

Editorial

Financial neglect sad source of York's labor woes

In the current dispute between the York University Faculty Association (YUFA) and the administration there are no villains, but there are plenty of potential victims—as usual, the students.

While the administration could justly be accused of intransigence and brinkmanship during last year's round of labour disputes, Vice President Bill Farr's negotiating team has been far more reasonable this time around. Farr has given substantial ground to YUFA by offering a wage increment for the first year of a two year contract of 6.8 percent, and by declaring a two year moratorium on mandatory retirement. Since the issue of mandatory retirement is still being fought over in Canadian courts, he can hardly do more.

YUFA also has some legitimate arguments to put forth. While the union is being stubborn on some issues, including wages, one has to remember that their efforts to attain wage parity with a comparable institution—U of T—have been stonewalled for years. Perhaps, after a decade of frustration, their stubbornness is at least understandable, if not justifiable.

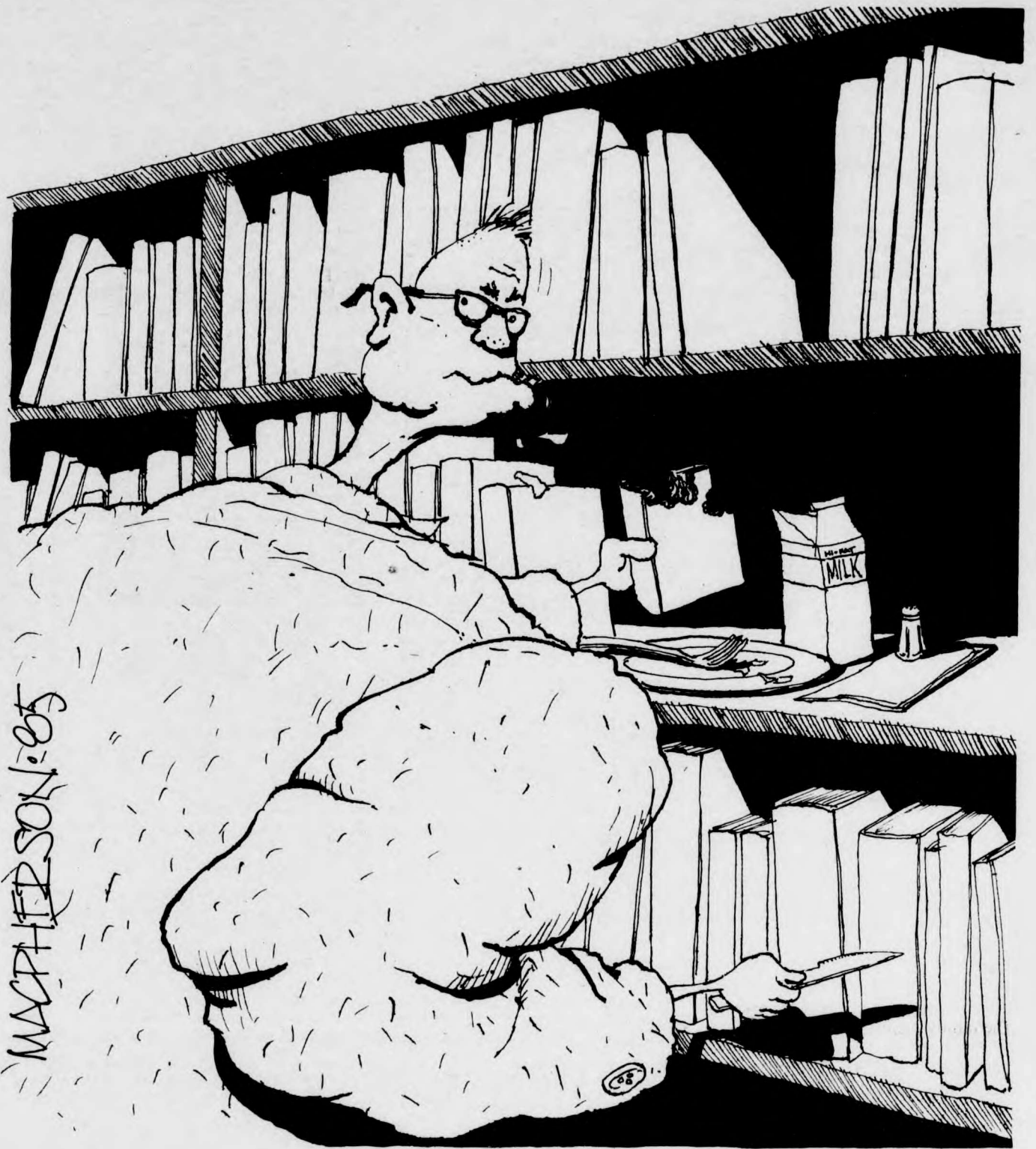
Really, the story this year is not of a greedy union nor of an exploitive management. Rather, it is another sad side effect of the financial neglect York has suffered since the late 1970s. Simply put, there is not enough money coming into this institution to satisfy everyone.

