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CUEW goes on strike

Michael Monastyrskij

Following two years of eleventh hour settlements, local 3 of the Canadian Union of Educational Workers called its first strike, leaving nine thousand Atkinson students without classes and affecting thousands of full-time students.

As *Excalibur* went to press, mediation sessions had resumed. Before returning to the bargaining table, William Farr, vice-president in charge of employee and student relations, said the administration had not made a new offer. "We're going back to mediation because the mediator asked us to. We have always said we're prepared to talk. We didn't want the union to leave on Sunday and as far as I'm concerned we're going back to where we were Sunday."

Union chairperson Janet Patterson agrees that it was the mediator who initiated the new talks. She is pleased by the new development and says, "It's a good sign we're going back so soon. I think it shows how effective we've been."

Earlier in the week Farr maintained that the two sides were very close and expressed puzzlement over the union's decision to strike. Patterson, however, said the union and the administration were far from settlement but expressed no surprise over Farr's statement. "I think Mr. Farr is puzzled by a lot of the things that have happened recently," she said.

The strike began when weekend-long negotiations broke down early Monday morning. Describing the final moments of mediation, Patterson stated that the administration made a final offer as union negotiators were leaving to call the strike. "When we broke off negotiations," said Patterson, "the mediator left the room and then he came running back with more money."

The administration's last offer was printed in Monday's Bulletin, but according to Patterson the Bulletin's version differed from the offer the union received before negotiations broke off. She adds that in this offer Farr has re-tabled a job posting issue that had been resolved. "In essence," says Patterson, "they were punishing us for walking out."

The administration is now proposing salary increases ranging from 12.5 per cent for Writing Workshop Assistants and some tutors to 15.4 per cent for College Tutorial Leaders. CUEW is asking for an average increase of twenty per cent, which the union believes will give its members less than parity with their University of Toronto counterparts.

Patterson believes, however,

that "this is not a monetary strike. They want to deal with money issues, but as soon as we bring up management issues they feel it is something we shouldn't stick our noses into. They want to deal with monetary issues, but not with management areas."

The administration believes that management should make the decisions regarding job posting, job security and class size.

Patterson said at a news conference that "he (Farr) has not addressed the issue of job security." She and union negotiator Leslie Sanders assert that university management also have ignored the problem of class sizes. Earlier Farr told *Excalibur*, "I hope class size is not a strike issue for them because it is something we cannot move on."

Sanders says, "we have always indicated to the administration that class size is an issue. We have already raised the issue in a way no other union has."

After calling the strike on Monday, CUEW held an afternoon strike vote in which 74 per cent of those voting supported the strike. In addition the union telephoned members who were unable to vote, but this work was hampered by what Patterson says is the university's reluctance to release the names

of part-timers and teaching assistants under contract.

Patterson will not reveal what percentage of union members voted, nor will she give an approximation of how many members expresses approval of the strike through votes and telephone calls. She feels the administration would use any figures in an attempt to discredit CUEW's executive decision to strike.

There is some dissension in the union as its biology and fine arts teachers have crossed the picket line. Furthermore, the computer science department is divided over the strike.

However, the union has received support from outside its membership. Representatives from the University of Toronto and McMaster University have at times joined the picket lines, while this morning York students organized a student solidarity picket.

In addition, first year law student Elizabeth Innes informed *Excalibur* that approximately fifteen out of twenty-eight Osgoode faculty were planning to cancel today's classes, either out of personal sympathy for the strike or in response to student requests. It is expected that some of the students will have participated in today's Osgoode solidarity picket.



Bethune council president Lisa McCabe joins CUEW picketers on the line. Many York students are out in support of the strike.

Because a very high proportion of its teachers are CUEW members Atkinson College has been the hardest hit university division. The Atkinson Administrative and Budget Committee has declared this week to be Reading Week for all of the college. According to Fran Bonisteel, an Atkinson administrative officer, Reading Week was declared because the

committee feels "it is impossible to know which YUFA members and which CUEW members will or will not cross the picket line. In fact, it is impossible to know which students will cross the line."

The committee will be meeting on Friday to decide what to do should the strike go into a second week.

Rookie QB sees bright future



Coach Dave Pickett and prize rookie Tino Iacono confer.

Mike Leonetti

It's been a disappointing year for the York Yeomen football team. Their failure to make the playoffs for another season dashed the high hopes the team had in August when training camp opened. A large amount of injuries also cost the Yeomen the services of many key players, and was, in part, responsible for the Yeomen missing the playoffs.

However, there is some good news in the offing in the guise of Tino Iacono, the rookie quarterback who's central to Yeomen development in the near future. Iacono, fresh out of high school, has assumed the all-important pivot position this season. "The game here is quicker than high school," says Iacono. "You have to think more. You have to be able to read the defence. It has meant adjusting, and I'll be learning something every day for the next few years."

Yeomen head coach Dave Pickett (an award-winning quarterback in his younger years), thinks Iacono has shown the ability to learn, and he's been very impressed with the youthful quarterback's overall performance this year.

"Tino has good football intelligence," says Pickett. "He is mentally strong and stays cool

under pressure. He has the basics down, now he needs the polish."

"I wanted to come here," Iacono stated, "because the football program was getting game experience this year. This is a team of the future that sooner or later will start to win."

Iacono, a modest individual, is quick to give credit to others for any success he has had. He thinks that coach Pickett has done a great deal to help him develop, and Iacono enjoys a good rapport with him. "Pick is just great," exclaims Iacono. "He has really been patient with the backfield. He knows we are inexperienced, but he has confidence in us. There are no barriers between him and the team."

As for his on-the-field performance, Iacono points out that football is a team game. He credits his offensive line with good work enabling him to look for receivers. "I work behind a really good line. They have confidence in themselves," Iacono stated. "They take care of the line. I just worry about the backfield. I have no complaints—they provided me with time."

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