

Union membership angered by university "pressure tactic"

Doug Whittall

A memo circulated by the Department of Student Programmes has angered the York University Faculty Association membership and has contributed to tensions surrounding current contract negotiations between the Union and the Administration.

The bulletin "proposal" requests those professors who teach courses without final examinations submit their final grades before the deadline imposed by University regulations because "the increased volume of grades to be processed in the spring has placed an increasing burden on the Data Entry section of the of Computer Services." The memo also asks "that grade cards for courses be submitted on a bi-weekly basis during the weeks of April 19th and April 26th."

Negotiations between the administration and the Union have stalled and the union is waiting for their contract to expire on April 30. At that time, the union will be in a legal position to withhold grades as a form of job action. The memorandum is seen by the membership as an attempt to undermine their strike powers.

YUFA chairperson, Howard Buchbinder said the memo was brought up at a general membership meeting last Thursday. According to

Buchbinder, the motivation behind the bulletin struck the membership as being a pressure tactic by the Administration.

"There was a lot of anger expressed," says Buchbinder. "The University is throwing academic procedures out the window to serve administrative convenience." The union also regards the memo as an attempt to exercise administrative power in negotiations.

In response, Vice-President of Employee and Student Relations, Bill Farr explained, "the memo arose from complications with respect to processing

grades." When asked if the memo was intended to undermine the union's strike powers, Farr laughed and said, "No, I don't think we're smart enough to think of the memorandum as a labor relations ploy. It has no labour relations motivation, so I don't believe it will have a mitigating effect."

No matter the intention, the memo has generated a lot of interest within YUFA. "The membership has responded enthusiastically", says Buchbinder. "It certainly raises a lot of questions."

A foot-stomping battle

Mike Guy

Security officers were called to the Vanier residence common room last Friday to break-up a fight that erupted during an end-of-the-year party.

Residence tutor David Thompson said the scuffle, which caused damage to an electronic key board, started when one of the students stepped on the other's foot.

He added, "The two students involved in the fight will not be punished, because one is not a member of Vanier College and the other, who is, was just defending himself....The fight was really a minor thing."

With regards to compensation for the key board's owner,

Thompson said, "In my opinion the University has no financial responsibility."

Calling it "a messy situation", George Dunn, Director of Safety and Security Services, stated that his security officers found "broken beer bottles, damaged furniture and two telephone receivers that were ripped off of the elevator walls."

Thompson, however, says, "I disagree with any statement that the vandalism was a direct result of the residence party. Vandalism is a result of the actions by ass-holes."

He points out, "They did not serve any beer. Instead they served draft in plastic cups."



Mike Albu

McCormack displeased with pornography film

Laurie Kruk

Thelma McCormack, Chairperson of York's Sociology department is sorry her name is included in the credits of the controversial film *Not a Love Story: A Film About Pornography*.

McCormack, a dedicated feminist, recalls her contribution to the National Film Board documentary which has been banned by the Ontario Censor Board.

"Bonnie Klein, the filmmaker, and Dorothy Henaut, the producer, came to see me for some background when they were in the planning stages, and so I gave them my social theories on the subject of pornography."

But in the finished film, there was no intelligent discussion of this at all. They simply used shock for shock value. There were scattered comments from some feminists in it, but they were all American feminists.

That's the other point I don't like about it: it was a Canadian film, and yet they cut out all the Canadian content. Instead, we see American feminists and American pornography. Besides the fact that it is a Canadian film, I find that using American content distances the whole problem of pornography from Canadians, and turns the production into voyeurism. To me, it is not a feminist film. It shows you pornography through the eyes of two women; one, a stripper, and one a proper middle-class matron. There's the old whore and madonna separation emerging again; a male myth. I don't think *Not a Love Story* applies any interpretation to the question of pornography. McCormack has had many, many articles and book reviews published, and is editor of a series called *Culture, Code and Content Analysis*, (Vol. II of *Studies in Communication*). Born in the United States, McCormack grew up listening to the CBC and married a Canadian graduate student at Columbia University, where she completed her Ph.D. in Sociology. Her husband's career brought her to Montreal and then to Toronto, where she joined the fledgling university growing out of U. of T., called York.

In the summer of 1981, she finally became a Canadian citizen, and here she has been ever since, teaching sociology at York. "I arrived when Steeles street was full of pot-holes and we had to keep our files in the back of our cars for lack of offices."

