

# Labor supports CUEW



**DON'T MESS WITH US.** Labor leaders tell CUEW not to yield to Administration's "hard ball" tactics. The rally in support of CUEW drew more than 300 people.

By EDO VAN BELKOM

Representatives from various labour organizations and other campus unions showed their support for CUEW at a Solidarity rally held Tuesday at the university's main Keel Street entrance. The union was still on strike at the time.

Spokespersons from The Metro Labour Council, The Ontario Federation of Labour, The Organization of Working Women, The Ontario Graduate Association as well as from YUFA, YUSA and the Student Strike Support Committee spoke to the crowd of approximately 300 people.

The general theme reiterated by each speaker was that the union should not give in until they receive a fair settlement.

CUEW Internal Representative, Terry Conlin, reviewed the strike issues and accused the Board of Governors of using "hard ball" tactics, adding, "This creates a very bad context for negotiations."

Karen Davies of the Metro Labour council called the strike a "plight for dignity" and urged CUEW to continue their strike in order to achieve "a humbly respectable standard of living."

This sentiment was also shared by YUFA chairperson Bob Drummond who said, "It would be nice to get back to work, but they

(CUEW) must get a good settlement out of it first." He also said that the university thinks CUEW is the weakest union on campus, and YUSA representative Celia Heart added to this, saying, "The administration is damned if they think they can divide and conquer us (the unions), ever!"

Another notable speaker on hand for the rally was Mike Foster. Foster is a York Alumnus, Alderman and future provincial NDP candidate for the area York is situated in.

Foster criticized the provincial government saying it doesn't recognize the value of a good educational system. The BOG should agree to arbitration that would bring the strike to a quick end."

Others on hand showed their support in a wide variety of ways. Osgood Hall faculty cancelled their classes to allow their students to attend the rally, and The Ontario Graduate Association voted unanimously to donate one hundred dollars to the CUEW strike fund. The Student Strike Support Committee was also in attendance with their petition which has grown to include the signatures of 4500 students.

The rally ended with the singing of solidarity songs that had kept the crowd entertained during intermissions throughout the gathering.

## Excalibur reporter joins pickets, finds life on the line not so fine

By LYNNE FORD

When you've been waiting for half an hour to drive through the picket line, watching the minutes tick by and knowing you're already late and getting later every second, it's easy to forget or just dismiss the problems of those on the other side of the windshield.

To find out what the picketers go through every day I joined them on the picket lines Thursday. And, to put it quite simply, the drivers have got it easy.

For the first little while being on the pickets was almost pleasant. Friends met and tossed jokes around the line, and the drivers were relatively patient.

Twenty CUEW members at the Keele Street entrance tried to break the plodding monotony of manning the pickets by forming circles and figure eights, and many TAS passed the time discussing politics and philosophy. A few picketers sang "We Will Not Be Moved" and even danced.

Unfortunately this idyllic scene didn't last long. As dusk fell around us the traffic grew and tension between the drivers and picketers increased. Some drivers started pushing their way through the line without stopping, and their license plates were called out and recorded by the strikers, along with a few fully justified obscenities.

The anger of the CUEW members began to show as the situation grew more dangerous. All the picketers are only too aware of their many colleagues who have been hit and sometimes

injured by impatient drivers using their vehicles as battering rams. Most of the blame, however, was directed by the picketers at "this stupid university."

One incident illustrated only too well how dangerous manning a picket line can be. A car charged through the pickets and, while most of

the people scattered, one especially stubborn, devoted or angry protestor attempted to block the driver's progress. But the car didn't stop.

The picketer was forced to run backwards a few paces, was over-run and finally ended up being thrown over the hood of the car onto the pavement.

The driver did not slow down.

Horrified, I asked the others on the line what they thought of the incident, but they only said, "It happens all the time."

At that point I decided to become an observer rather than a participant.

## Frustration leads to hunger strike by York English professor Ross

By GARY SYMONS

With its services already crippled by the CUEW strike York University is now facing another much different strike—a hunger strike.

Professor Heather Ross said she is going on a solely liquid diet as of today to protest the intolerable working conditions at York, partly caused by the two-week old dispute between the Canadian Union of Educational Workers (CUEW) and the university.

Ross will consume only grapefruit juice, carrot juice and black coffee for the duration of the hunger strike.

Ross said she thought of the idea while telling her students during a coffee break that today's students are "not being radical enough in communicating their concerns."

