

# Excalibur

Everything secret degenerates; nothing is safe that does not show it can bear discussion and publicity  
—Lord Acton

Excalibur is the York University weekly and is independent politically. Opinions expressed are the writer's. Unsigned editorials on this page are decided upon by staff vote and do not necessarily reflect the views of individual editors. Excalibur attempts to be an agent of social change and a forum of democratic debate. Typography by Fotoset, printed at Delta Web. Excalibur is published by Excalibur publications, a body incorporated under the laws of Ontario.

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## Scab labor in the bookstore; isn't this bad faith?

Strikes are the ultimate weapon of working people in any industrial democracy. Without the right of workers to say "enough!" and withhold their labor until they can get a better break from management, workers are completely under the thumb of those in charge—whether the bosses are "capitalist," or "communist."

Now strikes always create bad blood on both sides. But, usually, individuals in management and labor can recognize that their opponents are caught in a system and are doing what they feel they have to do.

In such an atmosphere, negotiations can resume and the strike be settled.

But if there is a single factor which can poison atmosphere in a strike, and lead to a climate which is completely unsuitable for serious negotiations, it is the use of scab labor to do the work of striking union members.

In an act of staggering irresponsibility, the York administration opened the bookstore last Thursday night with scab labor.

The reason that the use of scabs is so strongly opposed by union members, is that it permits management to carry on business as usual, and to undermine the democratic right of workers to shut down the shop they work in.

What's more, scabs can sometimes move on to union jobs when their short-lived tenure is finished. Thus they can get the hard-won benefits of unionized workers, without having made the sacrifices which ensured them. Of course, sometimes management can "bust a union" with scabs, by letting the strikers rot on a picket line while scabs do the work. Since scabs are paid less than union wages, they are really hurting themselves by betraying union workers.

But the most galling thing about scab labor at York, is that the money which went to the scabs could have gone towards the hike YUSA members need to keep up with inflation.

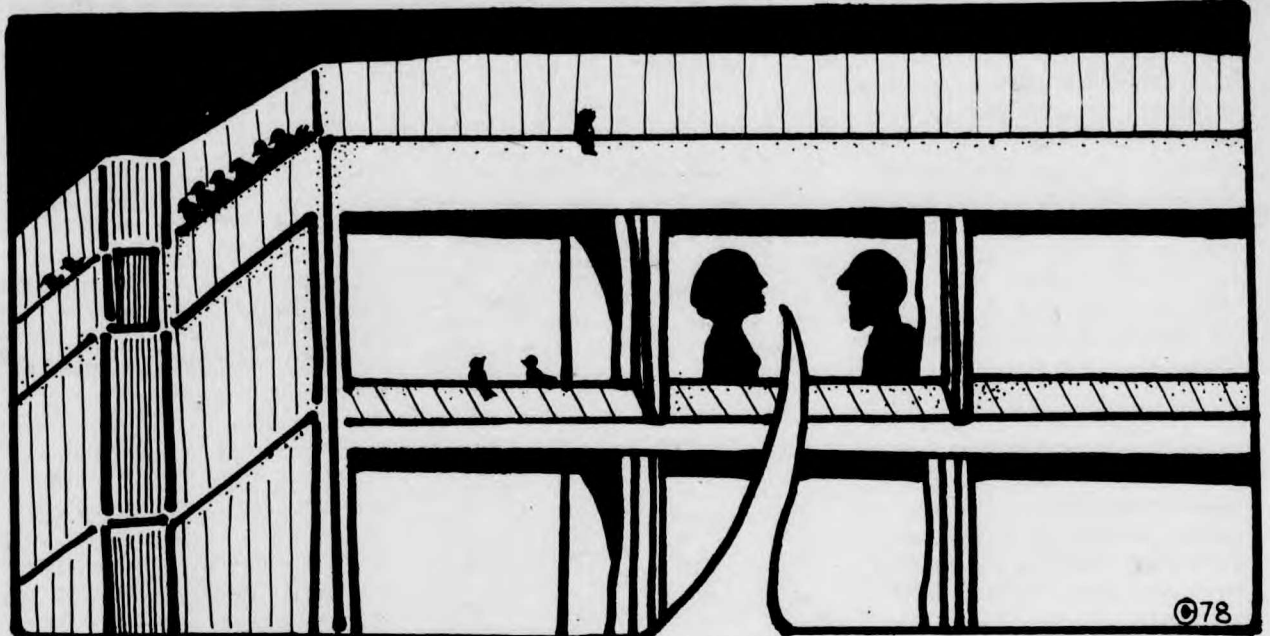
The financial waste was, of course, minor, because the administration stopped using the scabs after just one night. But there is no reason to believe that the administrators responsible were having second thoughts of a moral nature. They quit using scabs because they realized there would be an outcry.

It's just too bad that they couldn't have woken up to this fact before they made tensions worse.

To be sure, individual scabs may have gone wrong through ignorance and are themselves victims of high unemployment.

The real culprits are the administrators.

To students who are impatient with the stands of both sides, and just want this damn thing over with, we ask you to bear this in mind: the use of scab labor amounts to a very bad blow against union members — how can those responsible for it be taken seriously when they claim to be ready to bargain in good faith?



Do you have an appointment with the president? For how many? 214?.... Can I take a message?

