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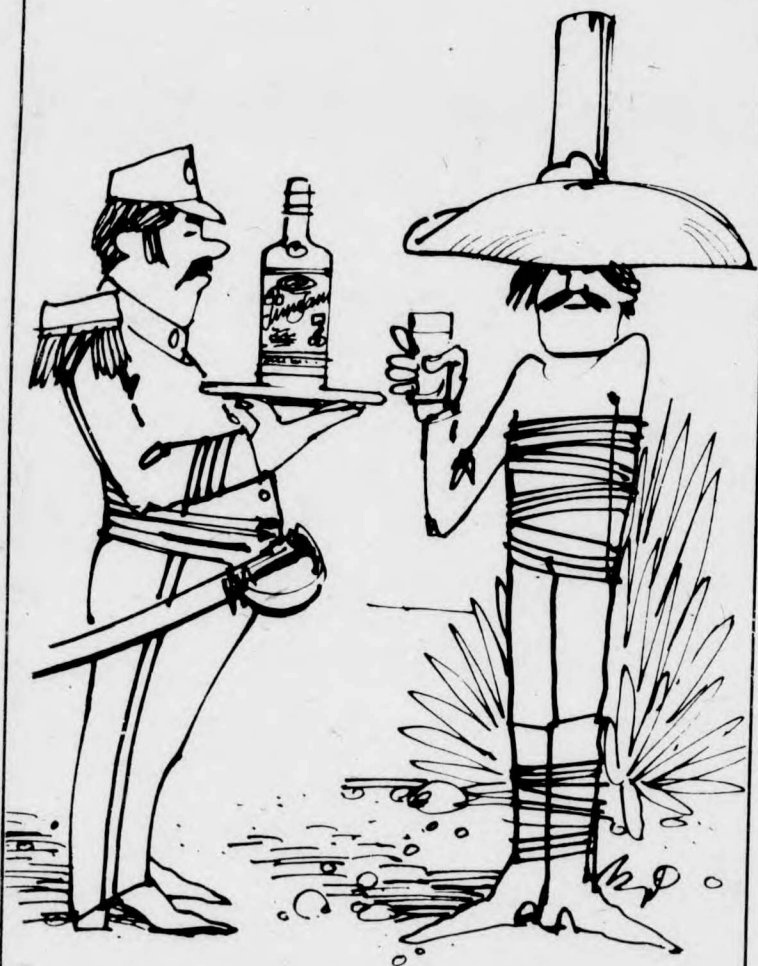
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York members are polled, asked about protest day

This week Excalibur asked members of the York community for their opinions of the Canadian Labour Congress' (CLC) October 14, Day of Protest and what they would be doing on that day.

By JANE CHISHOLM

Ioan Davies (Master of Bethune College)

"The October 14 protest involves too small a sector of the working force and the labour movement is so fragmented that I am pessimistic. Also I feel that the protest is aimed at the government rather than at the real target-industry."

"Unfortunately workers have not considered alternatives which would more directly confront industry. I feel students should participate in the discussion about the 14th, after all, students will eventually be workers. I would hope students could also raise some questions which would help focus the fight towards industry rather than government."

Dave Molton Graduate Assistants Association (GAA)

"My position is that the October 14 protest should be supported. I intend to join the CUPE picket lines on that day. I have elaborated the reasons for supporting the protest in an article for Pro Tem, but basically I support the October 14 action because the wage and price controls are inherently unfair. In fact I believe the protest does not go far enough."

"The labour movement has been caught unprepared and has retreated from a general strike position to the day of protest which is a legal protest. There are some things which I think students should do to support the October 14 actions. They can join the CUPE picket line in the morning of the 14th, or they can go down to the rally at Queen's Park."

"Students can also pursue the economic, political, and historical aspects of wage and price controls, in their studies. In the immediate sense though, students should join the picket lines or the rally. It is our democratic right to protest the unjust laws in the country and we should exercise it."

Barry Edson (Council of the York Student Federation (CYSF) president)

"I cannot comment on the October 14th protest until CYSF has taken a position on it."

Gabriel Paddle (York University Staff Association (YUSA) president)

"YUSA is waiting to find out the results of the Glendon vote, so I do not think it would be appropriate for me to comment at this point."

Paul Kellogg (co-chairperson of the United Left Coalition) ULC)

"I support the 14th. Myself and the rest of the ULC will be participating in the committee to support the 14th, which aims to shut the university down that day. I will boycott classes and participate in the CUPE picket lines, then go down to the rally."

"Students should support the October 14 action because the labour movement is the only sector which has consistently supported the students and the idea that education is a right. Also students will eventually be workers so it is in their interest to go down to the rally on 14th to participate with the tens of thousands of workers."

John Tory (President of the Osgoode Hall Legal and Literary Society and of the Ontario Young Progressive Conservatives)

"I support the October 14 action, however I will be in class on that day. Because students are not part of the labour movement I do not feel it is necessary for them to skip classes. If any student is in a union; though, I do not think they should cross the picket lines."

"Many students do not understand the 14th action and I think it would be very good if they could bring the topic up in class. I also believe it would be a good idea to conduct an educational campaign concerning the 14th next week, so students can become more aware of the issues."

John Becker (Assistant Vice-President for Student Relations of York University)

"I will be at work on October 14. Although I do not feel I can speak about what others should do on that date, my action should indicate how I feel about the protest. I do not feel that students, as such, have any particular reasons to be interested in the 14th, but as citizens they may."

(As to whether students should bring up the issue of the 14th in class "I feel that if they regard the professor as a scarce resource, they may not want to take up class time with a discussion which is not related to the course.")

Eli Mandel (Humanities Professor)

"Do not think for a single moment that I support the AIB. I feel Trudeau's government has been guilty of incredible bungling, but I don't believe that it follows that professors should boycott classes. I think it is an incredibly stupid act on the part of a university professor to strike against the students, because it is the government policy not the students that is responsible."

"As far as the YUFA decision goes I think it is an example of the confusion in that union. Also YUFA is in a very tricky legal position. While I can't support the idea of professors striking, I would strongly support any protest action the students take."

John Yoltan (Past president of York University and a philosophy professor)

"The question of October 14 is very complex. Only economic experts really have the knowledge to decide whether the AIB is economically effective and I am not an economist. While I feel it is good for people to form opinions regarding political questions, they should be individual decisions not group decisions. I do not feel it is appropriate to discuss political questions in the classroom, unless it is an economics or political science course. The university is an educational institution and I believe it should be moving ahead with education."

Murray Miskin (Chairperson of Ontario Federation of Students (OFS))

"We very strongly support the October 14 action. These are the kinds of student participation we recommend. Students should go to the rally at Queen's Park then to the teach-in at the Medical Arts Building at U of T right after the rally. I will not go to classes that day and will probably be downtown most of the day. That is where things are really happening. I'm getting really excited about the whole thing."

Lynn Macfadden (assistant editor of Breakthrough)

"I will not be at work on the 14th. I am a member of YUSA and YUSA has recommended that its members stay off work on that day. The 14th concerns students also, not directly since they are not part of the labour force, but because they may suffer because of the protest. It is unfortunate that the students will be hurt because of the protest, but it is necessary for the workers to stick together."



What will Yorkers do on October 14?