

Editorial

CYSF must act to avert strikes

October 7 was the best of times and the worst of times for York University. For the first time in 12 years a new academic building was opened. And for the first time in York's 25 year history, full-time faculty went on strike.

YUFA claims that the Administration is spending money which they say is rightfully theirs on buildings. The new Life Sciences and Environmental Studies Building, for example. This building will alleviate about 11 percent of York's current space shortage, which is the second worst in the province.

It will house the faculties of Science and Environmental Studies and provide 16,000 square feet for research laboratories.

Environmental Studies used to be on the fifth floor of the Scott Library, where a \$500,000 project is now underway to upgrade library facilities.

We doubt that faculty and librarians enjoying the new facilities are complaining about them. By making 'people or buildings' a main issue, the YUFA bargaining committee made a big mistake and has stretched its credibility to the limit.

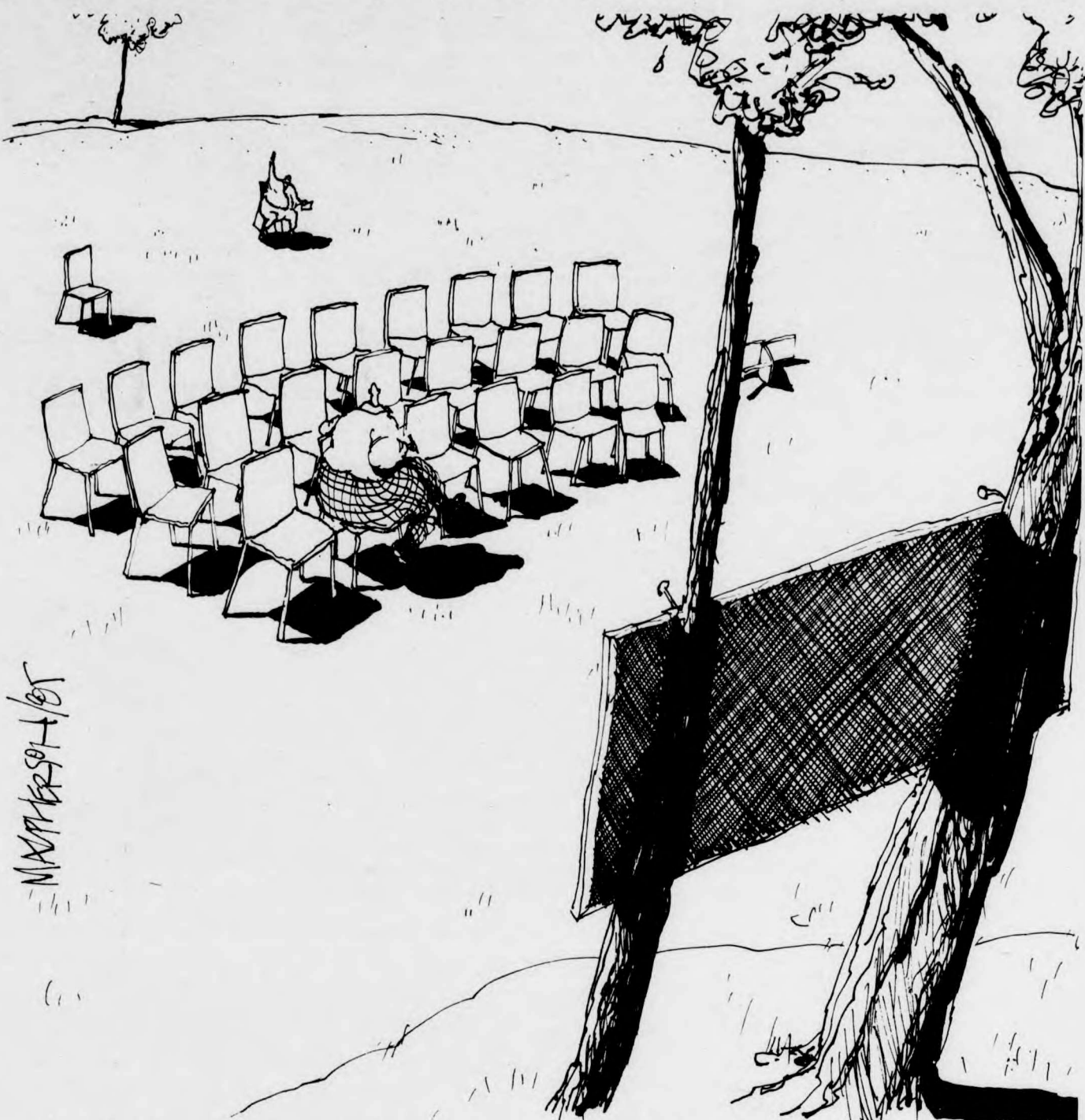
True, YUFA's mistrust of the Administration is based on a history of strike-baiting and brinkmanship. However, this year the Administration's offer is reasonable.

