

Excalibur

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Faculty sues York

Mark Monfette

The York University Faculty Association is taking the Board of Governors to court over an alleged contract violation.

YUFA claims that the Board acted unethically and illegally when they recently appointed a contractually-limited research associate to a probationary tenured position without following the advertisement and search procedures specified in the collective agreement.

The professor concerned (whom *Excalibur* has decided to leave unnamed because he is not a party to the court case) was hired on a five year research development contract between the National Research Council and the university in 1975. Under the terms of the agreement, a full-time probationary position was to have been created for him before the contract expired. On President Macdonald's recommendation, he was appointed by the Board on Nov. 12.

The faculty association has asked the Divisional Court of Ontario for an order "quashing and declaring invalid and setting aside the recommendation" of Pres. Macdonald and the decision of the Board. The court orders were filed Monday.

According to Bill Farr, Vice-President of Employee and Student Relations, a new search and selection process was unnecessary because of the "nature of the university's obligation to the NRC" and because of the "normal" fashion in which he was appointed.

"We must act in an honourable fashion if York's esteem is to be maintained," Farr stated yesterday, noting that some universities have reneged on their commitments to the NRC.

When contacted Tuesday, the professor involved in the dispute supported Farr's arguments.

"I wonder if the union has obtained the proper information," he said, pointing out that he gave a seminar and was interviewed by the Chairman of his department and by two other professors before he was appointed.

"It is sad that the union has decided to pick on this issue and make a fuss about it," he added.

In a press release issued last week, YUFA stated that during the last few months they have urged the university to bring the appointment "to the bargaining table" or to include it in the settlement for group grievances which are going to arbitration today.

Bill Farr, when asked about these claims, denied receiving a request for either offer and added that, in any event, he would not negotiate over something he has the right to do.



GAA negotiator Michael Michie

Grads push for security

James A. Carlisle

The Graduate Assistants Association voted yesterday to support its negotiating committee in its discussions with the University on the issue of job security. The committee reported to the membership that conciliation has stalled over this issue.

The basis of this dispute according to the union is that the university should specify the support that graduate students can expect to receive throughout their course of study. According to GAA negotiator Michael Michie "Graduate students are enticed into a programme and are assured of only minimal support throughout that programme." The union has also demanded sick and maternity leave, wage increases, and a contract clause on academic freedom as well, but according to GAA Spokesman Peter Gallus, these demands have yet to be settled.

The GAA has its next meeting with the conciliator on December 5. If negotiations break down, a strike vote will be held soon after.

Before the GAA membership meeting, a public forum was held in the Bearpit by the York University Faculty Association and the GAA. The approximately thirty students who attended were told that the university may be faced with two strikes in January.

YUFA President Al Stauffer declared "The York faculty is one of the lowest paid in the province. We may lose our best professors." He claimed that this would be a good year to catch up with other universities, since "the university has a surplus of \$1.4 million, so the money is there."

In response to a question, Stauffer indicated that YUFA's wage demands "exceed the university's offer by about two million dollars."

Concluded Stauffer: "We recognize that the students are only innocent bystanders and might get hurt, but they must recognize that we do have legitimate grievances."

Both unions asked for student support as they head to conciliation.

No bucks for hacks

Barb Mainguy

Much needed funds for *Excalibur* Publications have been seized by the administration in an effort to recoup the paper's \$25,000 debt to the university.

The debt was accrued in an open ceiling account maintained by the university to pay *Excalibur* salaries. The paper has traditionally reimbursed the university, but has been unable to do so because of low revenues.

Assistant Vice-President for Student Services John Becker closed the account on August 27, declaring that he will not reopen it until repayment arrangements have been agreed upon. In the meantime, any funds forwarded to *Excalibur* through his office are automatically deposited in account, against the debt. These funds include advertising revenue from the university and campus merchants, as well as trust fund allocations to *Excalibur* from Bethune and Calumet colleges.

This action has served to make the members of Calumet College Council angry. According to Mark Adair, External Affairs Officer for Calumet, the motion to allocate the money explicitly designated that it should go towards operating costs, and not towards the debt. The council believes that Becker's move contravenes the spirit of the college trusts fund accounts, which according to a motion of

the university's Board of Governors, "shall be administered jointly by the CYSF and the part constituency." Declared Adair, "Regardless of whether there's a debt, which should be paid, the trust fund is set up for students, and doesn't involve university tampering."

Calumet College Council officially notified Becker of the intent of their motion, asking him to redirect the money, but

Becker said frankly that he doesn't think it's going to be effective.

Becker's worry is that *Excalibur* has presented an overly optimistic budget, based on an unrealistic increase in their expected revenue. Because *Excalibur's* editorial staff changes every year, he doubts whether predicted revenues will be met, and that he'll ever recover the money.

The way is nuclear

Maureen Brown

"Society should be more inclined to pay as much for gas as orange juice," said Professor Arthur Johnson of York's Faculty of Science at a symposium entitled 'Solving the Energy Crisis.' The symposium was held on November 20 at McLaughlin College.

Johnson, a consultant to the Ontario Ministry of Energy, has spent the past four to five years studying the energy business and is an advocate of nuclear power. He questioned the stability of oil supplies from the OPEC countries and suggested the availability of energy in Ontario is dependent upon nuclear power, arguing that this would provide a more stable supply. He declared, "Pickering is the world's most successful reactor."

Johnson has studied other alternatives to nuclear power

such as woodburning and coal but has found the costs prohibitive and environmental risks too great.

"Environmental risks such as safety and disposal, associated with nuclear power, are overcome by the benefits Ontario receives," he insisted. Johnson warned that geological indications reveal that oil reserves are depleting rapidly, adding "we have never had a source of energy like oil -- safe and transportable."

But he rejected conservation as an alternative solution to our energy needs since it extends supplies rather than solving the problem.

Professor Harvey Schwartz concurred with Johnson's contention that public appeals encouraging conservation are not successful. Schwartz, an associate professor with York's

Department of Economics, began York's first energy economics research program in the mid-70s. "As far as Canada is concerned, production is not sufficient to meet demand," he declared. We face high prices and instability of supply since there is "concern about the willingness of OPEC countries to meet increased world demand."

Schwartz suggested "jacking up the price of oil very substantially to discourage people from using it." He said that he would like to see doubling of the price of gasoline in the next year or two.

He observed that our consumption didn't grow as fast in the 70s as it did in the 60s. Nevertheless, if consumption grows in the 80s at the same rate, it did in the 70s, we'll have to import.