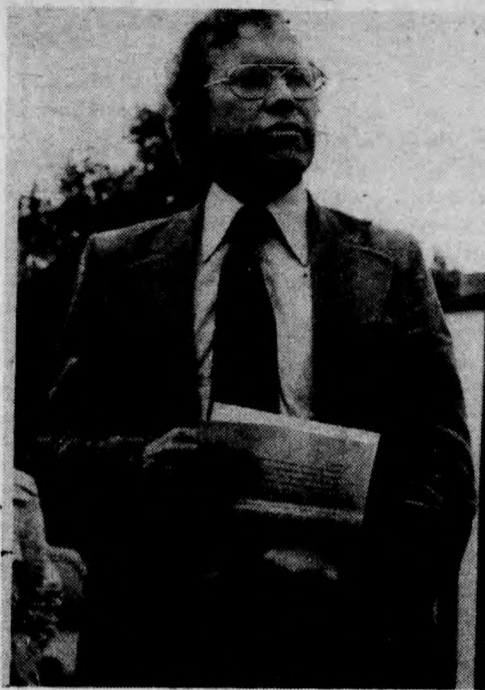


Cassidy and Sweeney speak on picket line



Mike Cassidy

By Laura Brown

Last Thursday's cutbacks forum was relocated outside the university grounds, because guest speakers Ontario NDP leader Michael Cassidy, and Liberal colleges and university critic John Sweeney refused to cross the picket line.

Sweeney and Cassidy addressed the York staff picketers and their supporters on the sidewalk of Steeles Ave. and Ottawa Blvd.

Cassidy walked on the picket line before addressing the strikers with a short support speech.

"I'm here to support the strikers who have been given a crummy offer of 4 per cent in their negotiations... this dispute is a symbol of the cutbacks policy of Bette Stephenson and Bill Davis," Cassidy said.

"I don't think the workers should be seized upon and made the victims of policies made down at Queen's Park," he continued.

To the general agreement of the crowd, Cassidy said the staff should not be made to accept a 5 per cent cut in their standard of living and that if the York University

management would bargain in good faith they would come up with a wage settlement of somewhere between four to 10 per cent.

Cassidy expressed appreciation to the handful of students present at the rally for their participation and understanding of the strike. Cassidy did not see the strike as an obstruction to the studies. He remarked, "the students can carry on."

"Something like 300 part-time faculty were laid off last year, and the quality of education declines as the number of faculty goes down," he said. The result is that young people are not coming to university".

Sweeney's argument focused around what he said was an incorrect claim by some of the picketers, that the university has money for wage increases.

Sweeney spoke of the advisory body set up in 1974 to advise the government on what was needed to maintain, the university system. The committee suggested 6.9 per cent but the government gave 5.8 per cent.

(Cont'd on page 3)



John Sweeney

Excalibur

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Vol. 13 No.2 York University Weekly Community Newspaper Thursday, September 28, 1978

Students shack up in Mac's office

By Gord Graham

As the support staff strike went into its second week, angry students occupied President Maddonald's office, demanding a fair settlement for the YUSA workers.

Earlier on Tuesday, about 700 people had massed in Curtis Lecture Hall I after a chant-filled march across the campus from the Keele Picket line. A large contingent from Glendon prompted French chants such as "nous voulons les services, finissez la greve".

The assembly was addressed by various speakers pledging support for the strike, when President Macdonald, invited to the rally late Friday afternoon, did not appear, about 200 students walked upstairs to the 9th floor and sat on the plush carpet awaiting his return from a meeting of the senate policy committee.

Several hours later, Macdonald appeared, drawn from the Senate chambers where the policy committee has assembled to meet the students. In the hall outside the south elevators, he was presented with a petition carrying 2,500 student signatures that called for the administration to "settle the strike signatures that called for the administration to "settle the strike for the benefit of our education.... in recognition of the just demands of YUSA for decent pay and job security." He was also given about 175 letters from Glendon students expressing their dismay with the situation.

Accepting the petitions, Macdonald said, "I'm very glad to have these, representing quite a considerable portion of the university budget right there."

The students then put questions to Macdonald and his senior policy advisors in the 9th floor senate chambers for several hours. Pressing for an emergency fund for students whose OSAP grants had been held up, and a commitment or compromise by the university negotiators, many students left unsatisfied and returned to the president's offices.

At press-time a round-the-clock sit-in had been proposed, its members vowing to stay until negotiations between YUSA and the administration resumed.

