

EDITORIAL

Wednesday night, as the television cameras rolled, and the wine flowed, CUEW and their supporters had claimed a victory. The next day, when the cameras had gone and the wine had run out, yesterday's victory seems more like today's loss.

When the union, composed of part-timers and teaching assistants, struck, they promised that it was class size ceilings which they were intent on obtaining. Money wasn't the main issue.

What they did receive was some security, a moderate raise, and a promise to sit and talk about class size ceilings. A committee of three union members and three administration representatives will draw up recommendations for the negotiators next spring. A situation that echoes last year's solution.

Whether this committee will have more teeth is questionable.

Some union members feel the proposed committee will inevitably fail and they wanted to continue striking. It is with this 25%, and especially union chairperson Janet Patterson, that we sympathize; not with the rest who accepted raises and agreed to meet next year. In particular, we condemn those who accepted the new benefits even though they had crossed the lines to teach.

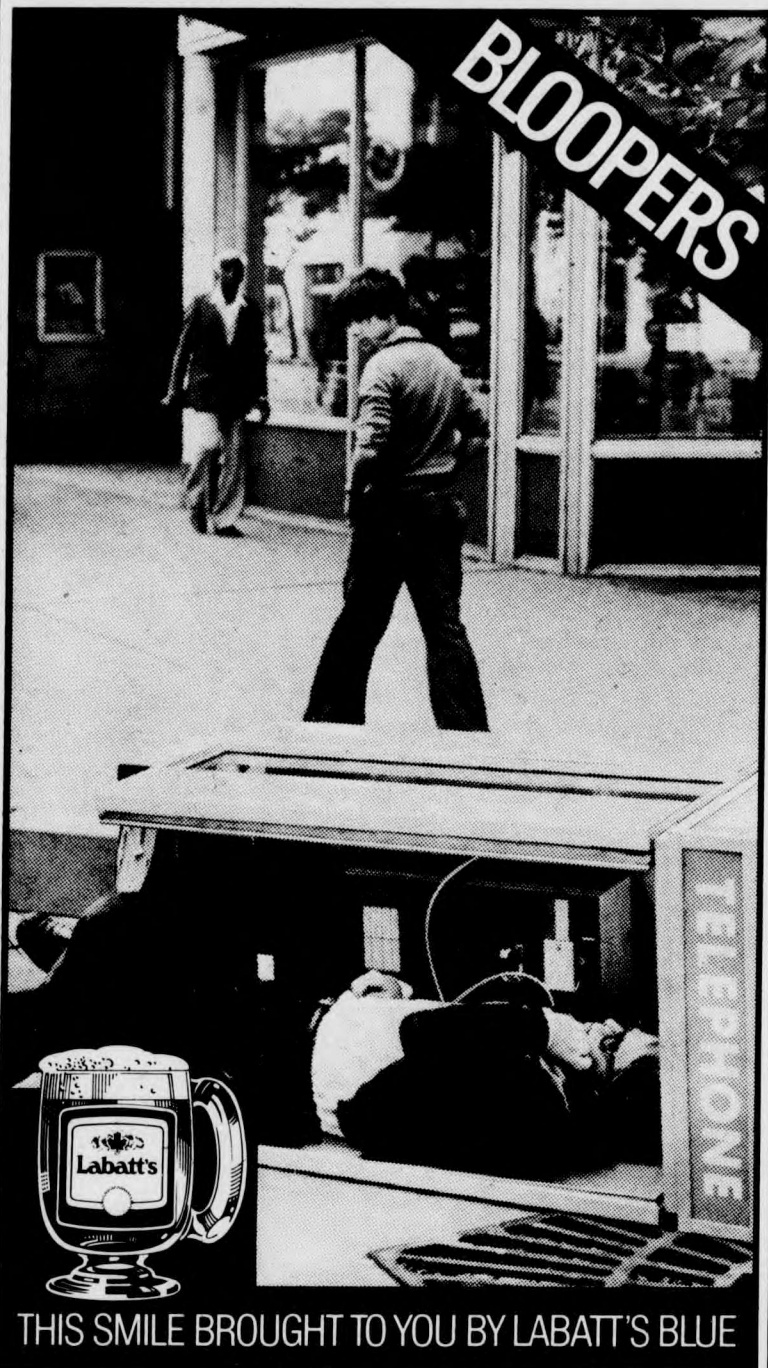
This was the first time a York union received almost full support from the York community. Talk was initiated, people were reading the union's constant barrage of leaflets and class size ceilings for tutorials seemed like an attainable goal.

