

Social Change 359

Atkinson class study recruits 80 workers

By JOE MORIN

The students of Atkinson's Social Change 359 saw their year's work come together in a workshop recently.

Last term they decided they would try to attract more representatives of the working class community to York. They set out to determine what are the things which keep workers away from university and try to overcome these barriers.

These 11 energetic founders of the organization AWAKE (Advance With Atkinson's Kind of Education) set a target of 50 prospective students but were able to attract

approximately 80.

The March 17 workshop was designed to brief their recruits on what lies ahead of them.

Dr. Jack Brown of counselling services explained the criteria for admission to the college, the admission procedure and finally what the students could hope to gain from the Atkinson courses.

Later, class members led smaller discussions on transportation arrangements, co-op daycare facilities and financial assistance. Other question areas included such things as what to expect at a lecture, enrolling in a disagreeable class, the cost of books, and recreational facilities.

A spokesperson for the group, Joyce Williams felt that the meeting was successful. She commented: "Judging from the questions asked in the small discussion groups, I expect 70 per cent of the group to submit their applications within the next couple of weeks."

Art Dean, a representative from the United Steel Workers Education

Committee commented: "This is what our workers need. Many of our boys return from the labour colleges with high aspirations but there are few places where they can go to fulfill these aspirations."

Shortly before the meeting terminated, a small group of 10 volunteers from the AWAKE target group assembled to institutionalize a pressure group (similar to AWAKE) for the purpose of continuing with a social action program for future

terms.

To decide what factors affected workers' decision not to come to university, the group circulated questionnaires in Ontario housing projects: Flemington Park and Lawrence Heights.

They found that the four main factors were financial (the money invested did not seem worth it in the long run), the fear of people with little educational background taking entrance examinations (these have

been abandoned by Atkinson college council), transportation, and the need for daycare.

The final question allowed people to express an interest in learning about university and to leave a phone number. These people were later contacted and informed of the workshop.

But the majority of people at the workshop learned about AWAKE through a column by Helen Worthington in The Toronto Star.

Jailings over Dare strike

WATERLOO (CUP) — Five striking Dare Foods plant workers have been sentenced to jail in Kitchener and another received a suspended sentence March 7.

The men were convicted late last year of criminal contempt for contravening a company injunction forbidding picketers from interfering with people and trucks entering and leaving the plant and limiting the number of picketers at each entrance.

Lou Dautner, international representative of local 173 of the United Brewery Workers and Andrew Diamond, the union's plant chairman on the company bargaining unit and chief picket captain for the strike, were sentenced to a stiff 60 days in jail. Both men are also members of a negotiating team.

Wayn Zettler and Paul Pugh received 30 days each and Tom Scott and John Horne, 10 days each. Horne's sentence was suspended because of serious medical problems in his family.

The stiff sentences, which may be appealed, were not anticipated. The most any of the accused expected to receive was 30 days.



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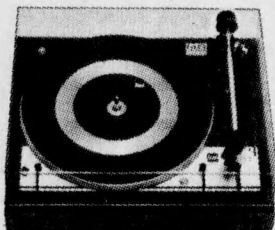
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