

Basic differences remain

Bargaining unit divides YUSA, administration

By JAMES McCALL

Following the latest round of negotiations between the York University Staff Association and the university administration over recognition of YUSA as a legal bargaining unit, the association will hold a general meeting at noon on Monday in Osgoode's Moot Cour-

S. African black held without trial

WINDHOEK (CUPI) — A South African black youth leader will go on trial this month for maliciously damaging his prison cell.

Thomas Komati, of the South West African People's Organization Youth League, had been held in solitary confinement for five months, from January 31 to June 11, before he used a spoon to scratch political slogans on his cell's walls.

Komati had been imprisoned without trial under South Africa's anti-terrorism laws. The only charge yet laid against him is malicious damage to property.

Although he originally pleaded guilty, Komati changed his plea in early August to "not guilty" on the grounds of temporary insanity following hallucinations in his cell. He said he found himself talking to friends that appeared to be in his cell and that he scratched the slogans during this time.

The judge has rejected Komati's "not guilty" plea.

troom to deliver its recommendations to the YUSA membership.

These recommendations will centre around YUSA's attempts to seek a "voluntary recognition agreement" with the university under conditions specified by the Ontario Labour Relations Act, which would guarantee the right to negotiate formally with the administration, the benefits of conciliation and arbitration, the right to strike, and protection from organizing attempts by an outside union.

Should the membership decide that voluntary recognition by the university is not forthcoming, there is a strong possibility that YUSA may ask for certification as an independent union from the Ontario Labour Relations Board.

REACHED GOAL

These developments follow YUSA's notification of the administration on November 1 that the association, which groups together an estimated 922 secretarial, technical and clerical workers at York, had obtained the 65 per cent of the eligible non-academic support staff necessary for voluntary recognition.

At a November 19 meeting between members of the YUSA executive, vice-president Bill Small and director of personnel services D.J. Mitchell, it was decided that the administration and YUSA should exchange "exclusion lists" — lists of job positions which would be excluded from the YUSA bargaining



Peter Hsu photo

Gabriele Paddle

unit — and meet again on December 3 to reconcile any possible differences.

At a YUSA general meeting on November 28, YUSA president Gabriele Paddle stated that there was a wide disparity between YUSA's and the administration's exclusion list, but that further meetings with the administration were scheduled.

COMMON LIST

At the December 3 meeting, sub-committees of YUSA and administration representatives were delegated to draw up a common list of exclusions on which both sides could agree. The sub-committees, with personnel officer E. McTaggart representing the administration and Paddle, J. Goldhar, and M. Mason representing YUSA, had "two lengthy meetings", according to Paddle, following which a significant disparity apparently still remained between the two lists.

The point of contention seems to be that the administration would exclude administrative assistants and all persons employed within the departments of personnel services, computer services, payroll, and information and publications.

Although Small said that "in general terms there was basic agreement" between YUSA's and the administration's exclusion lists, Paddle suggested that the differences were more basic than the agreements.

FORCED TO WORK

Small indicated that he would not be unhappy at the prospect of the staff association becoming, in effect, a union, since "it would force them (the YUSA executive) to work harder than they have ever worked before" in presenting their salary negotiations. Small said unionization

would ensure a "certain measure of precision and responsibility" on the part of YUSA, although he deplored the general movement in society towards self-aggrandizement.

The university administration, according to Small, "was not really opposing the efforts of YUSA to better their interests" but felt YUSA and other similar groups at York should try to influence the provincial government rather than simply put pressure on the university administration.

Although YUSA has made representations to James Auld, minister of colleges and universities, and has encouraged individual members to send letters to the minister's office complaining of the

plight of university staff associations in Ontario, the YUSA executive feels it is necessary, in Paddle's words, "to obtain a legal status to bargain with the administration."

NO DELAYS

As the situation now stands, YUSA can, if it decides to do so, forgo any further negotiations to obtain voluntary recognition from the administration and simply ask for certification as an independent union from the Ontario Labour Relations Board.

Undoubtedly, the university administration would contest such a request. It could mean a long and costly battle for both sides.

