

Strike may be looming for part-timers, TAs

by Pat Micelli

York's part-time faculty and teaching assistants' union will decide whether to strike next week, after three months of contract negotiations.

"The only way to get progress was to move to a strike vote," local president and chief negotiator Margaret Watson said Sunday.

Student federation council members voted unanimously last week to support the Canadian Union of Educational Workers in the event of a strike.

York Federation of Students president Nikki Gershain said students and union members have similar concerns.

"The issues that CUEW bargains for are issues that, if successful, will improve conditions for students on campus," said Gershain in an interview last week.

The decision will allow the federation executive to officially join union members on the picket lines, encourage students not to cross the lines and instructors not to hold classes, explained Gershain.

If there is a strike, buses will not enter campus grounds, and some faculty may choose to cancel classes. The Senate, York's central academic body, may decide soon if students will be penalized for not attending classes.

Senate guaranteed students choosing not to cross CUEW picket lines during a 1984 strike would escape academic penalties.

"I think people are pretty angry. They know if they don't stand up to the administration this time, it'll get worse next year," said Watson when asked about the likelihood of the union striking.

However, she added the same day



Canadian Union of Education Workers representative Sharon Davidson unveils a banner which promotes the union's bargaining positions. It reads "Courses = Jobs." • Photo by Rose-Ann Bailey

the strike vote date was set. University negotiator Paula O'Reilly asked to meet with the union to consider a new offer.

"They seemed hopeful they have something to offer us," said Watson.

O'Reilly was not available for comment. The meeting was still taking place at press time.

Watson said talks have been stalled by the university's concession demands. "Concessions are still on the table and there's been no progress on

any other issues," Watson added.

While the union is also negotiating for decreased class sizes, telephones in private offices, job security, more representation on Senate, and a 5 per cent salary increase, Watson said they've been defending past gains.

The university is offering a 1.5 per cent wage increase and is demanding a shorter hiring process for part-time faculty positions, a \$2,000 pay cut for Education in-service

course directors. It is also asking for a suspension of the full-time conversion program, in which the university guarantees full-time positions for a quota of part-time professors.

The union is also demanding a tuition freeze for its teaching assistants, who are almost all graduate students. Graduate tuition rose 11 per cent this year, and union officials are convinced York will follow other universities and raise post-residency tuition by over 100 per cent.

Salutin takes a few pokes at 'movement' men

by Excalibur staff

The 1990s women's movement appears to have a new set of problems and one of these is the men's movement, according to Canadian author and journalist Rick Salutin.

"Feminism is the most challenging public force since the international socialist movement," Salutin said during a lecture at Osgoode Hall two weeks ago.

"It reintroduces us to ourselves and therefore changes our view of the world."

Unlike the international scope of feminism the men's movement is small and fractured into two distinct parts: those who accept men as oppressors of women, and those who don't.

Salutin said the first group of well-intentioned "pro-feminists" are causing problems in the women's movement, and women should be as wary of their friends as their enemies. The donations now sent to men's groups and their assumption of a leadership role in feminism are examples of a trend, he said.

Wondering why these men even feel a need to be a part of the women's movement, Salutin concluded it came from a sense of guilt and a need to draw attention to themselves.

Volunteers at the York Women's Centre feel that there is definitely a place for men in the fight against violence.

"It is really important for men to get involved, but you have to be skeptical whenever men claim to be feminists," said centre volunteer Kathryn Boyd.

"Last year lots of men on campus were wearing the white ribbons, but only two showed up at the campaign meeting," Boyd said.

The Toronto-based, White Ribbon Campaign was started by men as a reaction to the Montreal massacre of December, 1989. Organizers encourage men to wear white ribbons in a show of sympathy for the fourteen women who were killed.

Deal with it

Nancy Mandell, coordinator of the York Women's Studies program, agreed that there is a role for men in the fight against violence. Feminism has redefined men's and women's roles and is causing a lot of confusion, she added in an interview this week.

"Men have to start realizing that [feminism] is a good thing, not a flash in the pan, and men had better learn how to deal with this."

The men's movement draws attention away from women by minimizing what women are talking about, or by denying a problem exists, said Mandell.

Non-feminist men's groups began forming in the 70s when men organized to combat what they felt were unfair divorce and custody settlements.

As an example of this movement, Salutin criticized American John Bly's book, *Iron John*, published last year. In Bly's book, men are instructed to get back in touch with the hairy or wild man who lurks inside every male.

Salutin described Bly's book as containing "a staggering number of ignorant and stupid statements."

The lecture received a lot of publicity from CBC, leaving people wondering whether this attention would have been possible for a woman speaker.

