

Denied apology becomes union grievance

By PAULETTE PEIROL

A request for an apology made by parking control officer Rita Hendrickson last June has now become a union grievance being taken to arbitration.

Hendrickson originally filed a complaint against David Kurosky, Assistant Director of Safety, claiming that he intimidated her to return to work while she was on sick leave from May to August. An apology from Kurosky was then requested by Hendrickson.

On July 2, Jack Santarelli, Director of Security and Safety Services told Chief Steward Claude Williams and union trustee Lloyd Scott that a formal apology would be sent to Hendrickson. Yet in August, Santarelli allegedly reversed this decision and said that no apology would be forthcoming. This breach of verbal agreement then gave rise to a new grievance, against Santarelli, which has now been taken to arbitration with the Ontario Labour Relations Board.

"We thought that the case would be settled amicably with an open door policy," Scott said. "The whole matter could have been settled so easily."

Hendrickson was on sick leave from May 13 to August 18 after sustaining a leg injury while on duty at York. In June, she received a letter from Kurosky requesting that she return to work on a modified programme. Kurosky offered to change Hendrickson's regular parking station to a closer location and to supply transportation to her work site.

Hendrickson claims that Kurosky also called her doctor, without her consent, to obtain further medical information. A letter of complaint,

stating that Kurosky was intimidating her, was then sent by Hendrickson to Santarelli.

Kuroski was unable to comment on the situation. "Based on the confidentiality of the Workman's Compensation case as outlined in the Act, we are unable to supply any information," he said.

On July 2, Williams, Scott, and Santarelli met to discuss Hendrickson's complaint. Both Williams and Scott told *Excalibur* that Santarelli verbally assured them at the meeting that Hendrickson would receive an apology from Kurosky. "My understanding (from the July 2 meeting) was that there would be an apology forwarded to Rita Hendrickson from Kurosky," Scott said.

Yet in August, Williams discovered that Hendrickson had not, and would not, receive any written apology. According to Williams, Santarelli had "changed his mind" and said that no apology would be written. Santarelli was unavailable for comment.

"The problem is that we get verbal dispositions which conflict with later ones... credibility is lacking," said Scott. He added that "the contract (the Collective Agreement 1985-87 between York and the United Plant Guards Union, Local 1962), leaves a lot to be desired. It needs to be expanded upon."

After realizing that Hendrickson would not receive an apology, Williams then filed two policy grievances, stating that Kurosky and Santarelli had each violated sections of the Collective Agreement. A grievance meeting was scheduled for October 23 to discuss the two cases. It was decided at the meeting, attended by Williams, Scott, Kurosky, Santarelli, and Sheila Young (Employee

Relations Officer for Personnel), that the complaints were filed too late and that the grievances were incorrectly classified as policy matters.

Dissatisfied with this verdict, Scott then consulted the union's lawyer, Kevin Whittaker, on October 30. Whittaker has since submitted a request for arbitration of the grievance against Santarelli with the Ontario Labour Relations Board.

"It is unfortunate that such an issue as an apology should have to go to arbitration, (since) the system allows for people to work out issues face to face before going further," Whittaker noted.

Hendrickson's case is one of dozens which have been filed against the Department of Safety and Security this year, according to many members of Security. Scott estimates that there have been "at least 50

grievances" which have reached Santarelli's desk in the past six months, "mainly about discrimination of overtime hours and duties." He said "there have been more grievances (in this department) than with any other group I've been involved with."

Whittaker supports Scott's claim. "The number of grievances is pretty high; more than in other bargaining units of this size," he said.

York tenants finally take priority over fruit flies as old killer 'rehired'

By ZENA MCBRIDE

After experimenting unsuccessfully with new methods of pest control, the University is reverting to the original pesticide in an attempt to quash the recent cockroach explosion on campus.

Research into alternative forms of insect extermination began last December when entomologists in the Farquharson Life Sciences Building discovered that their laboratory specimens were mysteriously dying. According to Biology professor Arthur Forer, "various research material has been affected deleteriously since at least 1983."

While pesticide spraying was cited as a possible culprit, it was not until Christmas that a positive connection was made. At that time, a large quantity of pesticide was released into the service tunnel which runs between the kitchens in Complex I and Farquharson, during chemical treatment. Doors at each end of the tunnel were propped open, allowing the chemical to seep into Farquharson.

"A high level of pesticide was smelled by Farquharson inhabitants, and research material was affected—indeed the entire colony of tsetse flies died," Forer, said. According to Vice President of Academic Affairs and biologist Ken Davey, they had not been aware until that time that pesticide treatments were going on. "We had an agreement (with the University) that we would be informed of all pesticide treatments on campus," he said, adding that, in four years, no one had ever informed them when spraying was being done.

The situation was explained to Director of Housing and Food Services Norman Crandles, who immediately called a moratorium on chemical spraying throughout the campus so that an investigation could be carried out. "It is a very serious problem," Crandles said. "Important and expensive experimentation is going on (in Farquharson). The entire work of one grad student was completely obliterated."

The moratorium lasted until June when a new chemical, "Sectrol," was introduced. Sectrol consists of time-released capsules producing droplets, instead of the fogging effect of the previous chemical, "Diazinon". This means that it doesn't affect the atmosphere as much as other sprays. However, after a four-month trial period, Sectrol proved unsuccessful in the control of pests.

As a result, there was a cockroach explosion on campus, particularly in the food service areas and the apartments at Assiniboine and Moon Road, according to Crandles. Due to their high turn-over rate of tenants in the apartments, as well as their high-density populations, pests tend to be more of a problem in these buildings, he explained.

Concern over the growing cockroach problem and the existing moratorium on spraying, prompted charges by the tenants that the University was favouring the well-being of the Biology department over that of the residents. At the most recent meeting of the York University Tenants Association (YUTA), tenants voiced their misgivings over the way in which the situation was being handled.

"Fruit flies are more important than tenants at Assiniboine," stated one resident. "They bring in more research grants than the tenants of Assiniboine," another said. Tenants also expressed confusion about how spraying in the apartments could affect the Farquharson Life building on the other side of the campus.

The superintendants of the apartments recently threatened to strike unless the situation was rectified. In addition, YUTA considered notifying the North York Board of Health unless something was done. At this point, it was decided by Crandles that spraying resume as soon as possible. "Notwithstanding the problem (of the biologists), we have a responsibility to the human inhabitants (of the University)," said Crandles. Pest control with the original spray began again on October 30.

In the meantime, according to Davey, charcoal filters have been installed in all air vents of the Farquharson Building. As well, air testing is being done around the air-intake valves of the Building to determine the exact effect of chemical spraying on air within the building. The results of these tests should be known soon, says David Kurosky, Assistant Director of Safety.

The problem is far from solved, however. "We are dealing with two mutually exclusive requirements here," explained Crandles. Until an effective method of pest control is discovered, which is not detrimental to laboratory research, the interests of the tenants and scientists of York will continue to conflict.

Mac questions Centre

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should build a new building for these services or just add to the existing services."

However, Castle said, that CYSF intends to consult with the various student bodies before they determine what kind of services will go in the new student centre. Castle also added that as CYSF researcher during the summer months, his studies showed that York needed a new centre because of chronic space shortages and a lack of a central meeting place for York students.

Beach said that although many of McLaughlin's concerns and questions were premature, they "were relevant to a project of this magnitude."

He added that he received a list from Castle this week that reflected what other colleges would like to see in the centre. "Now we have a framework for input," he said. "We will discuss these in a few days time with Rob at an informal meeting."

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