

5 per cent gap

(cont'd from 1)

"Bargaining went on for three months strenuously," said President MacDonald to the student rally earlier Tuesday, "which means two sides fighting very hard for the positions they believe they have a responsibility to stand for. Now the University feels it has the flexibility it needs and YUSA feels it has the security it needs."

The two sides are still separated by a gap of five per cent on wages—after YUSA lowered their demand to nine per cent while the university stuck to its offer of four per cent. With President MacDonald saying he "recognizes the seriousness of not keeping up with the cost of living", students can only hope that a fair settlement will be reached.

In other developments in the strike, all Atkinson evening classes were "rescheduled" this week, after Dean Margaret Knittl realized that "it looked as though 75 per cent of our classes would not be met this week for a variety of reasons—conscientious objection to crossing picket lines, and because the resources available were so inadequate without the normal access to the library and bookstore. We felt this was academically preferable."

Dean Knittl meets with her department chairman on Thursday to decide whether to possibly extend the "rescheduling" next week.

• The Osgoode Legal and Literary Society are researching

the possibility of launching a representative class action suit against the university. The suit would claim a portion of tuition fees be returned to students for the university failing to provide educational services.

• Despite MacDonald's assurances that "Glendon College is alive and well and living at the corner of Bayview and Lawrence", grim circumstances loomed for students there deprived of their OSAP grants by the strike. The single entrance to the campus was apparently well-blocked, preventing food and linen deliveries, and promising inconvenience to residence students there. An estimated two-thirds of Glendon classes have been cancelled.

• The main campus bookstore opened last Thursday evening from 5 to 9 o'clock employing non-union workers. A picket line protesting the "scab" labour was thrown up by York students supporting the strike, and the bookstore had not re-opened at press time. Manager Rafael Barreto-Rivera said "We perceived the need for people to get books. I suspect most students would want the bookstore opened, but at the moment it would seem foolish, when I think of the potential violence that is involved."

• The campus CUPE local of maintenance and cleaning staff donated \$1,000 to a strike fund for the YUSA workers.

Rally on sidewalk



Cassidy and Sweeney confer at Thursday's rally.

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He at first pointed out that Ontario's support for post-secondary education has been steadily declining since 1970. This province is now number nine or number 10 in support of post-secondary education, in proportion to every other province in Canada," he said.

The whole question of quality in the education system is declining, Sweeney told the crowd. Although he agreed that no institution can run without a good, solid support staff, he said the staff is only one of many areas where quality is declining.

"But that 5.8% increase to universities is only in government grants, and when you take the total source of incomes, the universities in Ontario are in fact only getting an increase of 4.2%," Sweeney said.

Sweeney also mentioned that grants from business corporations have declined from 37 per cent to 26 per cent in the last two years.

"This is where the problem is," Sweeney said, "The whole mood is that maybe the system isn't worth supporting anymore. The government doesn't think it's worth supporting and a large proportion of the public doesn't seem to be very sure."

His final comments were not well received by the crowd. Sweeney told the strikers, "I personally think it would be more productive if all students, faculty and staff got together and worked with the administration... from a deliberate financial point of view,

I'm sure if the administration had the money they'd share it with you."

The minister of colleges and universities, Bette Stephenson, had also agreed to speak at the forum but she refused to attend the roadside gathering. According to Dr. Stephenson's executive assistant, Rick Donaldson, the minister had been prepared to meet the students in any building on campus, but did not think it was appropriate to do so on the sidewalk of Steeles Ave.

Councils (cont'd from 1)

Last Friday, Winters college council president and a signer of the statement, Barb Taylor was asked for a personal assessment of how students were reacting. She replied:

"It is becoming an angry reaction. They're thinking YUSA is entirely to blame when they can't go to class because their profs aren't coming, or when they can't get books.

"They're blaming it on the picketers. To some extent the blame does lie there, but it also lies with the administration and Queen's Park."

Speller said the group of leaders had taken a position of "third-party objectivity" on the strike, because "we realize that the funding base of the university from the provincial government is smaller, and that's not entirely the fault of the administration."

GAA

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Thur. Sept. 28. 4 p.m.
Curtis Lecture Hall "B"

Important. Please attend.

In the event of a YUSA strike continuing, the meeting will be held at Driftwood Public School (auditorium) East of Stong Cr. from Jane Street. North of Finch Ave.

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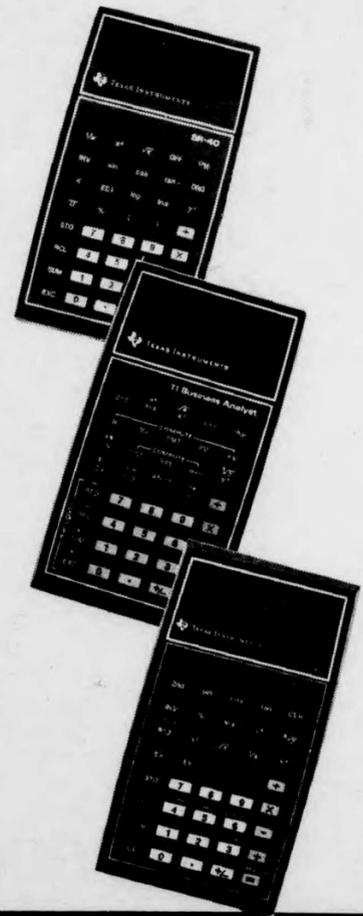
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