## Legal facts from CLASP



By Paul Lantz

The Community and Legal Aid Services Programme is a service provided by students at Osgoode. Last year more than 1100 cases were completed by CLASP for its clients. The cases ranged from arranging payment schedules for clients with finance companies, to lengthy and involved matters dealing with industrial accidents.

While CLASP has a small and hard-working, paid staff, most of its services are provided by law students who volunteer to handle individual cases, or who serve as student advisors at clinics operated at Osgoode and off-campus.

In 1977-78, about 250 students at Osgoode participated in CLASP.

Due to limitations imposed by law and facilities, CLASP is limited in the types of cases than can be undertaken. The programme has income guidelines for its clients; the law precludes our appearing in certain courts including County Court and the Supreme Court. Students regularly

appear on behalf of their clients in County Court chambers, Small Claims Court and both the Criminal and Family Divisions of the Provincial Court.

CLASP students act as agents for clients before a number of governmental tribunals dealing with such matters as Unemployment Insurance, Workmen's Compensation, Welfare and Immigration.

Why do students work at CLASP? The reasons are varied: to gain legal experience, for example, or because of personal commitment to providing legal services to people who are not served by traditional means. For whatever reasons, many law students devote a great deal of time to their clients.

The problems that potential clients bring to CLASP can be divided into two general areas: traditional legal problems and problems with income assistance from various levels of government.

Traditional legal problems include landlord and tenant matters,

such as difficulties with repairs in apartment buildings, and evictions. Due to CLASP's close relationships with a number of tenant organizations, it cannot represent landlords against their tenants.

Another broad area of legal work is civil litigation, mainly cases that will be, or could be heard in Small Claims Court. The amount of money, while generally limited to \$1,000, is often quite substantial to the clients involved. Most cases do not get to court; instead CLASP represents the client in negotiations aimed at settlement with the other side.

Family cases often involve attempts by women to gain support from their estranged husbands for children. These cases can become particularly complicated when the husband and wife reside in different provinces or even different countries. The Family Division of CLASP also provides assistance in adoptions and child welfare matters.

The final area of traditional legal services is in criminal matters. The Legal Aid Plan refers many clients to CLASP, when they do not qualify for the assistance of a lawyer under the plan. Typical charges against clients include careless driving, common assault and theft.

CLASP is located on the first floor of Osgoode Hall Law School.

**Excalibur**  
will be choosing sub-editors  
at next week's meeting, Thursday 2 pm.

### comment

## Council leaders want the strike to end now

The following letter represents the collective opinions of the undersigned student and college council leaders. The letter itself is self-explanatory, but we would like to take this opportunity to suggest a way in which the York Student Body can help end the strike in the quickest possible manner. We urge students to write letters and make telephone calls to both sides. It has become apparent to us that the Administration and the Union are attempting to lobby for student support to use as a lever in their negotiations. It is therefore important that students refuse to be used as pawns by either side. We believe that the most effective way to end the strike is to pressure both sides into returning to the bargaining table in good faith.

President H. Ian Macdonald's Office  
Number is 2454 — 2223

Vice-President William Farr's Office  
Number is 6283

Y.U.S.A. Strike Headquarters Office  
Number is 661-2726, 651-5627.

There is also a leaflet being distributed

that you can sign and take to the CYSF offices. It urges both sides to end their personal differences and return to the negotiating table. These letters are available through all the college councils and the CYSF.

We urge you to express your indignation at the way in which you are being treated. You can help end the strike.

#### Statement From Student Council

As representatives of the majority of students of York University, we the undersigned must protest in the strongest possible terms the breakdown in negotiations that has led to the current Y.U.S.A. strike. We perceive the strike to be an exercise in futility as far as both the Union and the Administration are concerned, and the subsequent breakdown in student services to be unnecessary and unpardonable.

We protest Y.U.S.A.'s attempts to gain student support for use as a lever at the bargaining table, as well as the Ad-

ministration's obvious lack of sensitivity to its employees and students. Therefore, we must express our unequivocal condemnation of the strike, and the inability of both parties to come to a mutual agreement in a sane and rational manner. As it stands, the strike does nothing to advance what may or may not be the just causes of either of the bargaining parties, and is only hurting the students of the University, as they attempt to get a proper and complete education, something they have already paid their tuition for. The strike, which we believe to be brought about by the Administration as much as the Union, reflects the type of sandbox attitude we had hoped had been left behind in public school — where disputes were settled by primitive shouting matches and ritual fist fights. We therefore demand that both sides display a greater capacity for tolerance and understanding, that they cease their bickering and return to the bargaining table, to work out their differences. This is the type of behaviour we understand to be fitting of the upper

Administration and staff of an institution of higher learning. The complete breakdown of negotiations, and subsequent strike, which are the fault of both parties, is in our opinion, nothing but an embarrassment to York University.

Bethune College Council,  
Chairman, Bob Speller  
Calumet General Meeting, Co-Chairpersons, C. Win Hum, Chris Winter  
Council of the York Student Federation  
(C.Y.S.F.) President, David W. Chodikoff

Founders Collete President, Ian Brennan  
McLaughlin College Council Chairperson,  
Brenda Patterson

Stong College Student Government,  
Chairman,  
Bill Petrie

Vanier College Council, Chairman, Brad Varey  
Winters College Council, President, Barb Taylor

Michael Bordt, President, Environmental Studies  
Bill Farb, Graduate Students Association