In an interview later, Janet Maher, a National Action Committee on the

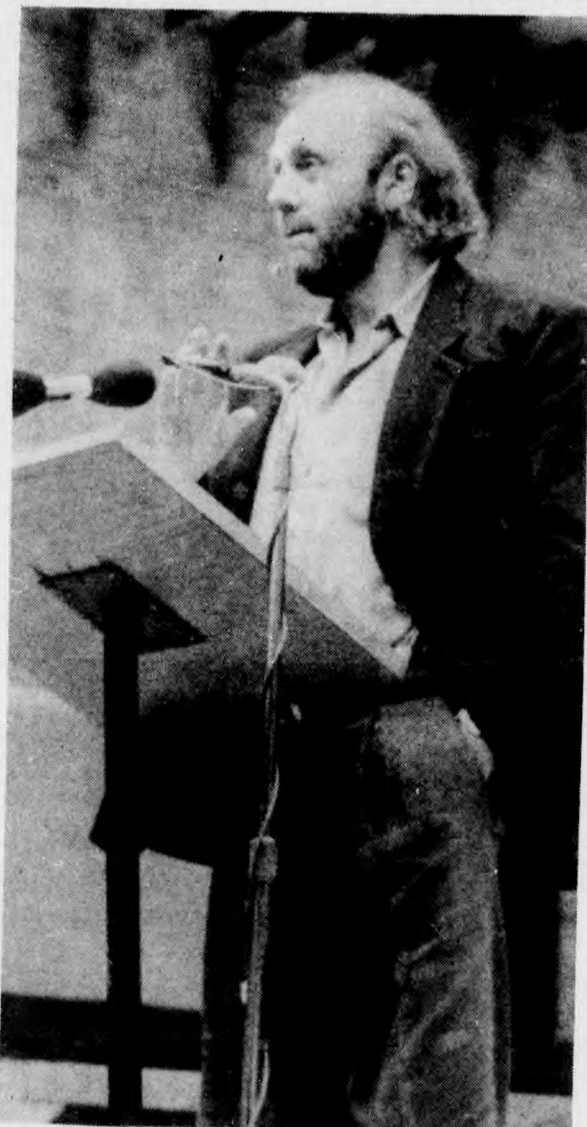
Status of Women volunteer agreed that men's groups have been trying to assume a leadership position in the feminist movement.

Women's groups have been working against violence for 50 or 60 years without getting the media coverage that men's groups, such as the White Ribbon Campaign, have been able to get in less than a year, Maher said.

Salutin said he respected the work of the campaign, but he doubted its effectiveness.

George Lamony, a full-time White Ribbon coordinator, argued it is not possible to leave the men's groups out of the fight against violence, as men are the main perpetrators.

The campaign's aim is to promote dialogue between men and make violence against women taboo, he said.



Canadian iconoclast Rick Salutin says men still haven't learned to face the challenges of feminism • Photo by Rose-Ann Baile

Lamony hopes their recently formed women's liaison committee will be able to answer a lot of women's concerns.

YORK BRIEFS

Vote early & vote often

by Excalibur Staff
This is the last day York residents can register to vote on campus in this month's constitutional referendum.

Students can be enumerated at stations in Vanier, Founder's, Norman Bethune, and Atkinson College residences, as well as in three apartments on Assiniboine Ave, said Jennifer Sexton of Elections Canada.

Sexton said all seven locations might also be staffed at polling stations on Oct. 26, depending on the number of students who sign up.

Residents who missed enumeration can still get on the voter's list by phoning Elections Canada's

Downsview office on Oct. 17-19. The number is 633-3398.

Students who don't want to register as York residents can vote in their home riding, including by proxy vote, Sexton said.

Contract rejected

by Excalibur Staff

York's student security and parking officers want a contract which protects their rights and safety, a union representative says.

Members rejected a contract offer unanimously last month after management refused to add clauses which guarantee protection from racism and harassment, said representative Linda Dias.

"If we don't feel safe, how do you expect us to do our jobs?" Dias said in an interview last week.

The 150 part-time workers have been without a contract since May and are in a strike position. New talks with management have not been arranged.

Dias called all parts of the rejected two-year deal inadequate, and said contract clauses the United Plant Guard Workers of America local is seeking can already be found in agreements with other campus unions.

Management has argued all department employees are already protected by Ontario's human rights code and other regulations, she said.

University negotiator Sheila Young was not available for comment.

The department employed undercover spies last year to report parking lot attendants who might be breaking rules. The spies did this by watching attendants through binoculars and posing as customers who wanted a break.

Two students were fired after this surveillance and one attendant told Excalibur in March that the practice destroyed department morale.

Dias said York students should be concerned about how the administration's latest offer could affect campus safety.

"It does not protect the workers we serve, so how can we provide our service to students in light of this?" she asked.

"We know what the York community needs in terms of safety and service, because we are part of that community."