

**Overwhelming vote for unionization**

# Certification pending as YUSA talks fail

By JAMES McCALL

Members of the York University Staff Association voted by a margin of 202 to seven on December 16 to seek certification as an independent union.

Empowered by this mandate from the membership, the YUSA executive has requested a hearing before the Ontario Labour Relations Board, scheduled for January 20. All YUSA membership cards should have been submitted to the board as of yesterday to prove that the association in fact represents the required 65 per cent of the eligible support staff.

The December vote, which came after a recommendation by the YUSA executive in favour of certification, followed a breakdown of talks between YUSA and the university administration over voluntary

recognition of the association as the sole legal bargaining unit for an estimated 922 secretarial, clerical and technical employees.

The primary cause of the breakdown was the question of which positions should be excluded from the proposed unit. The hearings before the board will, for the most part, be concerned with settling this issue.

The administration would exclude all administrative assistants, and all persons employed within the departments of personnel services, computer services, payroll, and information and publications. YUSA wants them included in the bargaining unit.

According to YUSA president Gabriele Paddle, "The discrepancy may be as much as 100 people between the exclusion lists."

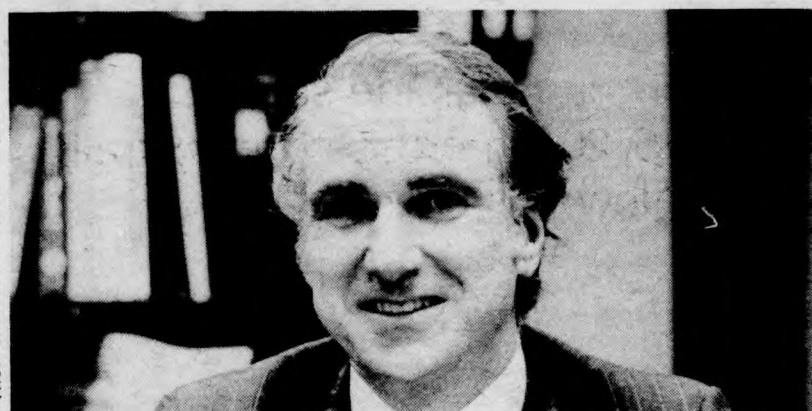
She stated that "the staff wanted a larger bargaining unit" and that some YUSA members employed in the departments of information and publications and computer services had particularly asked at the December 16 meeting to be included.

Referring to YUSA's exclusion list, director of personnel services D.J. Mitchell said, "They've changed their thinking from 17 positions to (in the neighborhood of) 150."

He suggested that the meetings held last December with YUSA were not useless, but that YUSA's decision to seek certification was better for everyone concerned.

"At the last meeting (with YUSA) that's what I told them they should do," he said. "We've been pussy-footing around with this thing long enough."

The certification hearings will not cost anything, since the board members are paid by the provincial government. But if the certification



D.J. Mitchell, director of personnel services

hearings continue for a protracted period, the lawyers' fees could become very expensive, particularly for YUSA.

Paddle conceded, "If it's going to be a long fight, we're going to have to raise our dues."

Mitchell felt that "despite serious differences of opinion," there was no animosity between the two par-

ties, and that it would be in everyone's interest to have the matter settled as quickly as possible.

Paddle announced that elections for YUSA's executive officers and committee chairpersons will be held Feb. 24; nominations for these positions will be closed Feb. 3.

She said that she was definitely standing for re-election as president.

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## Home, sweet (temporary) home

By OAKLAND ROSS

There are a few loose ends to be tied up, but most of York's student clubs are comfortably settled into their new quarters opposite the Central Square coffee shop in what used to be the Pizza Pit. The clubs' new lease on life seems secure at least until next August.

A brief controversy erupted last November when assistant vice-president John Becker threatened to move the clubs from their offices in the Ross Building to rooms in Winters and McLaughlin colleges in order to make room for Canada Manpower and Career Planning services. In the face of immediate protest from the clubs, the administration offered the Pizza Pit site as an alternative.

According to Paul Higeli, committee chairman of the Political Science Undergraduates Student Union, the new facilities are "slightly better" than the old ones.

"We're closer to the coffee shop; there are more people dropping by, and it's easier to get information," he said.

Peter Matilainen, a member of the Revolutionary Marxist Group, said that the clubs had been promised bulletin boards, a mailbox, a clock and a refrigerator to go along with

their new home but that, so far, none of these had been provided.

Matilainen also mentioned rumours that the clubs would be moved sometime in the near future to yet another location. Both Higeli and Matilainen expressed the fear that the new move would be imposed next summer, at a time when no one from the clubs would be present to negotiate.

Assistant vice-president Becker in-

formed Excalibur that he is "eager to get the long-term arrangements with the clubs straightened out by April or May."

Judith Shand, a member of the Student Christian Movement, said that the administration "is committed (to the clubs) only as long as it can afford to be." She pointed out that money is pretty tight this year.

Meanwhile, Becker has given his assurances that the refrigerator is on its way.

### GAY ALLIANCE at YORK (formerly Y. U. H. A.)

MEETING on Tues. Jan. 14th.

If you are unable to attend, leave your name and phone number at the CYSF office, N111 Ross.

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To All Faculty Members  
Interested in Forming  
a UNION:

A Meeting Will Be Held  
on

**THURSDAY,  
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in

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