YUSA's stand will be decided on Monday.

Liberal Nixon forecasts Conservative disintegration

By PAUL STUART

If you can accept Ontario Liberal leader Robert Nixon's word on the matter, William Davis' Conservative government is headed for disaster in next year's provincial election.

At Radio York's Bearpit on December 4, Nixon said, "Something is happening in this province and it started about a year ago. I would say a manifestation of this is the Conservative's loss of four by-elections in the past year; we as Liberals won three of them, the NDP won one."

"There is a feeling in the Liberal Party that the conservatives are disintegrating as a political force."

Pressed by Bearpit host Rick Leswick and the Central Square audience as to any alternative he could provide to the Tory dynasty, Nixon presented an image of an able, centrist politician, who wasn't going to make any wild promises to anyone.

When asked by a Liberal supporter to outline his position on free tuition for university students, Nixon said, "I'm not a politician promising free tuition here or anywhere else."

"I accept free tuition as a goal, but I can't promise it right away. There is no such thing as free tuition; the money for it is going to come out of the skin of taxpayers, which includes me and you."

Nixon said he favoured a "university grants commission" to take politics out of university administration."

He attacked Davis for "making university students help him out with his budget difficulties immediately after the last election", by means of tuition raises and changes in the Ontario Student Assistance plan.

On logging in Algonquin Park, Nixon said: "Last week I led off the debate in the legislature opposing further exploitation of Algonquin and all other provincial parks. But it's not possible for any government to just say 'no more logging'. It's got to be a phased operation."

"There are 3,100 people employed by that industry and we've got to make sure that they and their

families are adequately provided for. They've got to have productive jobs, and I don't want to see them pensioned off or put on the shelf."

Asked to define the Liberal Party philosophy, Nixon said that he "wanted to give power back to the individual."

"This may sound like a motherhood issue to you, but these days I think you might even find some people opposed to motherhood."

"The Conservative government's policies have centralized power in Queen's Park, which has resulted in many people only being able to make their voices heard through pressure groups. We want to decentralize power, give it back to the communities and individuals."

He said the Liberal Party favoured collective bargaining for some sections of the civil service, and that present laws "don't stop strikes by make them illegal."

"I don't think members of the provincial police should have the right to strike. I don't think people who have taken on the responsibility of working in psychiatric or other hospitals should be able to withdraw their services: they are essential and we can't exist without them."

"I think liquor control board employees should be able to strike, because they aren't essential, although some of you may not agree with me on that."

Nixon emphasized that though he considered Pierre Trudeau his federal Liberal leader, the provincial organization is independent.

He criticized the Conservative government for dealing with Ottawa "on the basis of Conservatives talking to Liberals, rather than negotiating with a government."

Nixon objected to Morton Shulman's use of the Ontario legislature to make his recent conflict of interest allegations against federal labour minister John Munro.

He said he could make no comment on the propriety of Munro's actions, and felt that the matter should be investigated by a federally appointed Royal Commission.

Earthquake fund appeal

In response to a recent earthquake in the Leeward Islands (essentially Antigua and St. Kitts), a clothing appeal and fund has been set up to assist the large numbers rendered homeless.

A table will be set up in Central Square under the banner: Leeward Islands Earthquake Relief Fund, Clothing Appeal.

Clothing of all sorts will be gratefully accepted today and tomorrow at the table, and afterwards in the CYSF office in N111 Ross.

McLAUGHLIN COLLEGE FORMAL

Dine and Dance with The Music Company at The Inn on The Park



Friday, February 14, St. Valentine's Day

— full course roast beef dinner

— tickets \$25. per couple

Puerto Rican women sterilized

PUERTO RICO (CUP/ENS) — One third of all Puerto Rican women of child-bearing age have been sterilized, according to a report submitted to the United Nations recently.

One fourth of the women "regretted the operation and wanted more children".

Birth control on the island is almost non-existent, due to the high cost of pills and lack of education.

Ironically, Puerto Rican women were used as guinea pigs for the early birth control pills, before the pills were commercially available in North America.