

University is misleading public on strike situation

Now entering its third week, YUSA's strike has literally been reduced to a game of "tit-for-tat." Hard-nose bargaining has been replaced by a constant exchange of political rhetoric as each side scrambles to convince students of its good faith in negotiations. In reality, this embittered dialogue exaggerates the present divisions between the two parties and undermines any good will that existed earlier in the talks. With issues standing as they are, there is no foreseeable reason by the strike should not be settled by the weekend. Then again, recent tactics being employed by both sides, and especially the university, could easily delay the strike for another week.

The build-up of rhetoric really began with the administration's Thursday bulletin following last Wednesday's negotiations. In all fairness, the administration had good reason to be annoyed with the union's inability to table a full counter-proposal by late Wednesday afternoon. Murray Lapp, mediator in the talks, acknowledged that he informed both parties well in advance about his plans which would make him unavailable from Thursday until Tuesday. Certainly, YUSA should have felt compelled to table a response to the administration in order to continue talks under these circumstances. But in the union's view, the administration has often delayed in responding to its proposals in the past, especially earlier in negotiations where a strike may have been avoided had the university tabled a comprehensive proposal well before September 30.

Unfortunately, the administration's handling of the impasse last week was even worse. After circulating its bulletin, the administration published its statement in a *Toronto Star* ad, costing the university \$5,281.91. The ad is highlighted by a bold quote which states: "The decision by the union to delay mediation adds a full week to this strike. York University has asked the mediator to reconvene talks this weekend to end the strike." How could they do so, knowing very well that the mediator was unavailable? While the statement does not explicitly state that it was the union which requested a hiatus until Tuesday, it is most definitely inferred.

The university defends the ad by explaining that reporting on the strike centred on its effects and ignored the issues. Had the administration excluded this misleading statement and stuck to the issues, this contention might be defensible. Yet, the ad seems to serve a much larger purpose as propaganda for the administration's position. Public grandstanding has nothing to do with resolving conflicts. Negotiations must be undertaken behind closed doors. The administration should have resisted distorting YUSA's failure to table a proposal, and blaming them for the week delay. The union could hardly afford such valuable negotiating time. And ironically, the administration seemed to be able to bear such an expense, while they often refuse to allow Glendon College an ad in French newspapers in order to advertise to bilingual personnel. According to the university, they're short on cash.

Instead of unproductive public gestures, parties should be concentrating on arriving at creative solutions for settling the strike. Already, half-courses are in jeopardy and the Ministry of Colleges and Universities require figures from the accounting department before it can forward York's grant.

Most important, students are still being denied essential services in order to carry out their studies. To alleviate this problem, union officials could have worked out a system of rotating strikes to open up the library and even the bookstore on a limited basis throughout the strike. Union officials claim this would undermine their support. Most likely, though, this would galvanize student support for YUSA as they would be seeing a flexible union, genuinely concerned with their welfare.

And the misleading dialogue continues. In the latest bulletin, the administration contends that the union had lowered its salary demand "somewhat from the previous 9% plus 9%."

In fact the administration offer now stands at 6.3% for both years, while the union has lowered its demand to a 6.5% increase plus an annual \$200 bonus for both years. And the union rightfully persists in their demand that the administration must make the current job evaluation system grievable, so that salary discrepancies within the university's levels of employment can be addressed. Yet the administration for unspecified reasons seems unwilling to give in on this reasonable request.

What had started out as a non-wage dispute now centres on minimal divisions on salaries and so the strike lingers on with a settlement almost in sight. It's time for the university and union to stop all needless delays and rhetoric and end the strike. Students have been inconvenienced long enough and no one feels like writing exams under a hot June summer sun.



Master Lanphier keeps his plans for Mac Student Council close to the vest

LETTERS

We will publish, space permitting, letters under 250 words. They must be typed, triple-spaced, accompanied by writer's name and phone number. We may edit for length. Libellous material will be rejected. Deliver to 111 Central Square during business hours.

Master responds to Beach's letter

Editor,

With the same cloud of obfuscation which Howard Beach has enshrouded McLaughlin College Student Council, he has attempted to mislead readers of *Excalibur*. Fortunately, neither McLaughlin College students nor your readership can be that easily swayed.

Contrary to Beach's allegations, an Advisory Council was formed after two months of meetings with members of the McLaughlin College Student Council. As Master, I could obtain neither an up-to-date financial accounting nor even an indication of when same might be available. Official account print-outs were registering an outstanding Student Council debt of some \$13,000. Council minutes to account for authorizations of expenditures cannot be found. This from the "administration" of Council's activities, then headed by Beach!

In short, there has been no attention under Beach's administration to the very kinds of careful husbanding of resources required for a budget in excess of \$50,000! And instead of taking restorative action to regularize Council activities, Beach chooses to inform your readers that tardiness of an audit is nothing unusual. He appears indifferent to the principles of proper management.

In light of the apparent inability of Student Council under Beach's direction to deal immediately and effectively with fiscal urgencies, the Advisory Council, composed of McLaughlin College fellows, alumni and students, is the best course to re-establish responsibility with Council. The sooner Beach realizes his obligation to Council and to the student body of McLaughlin College, the more quickly will the Advisory Council's work be accomplished. This administrative action, traceable to Beach's own errors, may be difficult for Beach to accept. Yet

his own actions have reflected discredit upon Student Council and College. The McLaughlin College student body deserves better.