Right away, McCormack jumped into university life, serving on the Advisory Council on the Status of Women. She is very pleased with their report on Sexual Harassment, calling it a "major report"

Archives get world-wide recognition

Mike Guy

York Archivist, Harwell Bowsfield was mildly astonished several years ago when writer Charles Hardwick, Vice-President of Texas Tech university, wrote asking for copies of letters from the Welby collection. But last week, when West German professor Walter Schmitz from the University of Bonn crossed the Atlantic ocean to study the

same collection, Bowsfield was flabbergasted.

Bowsfield feels that the "Archive is more popular in Europe and the U.S. than on campus." He doesn't know the reason for its foreign acceptance, but he hopes that York's faculty and students will "realize that they have a collection of writings from novelist Margaret Lawrence, to

poet Billy Bisset, the late Dean of Atkinson College, Harry Crowe, who died last summer, and many others."

Schmitz, a professor of semiotics — how people communicate — was in Texas when he read Hardwick's *Correspondence Between Charles Peirce and Lady Victoria Welby*. Welby renowned for her work in the field of semiotics, and the god-daughter of Queen Victoria, had no formal education, but through her travels to South America, Africa, Asia, and Europe learned much about linguistics, a subject which few philosophers or theologians discussed, at the turn of the century.

Because few professionals studied linguistics, Lady Welby wrote many letters, essays, and books on the subject. According to Schmitz, "Her first book *Significs and Language*, written in 1911, called semiotics to the attention of many scholars, especially the British." Schmitz plans to write a book on semiotics in the future, but at present he requires the information for knowledge sake.

He added that upon reading Hardwick's book he was taken aback to see that the Welby collection was in Canada at York University. He has always "assumed that it was in England."

Bowsfield, who has been with the archives since 1970, says that York bought the collection from Lady Welby's grandson, the late Sir Oliver Welby ten years ago. He encourages students and professors to utilize the various collections of papers within the archives from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. but not to take them out.



James Carlisle

North says elections were fraudulent

Observers are ignorant of history

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large crowds around polling places showed the extent of popular support for the Salvadorean elections, but, said Dr. North, "there were only ten or twelve polling stations in San Salvador, the largest city. In previous elections there were about 200." She went on to list many population centres which had no polling stations at all.

The York professor attributes much of the confusion and susceptibility to propaganda found in foreign observers to their ignorance of the history of

the conflict. Background information cannot be found in daily newspapers or news reports, she believes. In order to provide this necessary background, Dr. North recently wrote *Bitter Grounds: Roots of Revolt in El Salvador* a book which the *Globe and Mail* has called, "a cogent analysis of the political and economic forces at work in El Salvador." Dr. North has decided that the revolutionary cause is just. She stated, however, that she tried to make *Bitter Grounds* as objective as possible so that readers could draw their own conclusions.

Summer help wanted

Janis Rosen

Summer jobs are not easy to find and most students discover that part-time work related to their studies is even scarcer. York psychology students, however, can turn to their course union, *Synapse*.

Carol Hordalt, co-chairperson of *Synapse*, says that the organization, aware of the difficulty in finding psychology-related posts, established the Summer Work Experience Psychology programme two years ago. Founded by Andrew Barker, the referral-service is now directed by Issabell Fehr and Les Karivanas and involves the mailing of letters of enquiry to business, industries, community services, social services and government ministries.

This year 1,000 letters have been sent and the replies are just starting to come in. Some of the jobs involve volunteer work with Children's Aid, halfway houses and welfare projects, while

business and industries offer paid research positions. The replies are posted on the *Synapse* bulletin board, located in the Behavioural Science Building, Room 249. Hordalt adds that the jobs are not restricted to psychology students.

SWEP is not the only programme that *Synapse* offers. The main goal of *Synapse* is to provide guidance for the undergraduate psychology students. It also tries to provide a link between students and faculty members. In December, it organized a student-faculty party and Professor H.I. Day was scheduled to have spoken last week on the York-Seneca Rehabilitation programme.

Synapse also offers the use of study notes, text books, grad calendars and help with course selection. It is run by undergraduate volunteers and Hordalt stressed the need for more help for a service that "tries to do something other than just provide a social club."