There was hope that with the help of President Arthurs' expertise in labor law a strike would have been averted. Apparently the animosity that has built up between the Administration and YUFA over the years is a bigger problem than the issues themselves.

The Peterson government's recognition of the problem of underfunding in Ontario's universities may signal the beginnings of a solution. But it's clear that the whole process of collective bargaining at York is in dire need of review.

CYSF's predictable fence-sitting once again makes it unlikely that students will have an effective voice during this conflict.

Students don't want their education interrupted every year, and they want to do something about it. Hopefully the CYSF will recognize its present ineffectiveness and learn how to wield student clout. And if a strike situation occurs again, CYSF should take a stand, and do its best to ensure that the disruption won't last long.



ADMINISTRATION RECANTS AND PUTS STUDENTS FIRST.

Letters

Reader has flanked both sides of fence and is peeved

Editor:

Re: Reader peeved over campus queues (Sept. 26/85).

As a former college student and now as a member of the Financial Aid Office I have been on both sides of the fence. I know as a student how frustrating it can be to stand in line for ages to enroll for courses only to find that when you get to the front of the line the courses you want are filled.

I also know how frustrating it is for me, as a staff member, to have to send a student away because he/she did not come with the required papers. It is a well known fact, and I have had several students admit as much to me, that students do not read. On numerous occasions students have stood in line needlessly simply because they did not take the time to read the information available which would have equipped them to properly complete the necessary paperwork.

Regarding Mr. Heilig's remarks about extended office hours, the Financial Aid Office was indeed open every Thursday evening until 7:00 p.m. from the week of August 19 to the week of September 23, 1985.

Secondly, our office handed out loan documents two weeks earlier than last year which cut down on the line-ups and length of time students had to stand in line. I feel reasonably confident that no student stood in line for three hours, which brings me to comment that I found it most intriguing to read that Mr. Heilig had stood in line for three hours to pick up his OSAP, when he is fully aware that his OSAP has not yet arrived.

Finally, I take exception to Mr. Heilig's comments about coffee breaks and

the alleged interview that took place.

Our counter was manned at all times by no less than two members of our staff, and at extremely peak times three to four members, as well as a representative from Student Accounts, a procedure which eradicated the need to again stand in line at Accounts.

Our staff members are not constantly on coffee breaks as was implied by Mr. Heilig. We are allowed two 15 minute breaks each day (under the collective agreement) and I invite Mr. Heilig to stand on his feet for seven hours a day, signing documents and sorting out student problems during extremely busy times without taking some sort of relief.

I have been sworn at, whined at and on occasion threatened. On the other hand, and these are the students that make the difference, I have had students thank me and compliment the staff as a whole because "every year it gets better."

We try our best to help all students, and if there is a serious problem we got out of our way to accommodate these students.

We are in the process of expanding and are constantly making changes that we feel will benefit the students. This year we introduced a new filing system as well as a new computer system and more changes are already in the works, changes that we feel will make next year even better.

Susan Foster
Enquiries Clerk
Financial Aid

Holy chiropteran! exclaimed youthful ward Dick Grayson

Editor:

I happened to be sitting with my friend Dick last week. We were glancing at the last issue of *Excalibur* over yogurt and granola when Dick exclaimed "Holy

Patagium!" My curiosity having been aroused, I leaned over the table, careful not to spill any yogurt. Dick showed me the two articles that had caught his eye, they pertained to bats.

It was with great interest that we swiftly ingurgitated the two articles. Bats being much maligned creatures, we were not expecting two articles which outlined the prowess of these furry friends of man. After all these diphyletic (probably) mammals rid us of very many pests.

Angela's simple almost childlike narrative brought to mind the wonder and awe characteristic of the best Dr. Zeuss stories. This "raconteur" style is lost to most science authors. Gisele's conscience and most scientific style was, to say the least, informative.

In short the two articles capture the Gestalt essential to dispelling the pernicious myths and fallacies spread by illiterates. Dick Grayson and I take off our hats to these champions of truth and chiropterans.

—Yves Deschenes

Reader still angry with wedding bell tenureships

Editor:

Response to my earlier appeal for disclosures and airing of circumstances underlying the election of spouses or close relatives of York faculty to tenured teaching positions at this university has not been forthcoming. (*Excalibur* Vol 20, Issue 7).

I infer, therefore, that at least two faculty teachers of the York/Glendon Chemistry Department were hired through acts of blatant nepotism and not by the expected and just process of open competition. The university's silence persuades me to repose the issue:

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