

Unions, university at odds on budget talks

By Paul Stuart

Campus unions have refused to discuss the university's budget crisis in meetings proposed by York President H. Ian Macdonald.

This was among the information presented to members of the York University Staff Association, now in its second contract year, at its annual general meeting on December 8. Association president Lauma Evans, told the meeting that though the union hoped discussions would eventually take place "in an atmosphere of co-operation and collegiality", it does not agree with "the administration's definition of York's monetary crisis".

Contacted Tuesday night, Macdonald said the meetings had

been called because "we think it's important that all members of the community who have an interest in its future have a chance to make their suggestions".

Evans expressed the view that Macdonald wanted to talk to the unions only to persuade them to accept financial cutbacks to the university. Other unions to decline the offer were the Faculty Association, the Canadian Union of Public Employees local, the Graduate Assistants' Association, and the Operating Engineers local. However Macdonald said he subsequently talked to the president of the Faculty Association and that the invitation to the other unions "still stands."

YUSA treasurer Audrey Robinson, reported to the meeting that "in round figures we have \$30,500 in our defence fund." The union's defence fund is to be used only for strike pay.

On Tuesday Evans said that for a bargaining unit of 1,030 workers, the amount is "peanuts". However she said the Union is "quite pleased" with its fund, considering the short time it has been set up.

Arny Ranachan, grievance committee chairperson, reported

the union has won only two out of its 19 grievances in the past year but pointed out that it is York's director of personnel, D.J. Mitchell "who decides these cases."

His report stated "we press grievances even if we feel we cannot win, because if we ever have to go to arbitration we want to show that we have always contested this area of the contract".

Asked if the union could suggest an alternate method of dealing with grievances, Evans replied that

despite union suggestions the present system would probably stand.

She pointed out that YUSA had earlier suggested that a professor who both the association and the administration could agree to, be appointed to settle disagreements about job evaluations. The union had maintained that this system would be fairer than the present one and cheaper than hiring an outside arbitrator. The administration declined the offer.

Strikers eat again

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Soviet ambassador that Canada will waive all immigration regulations to permit Schransky to join his Toronto relatives.

The USSR, however, declared it is detaining Schransky for an additional six months.

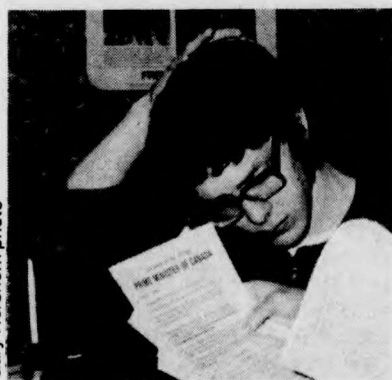
In response to Russia's announcement, a resolution was introduced in the House of Commons condemning Russian transgressions against the Helsinki Agreement.

The hunger strike was responsible for convulsions in one student and fainting in another. Following the advice of the group's doctor, the remaining hunger-strikers graduated from their water-only diet to regular eating patterns over a 3 day period. Weight loss varied from four to 14 pounds.

Gottfried said that emotions were mixed as the strikers completed their protest. "We are happy because we received some response and we made the community aware. But, in the sense that the fight has just begun and there are an awful lot of Schranskys in Russia, our joyousness was restrained."

It is speculated that the York fast sparked an international concern for Schransky and other prisoners-of-conscience. At a recent convention of "Network", a Toronto-based organization consisting of North American Jewish students, March 15 was declared International Day of Protest on behalf of Schransky.

The 300 participants forfeited one



Gary Hershorn photo

Striker Danny Eisen with letter

of their convention dinners in support of Soviet prisoner Edward Kuznetsov, who is in his second week of a self-imposed hunger strike. He was arrested in 1970 by the KGB and charged with conspiracy to hijack a Soviet plane. His original death sentence was commuted to 15 years. Kuznetsov's attorney, Osgoode Hall professor Yuri I. Luryi, who practised law in Russia for 25 years before emigrating to Canada, says his client is innocent.

Kuznetsov, who is "fasting till death," according to Gottfried, is maintaining his vigil for better prison conditions and to restore severed visiting rights.

The students sent their dinner-free paper plates, filled only with messages and postage stamps, to Leonid Brehznev. Gottfried maintains that "we have no guarantee if they (the plates) will arrive, but it's the principle behind them that counts."

News briefs

The lack of bus shelters at Steeles Avenue and Thompson Blvd., and at Steeles and Ottawa Blvd., has been of recent concern to the York University administration.

Last December a car accident demolished the shelter at Steeles and Ottawa and it has yet to be replaced. Previous overcrowding of the shelter prompted Paul Hayden of the Council of York Student Federation and R.C. Howard of the department of campus planning to request that a bus shelter be placed at Steeles Ave. and Thompson Blvd.

P. Glionna, supervisor of traffic investigators for the borough of North York said he does not know whether the bus shelter will be installed. The request for a shelter is one of two hundred to be reviewed by the borough, only forty of which will be constructed because of budget constraints.

Glionna said traffic lights at Steeles Ave. and Ottawa Blvd. will be installed later this year when weather permits.

Lisa Woo

A reminder that the Founders College French Table will continue for the remainder of the school year. Meeting-time is Wednesdays as usual, at 12 noon in Founders College Dining Hall.

Members of the York community interested in informal conversation in the French language are most warmly invited. For further information contact Michelina at 663-1037.

Feel controlled by cramping habits? Feeling uptight? Join the SCAMP (Self Control and Modification Programme) and Relaxation Programmes offered by the Counselling and Development Centre. Both individual and group programmes are offered.

SCAMP, based on behaviour modification techniques, is for individuals who want to take an active role in changing their own behaviour, achieved through decreasing certain undesirable behaviours, such as heavy smoking and over-eating, or increasing behaviours such as studying and exercising, or even initiating new behaviour patterns. Participants choose their own target behaviours and the pace of change.

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