal the faculty has received in the last two years, the members will benefit through arbitration by a third party.

"The one benefit, in this salary matter", Russell said, "is the healthy dissemination of information on the budget which was not forthcoming two years ago."

### 10% price increase

## Excess food outlets blamed

By J.W. BELTRAME

York students will pay 10 per cent more for food because the senior academic community of the university has ruled that the college system depends on each college having its own dining facilities, said Norman Crandles in an interview Monday.

Crandles, secretary of the food service committee, singled out the excess food outlets on campus as the main reason for the high costs of supplying food at York.

"The real crux of the matter is that we've got too many outlets open," he said.

"Complex One has 100 per cent too many outlets. There are four dining halls where we never have over one quarter of the areas full at any time. We should eliminate two dining halls and one servery in that complex. If we did that, the caterer wouldn't have to hire all those people."

### ALWAYS COSTS MONEY

Crandles said he could not remember one year when food service has not cost the university money. This year, the university will have to subsidize the service again to the tune of \$150,000, he said.

The university administration each year lays out service prerequisites, including the number of outlets to be serviced and hours of service, which makes the food service uneconomical, he said.

Because Versa Food could not meet

these prerequisites and still make money, they have relinquished the running of the operation to the university.

Versa Food charges York a 3.5 per cent fee on all revenue for supplying food, labour and equipment. Any profit from the service is made by the university, but York must also foot any losses.

This year, the university stands to make 1.7 million in revenue.

"Last year, the university was told that they would have to pay \$107,000 to operate the food service the way they want to run it. Now that's up even more," said Crandles. "We are using a Rolls Royce where we need only a Volkswagen."

### COLLEGE SYSTEM CULPRIT

H. D. Knox, assistant vice-president in charge of business operations at York, agreed that the college system philosophy is the main culprit in the high cost of running the food service.

"Up to this past year, finances were such that we could underwrite the costs of the food service," he said. "But that isn't the case any more. In the next three to five months a lot of attention will be paid to the number of outlets that will be in operation."

Knox stated he will personally recommend that some dining halls be eliminated.

Ioan Davies, chairman of the food services committee which accepted

the price rise last Monday, said the effect of the increases would most likely be decreased sales.

"The financial report indicates that the deficit is due to loss in sales rather than increased food prices," he said.

### VERSA FOOD

Davies agreed that a streamlining of major food outlets was in order, but said he was dissatisfied with York's contract.

"I think the contract works in favour of Versa Food," he said. "I have my own ideas about what arrangement we should make next time."

He refused to elaborate on this statement until Versa's contract is under review. Versa's contract expires in April, 1975.

Crandles said he was satisfied with Versa Food's operation and added that the caterer should not be blamed for the present situation.

"Versa is no better and no worse than any other large caterer. In fact, I find them better than most, which is probably why they're the biggest," he added.

Crandles, who is responsible for the food service budget, said the solution lies in reducing the number of outlets, cutting maintenance and labour costs, not in changing caterers.

"Either we reduce the food outlets or someone will have to bless another deficit budget again next year," he said.



Peter Hsu photo

Will Eisner, creator/artist of the "Spirit" comic strip of the 40's spoke at Cosmicon III on the weekend. A feature on Cosmicon appears on page seven. Included are interviews with the creators of Capitaine Québec and Cheech Wizard creator Vaughan Bode.

## Prices are too high quality poor—students

Seventy-seven per cent of York students who eat at the university said they were dissatisfied with the quality of food serviced by Versa Foods. The random survey, conducted by Excalibur, asked 40 students, dining at four different halls, a variety of questions concerning food service and food prices.

Another 70 per cent of those asked said that a cut in dining facilities would be acceptable if the savings were reflected in food prices. Of those who would not be willing to cut outlets, no one gave the destruction of the college system as a reason.

Most of the dissenting voters gave crowding as the main reason why outlets should not be cut. When one student was asked about the college system, he replied, "What college system?"

Of those 77 per cent dissatisfied with the food, a slight majority said

they wouldn't mind paying more for better quality. Most of those not willing to pay more felt the prices were too high already for the quality.

Asked to comment on the quality of food, a student could only scream "Aghh!", as he looked up from his plate.

"The food tastes plastic, like it was pre-made in a factory then, warmed up and brought in front of you," said another.

There were complaints from some that the scrip they were forced to buy was too much. One such student didn't care how high the prices went, since she had plenty of scrip money left to spend.

But most students thought prices were too high for the quality of the food. "I think they charge too much for the quality and variety we get. Four years ago, the food was better than it is now," one woman said.

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### Negotiations at standstill

## Administration awaits proof of a majority

By BRIAN MILNER

The administration has stopped negotiating with YUSA's executive at least until after the Feb. 14 election of staff association officers.

D. J. Mitchell, director of personnel and the university's negotiator, said in an interview Tuesday he was waiting for proof that the executive was representing the majority of the YUSA membership.

A split in the executive, as well as the membership, was revealed in last week's Excalibur when Warren Holder, a YUSA vice-president, declared that he was being excluded from the decision-making process.

The rift, essentially between persons seeking unionization and anti-union elements in YUSA, was

widened following an administration decision not to recognize YUSA as a voluntary association under its terms of membership.

Under the Ontario Labour Relations Act, a voluntary group has full bargaining powers except the right to strike. The act specifically excludes supervisory or managerial personnel, however. The administration claimed that persons performing such duties could not be a part of YUSA's bargaining unit under Ontario law.

"The university was not in a position to grant voluntary recognition," given the present membership criteria and constitution, Mitchell said.

One solution suggested by YUSA was the University of Alberta model where supervisory personnel

are included in the association. But under Alberta labour laws, university employees are excluded from the protection of the Labour Relations Act.

In Alberta, no outside regulatory agency can be brought in to mediate a university labour dispute. The university depends for its success on complete good will between the negotiating parties.

Mitchell, discussing negotiations with YUSA's executive, said: "I thought we were getting somewhere and we didn't."

He expressed a "high degree of sympathy for the executive," citing their lack of experience in labour law and negotiating as a major drawback.

"There's a good chance they (YUSA) can work out their problems without a formal union," he said.