—Michael Lanphier
Master, McLaughlin College

Founders to hold debate on Accord

Editor:

I wish to commend you on the recent series that you published on the Meech Lake Constitutional Accord. Each of the interviews presented very interesting interpretations about the possible effects to the fundamental law of Canada.

In light of this the York University Liberal Association will be sponsoring a debate on the Accord. Debaters will include Deborah Coyne from the Canadian Coalition on the Constitution and a Professor at U of T Law School and Professor Donald Smiley, Professor of Political Science at York. It will be held on Wednesday October 21, at 106 Founders College at 4:00 p.m. Liberal and Non-Liberal are invited as this is an issue that transcends partisanship.

Unfortunately, the two other major political parties are unwilling to discuss this and are treating it as if it were unimportant. The Liberal party has many differing points of view on the issue and we recognise that all aspects of it must be addressed before we can ratify it.

I encourage all of you to attend this event, if you are at all concerned or have any questions about possible interpretations of this document that may change the course of Canadian history. Once again, *Excalibur*, congratulations on a job well done!

Tony Genco
President, York University Liberal Association

Student fed up with staff strike

Dear Editor:

I am writing because I have reached

my level of patience. I am sick and tired of all the strikes here at York. I hold the people on the line responsible. Here are my reasons. I am sorry if I get anyone upset:

1. Your pay for instance. At my present job, at a well known company, I would get only 17,000 dollars if I worked full-time. That is less than your lowest paid person gets.
2. You complain about your backs; well, I work 7½ hours at a computer and I feel that if it bothers me too much, I will get another job.
3. You want your own computer room for training. What about us students? I took a Computer Cartography course last year and ended up having little available time on a computer because five to six classes were using, I could be wrong, 15 computers. Considering my class alone had about 45 students imagine the amount of students that had to use the same computers.
4. Anytime the Ontario government increases funding to keep up with the costs or the University finds a way of raising money to increase the amount of classroom space (since there are 40,000 students trying to learn in a place meant to hold only 20,000 students) you and the other Unions take it away from us.

Where do the students fit in? Go back to work. Be thankful you have a job. I paid to learn. I want the education I broke my back in the summer to pay for.

Mary Mullen

Student lauds Drew's spirit

Dear Excalibur,

Politics is a dirty game. If you run for an office pledging change, you are met with opposition once attaining that office. If you try to do some good for the people you represent, your ideas can still get lost in the complex system. There will always seem to be someone to point out negatives when the positives are in abundance. For those elected it can be frustrating. For those represented

cont'd on page 5

EXCALIBUR

Editor	James Flagal
Production Manager	Kevin Connolly
Arts Editors	Adam Kardash, Jennifer Parsons
News Editors	David Dollard, Deborah Dundas, Jeff Shinder
Sports Editors	The Jim Hoggett Brothers
Features Editor	Zena McBride
Photo Editor	Babak Amirfeiz
Mascot	Ryan McBride
Staff	David Ackerman, Darren Alexander, Pat Anderson, Dave Baas, Stacey Beauchamp, Sujata Berry, Gary Blakeley, Christine Bouchard (see "Heather Sangster"), Richard Burdett, Lidia Miranda Cabral, Angela Catallo, Michelle Cheung, Len Cler-Cunningham, Paul Conroy, Blair E. Cosgrove, Jennifer Crane, Peter B. Cronsberry, Hasnain Dattu, Ron "Legs" Diamond, Mark Eklove, Dr. Lorne Foster, Anna "M.I.A." Garibotti, Dave Gershkovitch, Karen Goughly (and carry a big stick), Christine Gomes, Karim "Conflict of Interests, what Conflict of Interests?" Hajee, Russ Hoffman, Clark Hoskin, Ron Howe (-erd), Mark Hunter, Pierre Imlay, <i>Congratulations to Mary Jankulak</i> , Farah S. Jamal-Majors, Ken "Kabuki" Keobke, Lorne Manly, Gary H. Marr, John Mazzilli, Amy Menon, Montreal Jubilation Gospel Choir, Lisa Olsen, Joanne Oud, "Tim" O. Riordan, Pete Peng, Lisa Penn, Nancy Phillips, Mario Pietrangelo, Laura Pratt, Michael Redhill, Tracey Reid Irvine, Lisa-Lisa Roosen-Runge, Heather Sangster (see "Christine Bouchard"), Lee Schnaiberg, Lisa Snoddon, Steve "Boys of" Somer, Andrew Sun, Vince Torreiri, Gary Verrinder, Steve Wise, Wyndham Wise, Meiyin Yap, Kaan Yigit
Board of Publications Chairperson	Brigitta Schmid
Advertising Assistant	Patty Milton-Feasby
Johnny Typesetting	Stuart Ross
Typesetting Assistant	Linda Fogazzi
Mr. Distribution	Graham Thompson
Advertising Manager	Merle Menzies

EDITORIAL: 736-5239
TYPESETTING: 736-5240
ADVERTISING: 736-5238

MAILING ADDRESS:
Room 111, Central Square
York University
4700 Keele Street
Downsview M3J 1P3