Bill Farr, Vice President in charge of Employee and Student Relations, spoke for the administration when he remarked, "what I couldn't move on was ceilings." Farr claims that the university achieved

their bargaining aims. This appears to be true. As far as the administration is concerned, ceilings are a non-issue. And while we may hope that the committee will achieve some concrete solutions, we won't ask the student body to hold its collective breath.

Instead, students still should be writing to their representatives in the legislature and should still be speaking out against the consistent underfunding of post-secondary education in Ontario.

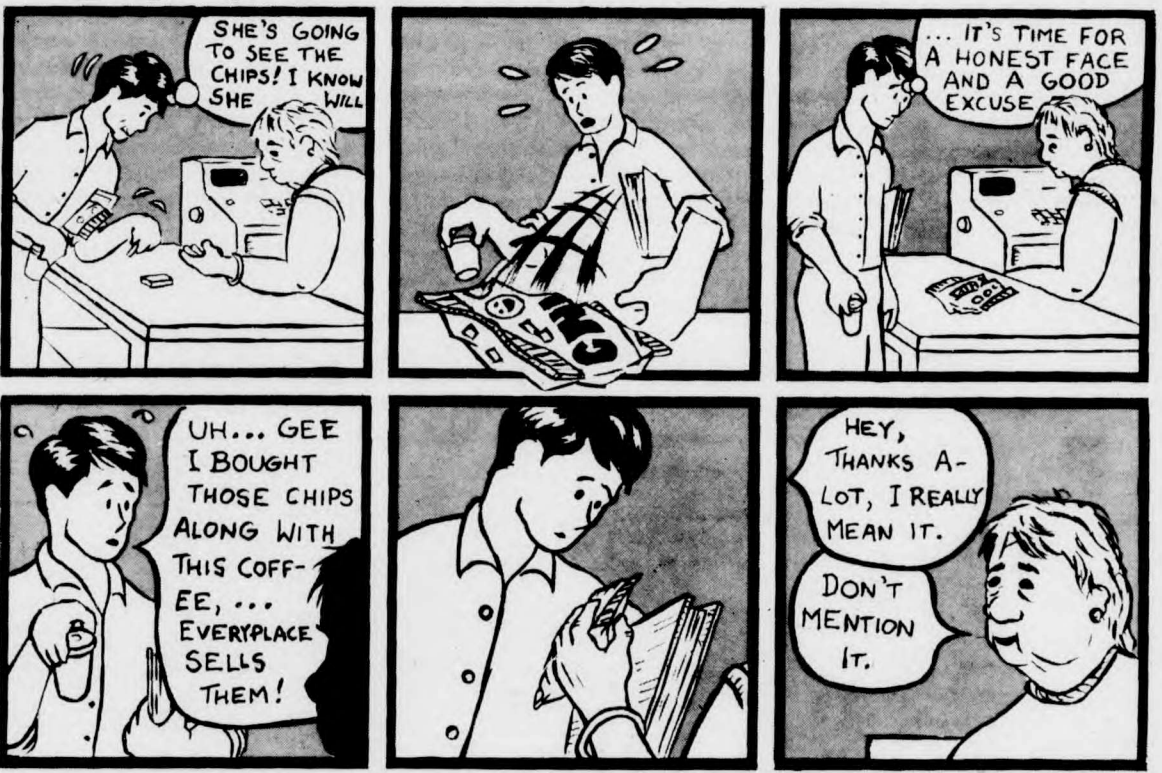
Perhaps students were wrong to put the burden of the enormous issue of class sizes on the shoulders of the young union. Towards the end of this strike students were beginning to ease this burden and that is what they should continue to do. If this strike has shown one thing, it is that students must depend on themselves to defend their own interests.



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