Ross then mentioned actress Jane Fonda's hunger strike at an American university during the 1960s as an example, and was answered by a student who said, "Well, if you've got the juicer, we've got the carrots."

"It began as a joke," Ross said, "but things here have reached the point where it is no longer a joke."

Ross said the strike is not the only reason for deteriorating conditions at York. "My issues are broader than just the strike. It's the whole educational atmosphere in Ontario," she said.

"It's basically just a message to both sides that the whole aim of what we're doing here has been lost. I am teaching classes, but it's becoming intolerable. The moral question of whether we should or shouldn't be holding classes,

whether we should support the strikers or not, comes up every day in my classes."

Ross added that her students have lost their morale and the faculty is split into factions. "I would hesitate to take sides (in the strike). I'm just tired of working under these conditions," she said.

### Short-lived sit-in a success, say students

By EDO VAN BELKOM

A sit-in that lasted a total of 72 hours on the ninth floor of the Ross Building was called off last Friday by the Student Strike Support Committee because "it had lost its effectiveness," according to committee organizer Cathy Garrett.

"We decided that we weren't getting anything done just sitting around and we could increase the committee's exposure if we got back out into the York community," Garrett said.

Before leaving, the committee left a note under Acting President Found's door that told him where he could contact them if he wished to do so.

Garrett said that the sit-in was not a failure just because they didn't get to meet with Found. "It was a success in that we brought the students' position to the attention of the Toronto news media. And it brought the committee together as a solid group and we became more organized because of it."

## Opinion

### Departments screwing themselves

Since their inception, the academic departments of York University have enjoyed a system of legalized prostitution. At first the system seemed to suit everyone. Young and fancy-free, the concuewbines sold their favors to whichever department appealed to them, and many close bonds were established.

Over the years, departments and their concuewbines have grown older together, becoming a little mechanical in their relationships, developing a mutual familiarity and, beneath the protestations of esteem, a mutual contempt. But at least the concuewbines have succeeded in gaining a certain measure of security, and a certain order of precedence in the harem.

Every now and then a department has the opportunity to take unto itself an official, permanent wife—a recognized, legitimate member of the clan, with most, if not all, of the rights and privileges appertaining to such a status.

Whenever the search for a new wife is announced, members of the harem immediately put themselves forward as candidates. But their chances of success are minimal. Who wants to marry one's concuewbine, especially if one can acquire a young, virginal, talented, dutiful wife—and retain one's concuewbines into the bargain?

Who wants to marry a person with such a long and intimate knowledge of one's weaknesses and limitations, one's sins and shortcomings, one's deepening impotence? Who wants to marry a person toward whom one feels such an ambivalent mixture of comradeship, defensiveness and guilt?

If this is the way of the world, what is a concuewbine to do? Stay on in an intolerable situation, getting older, more disillusioned, more deeply humiliated by a condition which erodes self-respect and perpetuates a mortifying dependence?

Take it or leave it, says El Farr. But where is a concuewbine to go? What else is a concuewbine qualified to do?

Lately, having little left to lose, the concuewbines have gone on strike. Among other things, they have threatened to withdraw their favors indefinitely if the more faithful of them, at least, are not promoted to the status of official wife. Having performed most of the duties of wives, they have received but a fraction of the rewards, and none of the recognition. If they have been good enough as extra-marital relief all this time, why should they not at last be taken in matrimony?

But let the concuewbines beware! Some departments have suggested in reply that they could do without concuewbines altogether, by acquiring a whole bevy of inexpensive new wives in contractually-limited marriages.

These new wives need not, however, be culled from the ranks of the harem, but recruited in the open marriage market, where many willing brides await the call. Delighted with their fresh young helpmates, and smug in their new-found respectability, the departments would bid their concuewbines go walk the streets.

But let the departments likewise beware! Concuewbines have always had very limited rights. They can be compelled to sweat through summer evenings; they can be forced to perform the same dreary acts year after year without variety or choice; they can be obliged to service groups of hundreds at a time, in ways no self-respecting wife would dream of stooping to.

Wives, on the other hand, especially in these liberated days, have a way of demanding equality in these matters. Before long they would begin to resent being assigned only the more ignominious positions, and to suggest that everyone in the family should take a turn on the bottom.

So you see, if the departments ever attempt to replace the concuewbine system, they may end up screwing themselves—for a change.

—Robert Fothergill Atkinson

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