Undeniably, both sides deserve some measure of sympathy, but that does not mean both sides are right—in this case we have to side (as much as it goes against the grain for a student newspaper) with the administration.

In the face of massive underfunding—York is rated as the second most poorly funded university per student in Ontario, and the most overcrowded—the administration's wage increase offer of 6.8 percent is reasonable.

Also, YUFA's argument that the administration is concerned more with funding building projects than they are for people (i.e. YUFA) is just empty rhetoric. After all, those buildings are for people, and given the overcrowded conditions here (in fact York is the most overcrowded of Ontario universities) building improvements can hardly be considered a luxury.

We are not saying that York's faculty does not deserve more money, just that, for now, the institution can't afford it. And more importantly, York students can't afford a strike.



UH-OH.

Letters

York catches up with likes of Botha, reader charges

Editor:

Last year the York Student Front along with 600 people boycotted the CYSF election. The reason: they did not believe in CYSF, the lies, the opportunism. Today the situation in our university has gone beyond simplistic conservatism. We have caught up with Botha, Duarte and Pinochet. We are in the 'dictatorial democratic' phase at York. The situation is comical really, yet at the same time it is underplayed by a tragic autocratic chauvinism. This is being performed by one person, one actor, one mind, one 'leader.' Can you guess who this person is? Like all good comedies we will wait until the conclusion to reveal this controversial protagonist.

Today our student council is deciding whether the students of this university will retain their status with the Ontario Federation of Students. Unfortunately, once again students here will not be asked the crucial, but perhaps all too dangerous question, do we want OFS? According to this popular, charismatic performer, the students need not be conferred with, since they are not aware of all the issues pertaining to OFS. In other words, we the ignorant, apathetic pupils, should not be asked whether we want to belong to Ontario's largest interest group, the OFS. Our 'man' claims that he has the right stuff. Ask this opportunist "didn't you support OFS during the presidential elections last year?" yet six months later (\$7,500 approx) you are changing your mind. What happened to your speeches?

what happened to this progressive eloquent candidate, the 'moderate man.' What happened to student rights in the meantime? All council need do is set up a table at Central Square, and hold an official poll, providing information for and against our membership in OFS.

But no my friends, this is too democratic, this is too open, too clear, too honest. This is what we elected last year, a pack of lies. Is there hope left? Can something be done? I offer one solution. The same solution the York Student Front presented last year. I call for unity now, unity of all progressive students and groups on campus. I call for a student movement prepared to face the problems, not backing away at every chance. We call for an open assembly, democracy and freedom of speech for all. We call for political action now. Boycott this futile disease called CYSF and form a true political action based front. By the way, who is Reya Ali?...

Alex Riha

Reader peeved a lot over campus queues

Editor:

Are you tired of those long university lineups? It's just a part of university life as is studying, making new friends, and partying. Being in my fourth year at York, I am just a little, not a little, a lot peeved at the way York handles its office lineups. It seems whenever I go to pay my fees, or pick up my OSAP, there is usually at least an hour wait.

Their office hours are also something

to be examined. For example, the Office of Financial Aid hours are from nine to four every day. What if I work part-time and go to school full-time? I suggest that the office hours be extended one night a week to accommodate students in my same situation. I am referring to the Office of Student Programmes, the Office of Student Affairs, Student Accounts and the Financial Aid office. Other events, such as course selection in March, should also be noted because I have listened to many students complain about this most tedious time of year.

Just the other day I was standing in line to pick up my OSAP. I stood in line for three hours. Everytime I turned around the staff of the Financial Aid office were going on coffee breaks. There are four booths to accommodate students at this office. Yet whenever I have been to this office only one or two booths are being used. When I finally reached a booth, all sweaty and frustrated, I asked the lady why service at this office was so slow. She reluctantly answered, "Because these people are always on coffee breaks." She declined to be interviewed further due to the almost certain consequences.

I have observed lineups at other universities and they are handled a lot better than at York. I know York is a very large university, some 40,000 students, therefore the administration of York should accommodate their students accordingly.

I read an article in last week's edition of *Excalibur* in which a fine arts student stood in line for five hours at course selection. When she got to the front of the lineup, all her selected courses were closed. Just imagine having to rearrange your courses in a crowded lineup in a matter of minutes. Would you be frus-

cont'd on p. 7

excalibur

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