

## 'Part-timers' seek better deal from University

By DOUG LITTLE

Part-time faculty have no input concerning course curriculum and this affects the quality of teaching, according to Charles Doyon, chairman of York's Local 3 of the Canadian Union of Educational Workers (CUEW).

Part-timers, according to Doyon, handle half of the teaching load and do not always have a proper understanding of how to conduct the course. He said part-time staff take on so much of instruction that full-time faculty are often "not in touch" with their students.

William Farr, York's vice-president of finance and employee relations, admits that part-time faculty and teaching assistants (TAs)—who are represented by CUEW—should have more input.

"We haven't done as much as we could to integrate those part-timers into our curricular

decision-making and academic life," concedes Farr.

CUEW Local 3, who'll begin contract negotiations with York administration in late May, say job security and wage increases will be their main concern. The Union will be asking for a 30 percent increase for both the part-time faculty and TAs.

"We're cheap labor," said Doyon in an *Excalibur* article last week, referring to the earnings of an average full-time graduate student working as a TA. An average TA earns about \$6,315. These "substantial" increases are just enough "to keep up with inflation and the poverty line," Doyon went on to say.

He also claims that a hiring freeze has occurred in York's Faculty of Arts and at universities across Canada. He said the "freeze" should not have happened because

there'll be a large number of retiring professors within the next 15 to 20 years.

"With the hiring freeze and Education Minister Bette Stephenson's intention to decrease the number of graduate students, a vacuum will be created that will have to be filled by graduates educated in the U.S., as was the case in the mid-1960s, according to Doyon.

Other issues Doyon said he'll raise in the May negotiations will include the subsidization of studies for TAs and an "extension of the priority pool," whereby TAs will request a guarantee of six years of teaching time instead of the existing four.

Farr said he doesn't see any changes to the hiring and salary policy in the near future. "I have had no encouragement at all from the academic administrators for providing anything additional in the way of job security to CUEW people," he said.

## Europe for 84¢ per day

Imagine traveling five continents, over eight years on and off, on a budget of less than \$9,000, including airfare. Sound impossible? Not according to Gil White, author of *Europe on 84¢ a Day*.

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White has incorporated all his methods of traveling cheaply into a 90-minute lecture and slide show he'll give today between 3-5 p.m. in Curtis K. His talk is being sponsored by CYSF.

## Academics question chemical forest management in Canada

By NATASHA BARNES

"They are safe, but they are not necessarily safe," Trent University's Dr. Robert Paehlke was speaking on the question of herbicides and their effect on Canadian forests in the symposium "Herbicides and Environmental Policy" held at York last Friday.

"It's pretty unlikely that we'll launch a catastrophe like DDT," said Paehlke. "We should be cautious but not paranoid about herbicides."

Academics from universities across Ontario, as well as speakers from environmental groups, gathered for the day-long symposium, which was sponsored by York's Centre for Research

on Environmental Quality. The overall tone of the event was sombre.

"Right now, no one can prove the safety of any insecticide," said Errol Caldwell, of the Forest Pest Management Institute. "How can the courts determine it? In the meantime, it is hard to have any fair discussion."

Jamie Swift, freelance journalist and author of *Cut and Run*, said there are no easy answers to the problem.

"Herbicides are tended to be seen as a quick fix, as something to help us get over the hill fast. As time goes by the pressure to use them will increase."

Dr. Ken Hearnden, of Lakehead University, agreed. "I've read official documents from the forest industry that claim herbicides give production increases of almost 300 percent.

They say control is 15 times more effective than manual and that the chemicals can be used safely with no harm to humans, and is, I quote, 'essential if timber production is to be attained.'

Swift, however, was skeptical, saying, "Foresters will always take that stand. If the problems of the '60s did not arrive, they would still be spraying DDT in New Brunswick."

"But herbicides are the only way we know to

keep a mature forest alive," said symposium chairman Dr. Rod Carrow, assistant deputy minister in New Brunswick's Department of Natural Resources. "New Brunswick has had a history of insecticide application for 30 years. We can change the type of chemicals used on the forests, but if we are concerned with growing trees we cannot afford to eliminate them."

Dr. Carrow also spoke of the economic facts surrounding the much-debated timber industry. He said Canada has an enormous share of the world's timber production and is largely interested in the export market.

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