

## CUEW ready to strike

By CAROL BRUNT

York's teaching assistants (TAs) and part-time faculty are in a legal strike position today.

Although there has been no final word yet, it seems more likely now that Local Three of the Canadian Union of Educational Workers (CUEW) will be striking said Daphne Abergel, the union's communications officer.

Negotiations broke off early Monday morning after a continuous round of talks on the weekend. Negotiations resumed Wednesday morning.

According to Abergel, the union has moved significantly on important issues though she wouldn't elaborate further. Last week, CUEW was seeking a 30 percent wage increase for its member, increased job security and participation in faculty councils and committees plus more seniority protection.

Bill Farr, Vice President, Finance and Employee Relations, said that the union has made a 15½ percent salary concession though this is still "not in the realm of reality."

"The administration has done a lot on non-monetary items but we seem to get no credit for that," said Farr. Farr also said that though the administration is offering a five percent pay increase, this doesn't have to be their last position.

Monday was also the day that information pickets were set up by CUEW members along YUSA picket lines to distribute information concerning their demands, the administration's offers and CUEW's proposals for students if a strike is called today.

GRAHAM THOMPSON



**SALES PITCH:** Striking YUSA member speaks with driver entering York University grounds during recent walkout. YUSA picketers handed out daily mimeographed 'bulletins' to inform the York community of their views on contract issues. The final contract was approved by 96 percent of the union membership.

## Strike's over

### YUSA, administration settle after week-long walkout

By CAROL BRUNT

With what is considered a "ground breaking contract," the York University Staff Association (YUSA) settled its seven day old strike Tuesday afternoon. Union members voted 96 percent in favor of the settlement at a ratification vote Tuesday afternoon. The overwhelming approval of the contract was the highest in the history of the union, said Shirley Ittas, YUSA's spokesperson.

Don Mitchell, the university's chief negotiator, had no comment on the settlement.

"With a strike of this duration, no one hurts badly," said Ittas. "We had to make a point otherwise things would have been settled earlier. It is support that settles a strike quickly," she said, referring to the support provided by students and faculty.

After a breakdown in talks Wednesday, October 10, the union members walked off the job. However, mediation talks started up last Sunday. It was not until late Monday evening that a tentative agreement was reached.

Bill Farr, Vice President (Finance and Employee Relations), said that he is relieved that a settlement has been reached.

Mitchell said the union wanted assurances that the university wouldn't discipline employees on legal strike who didn't come in to work, and the university sought the union's assurance that they wouldn't discipline any YUSA members who did come in to work. Should the Canadian Union of Educational Workers (CUEW) strike today, YUSA has left it to its members to decide whether or not to honor the CUEW picket lines.

Support staff salaries will be increased by 5.9 percent or \$1,060, depending on which amount is greater. This increase puts the union almost a full percentage ahead of the recommended provincial wage restraint of 5 percent.

Article 16 dealing with technological change is "absolutely everything the union wants," said Ittas. Employees will receive a 10-day training period to upgrade skills to adapt to technological changes in the work place. The problem of technological change and job security was YUSA's greatest complaint about their old contract. Re-training of staff will provide job security for workers whose skills have become redundant. Staff with nine or more years of service facing job redundancy will be

given a six-month advisory notice of a layoff with an option to re-train to fit another vacancy.

Although not all the union's demands were met regarding health and safety, the university will work towards answering the concerns of employees operating the Visual Display Terminals.

Included in the contract is a Letter of Intent for a proposed Training Program Centre for all support staff. Although the centre was mentioned during conciliation, the administration has as yet made no allocation of funds for the centre.

Ittas said the centre will enable the union to participate in management development areas to benefit the membership.

Three representatives from the union and the administration will meet to discuss possible training opportunities through the centre. "This is an opportunity for real input into the types of programs that are discussed and decided on," said Ittas. "I find it hard to believe that we had to go on strike to gain what to us seems eminently reasonable."

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**STUDENTS AGAINST STRIKE:** Simultaneous student protests were staged at York and Glendon campuses in an effort to pressure the administration into settling with YUSA.

## Students rally to protest strike

By HEIDI SILVERMAN  
and GARY SYMONS

Angry over the university's handling of negotiations with YUSA, York students staged a protest last Monday in an attempt to force the administration into settling with the striking union.

An estimated 300 students gathered for the rally on the Ross ramp at 2:00 p.m., where they listened and spoke to administration members and CYSF president Chris Summerhayes.

According to organizer Darinka Blagaj, the protest was only part of a campaign to force a settlement of the dispute. A small group of students led by Blagaj also circulated a petition at the York and Glendon campuses, collecting over 1,000 signatures in only four hours, Blagaj said.

Blagaj said she organized the protest because "I just don't want the administration ignoring the students. I don't want to be ignored."

"We the students are at the bottom, we're the ones that get stepped on," Blagaj continued. "It doesn't hurt the administration. They walk out with their hands clean."

As well, another protest rally, organized by Glendon student Ellen Garmaise, was held at Glendon campus at noon Tuesday.

Acting President William Found, appearing at Monday's rally at the protest organizers' request, said the Board of Governors was doing as much as possible to bring the strike to an end.

CYSF President Chris Summerhayes also spoke at the rally, telling students, "We want an end (to the strike) immediately. Do something about it, act now, phone the administration."

The student protest has already received support from some faculty members. Sociology professor Paul Anisef said, "students must express their concern to help these disputes. They must have a general strategy developed to decrease the possibility of this type of thing occurring again."

"In my three years at York University, I have never seen so much overwhelming concern by the students concerning one major issue," he added.

PAUL HAMIERA