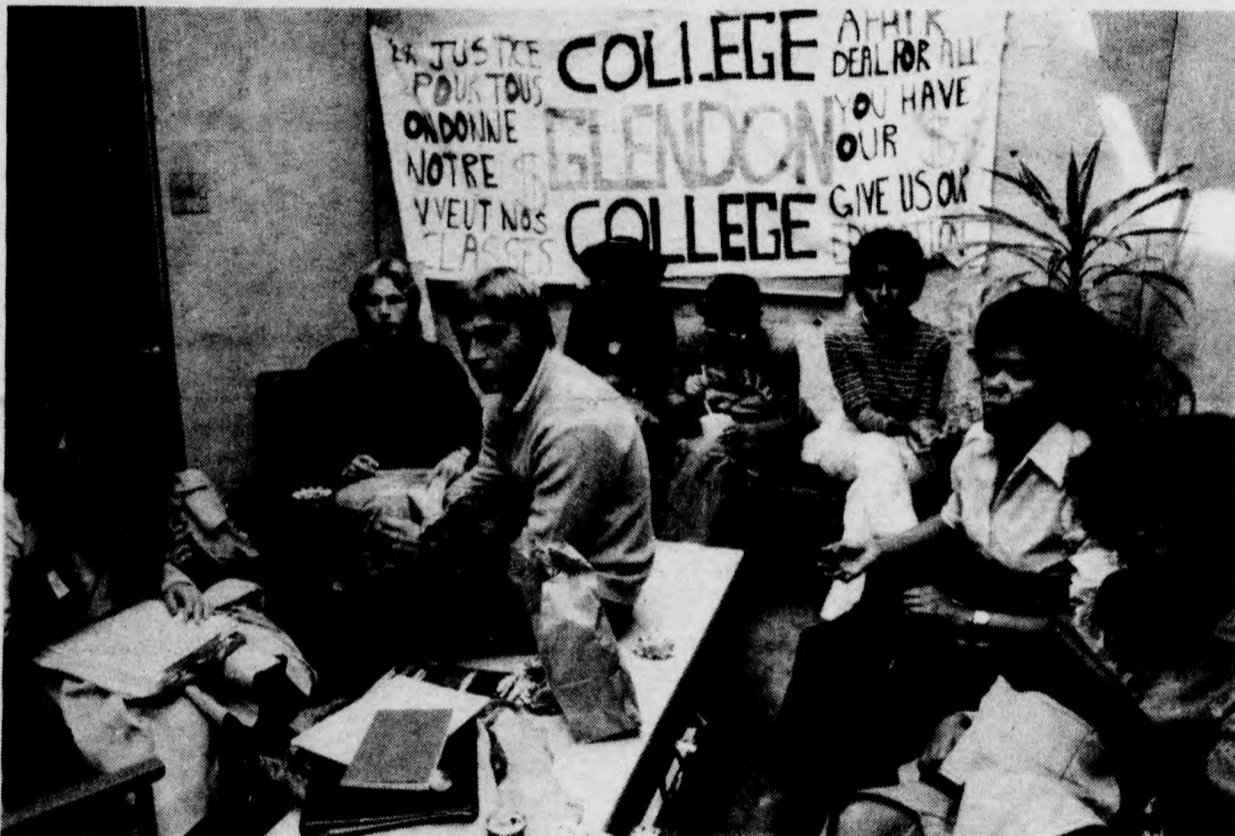
After 20 hours of negotiations last weekend, the staff and the university had settled on everything but the monetary clauses of their contract.

But no one was predicting when negotiations would re-open, after breaking off late Sunday night.

The three areas the union stressed: protection against contracting out their work to part-timers; protection against technological change; and protection against management performing their work, had been refused for discussion by the university before the recent talks.

"Why did it take three years of unionizing and one week of striking to get the university to even talk about these?" asked YUSA negotiating committee member John Lang.

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Glendon college students waiting on Tuesday afternoon for President MacDonald to come to the sit-in.

Council heads oppose strike



David Chodikoff
By Paul Stuart

The heads of ten student councils and general meetings have issued a strongly worded statement, attacking both the York administration and the staff association for their "inability to come to a mutual agreement in a sane and rational manner."

The statement was released to Excalibur just prior to a meeting of the ten reps with York president H. Ian Macdonald and YUSA leaders on Monday afternoon.

Asked about the reception they received from both sides, CYSF president David Chodikoff replied: "We weren't popular at either

place. Our view wasn't shared by either party, which, I think, proves our position is the best one."

The statement is printed in full on page four. The group of council leaders made the move in the face of growing student dissatisfaction with interruptions of services and lectures.

Co-signer David Chodikoff, president of the council of the York Student Federation said that Bethune college council chairman Bob Speller initiated the group statement.

Speller told Excalibur Monday that the "position we've taken is not fence-sitting, it is one of intelligence on the part of those of us here."

"I think tensions are rising on the picket lines and the strike has to be stopped before they rise anymore."

Signer Chris Winter, co-chairperson of the Calumet general meeting, complained about the organization of the strike:

"I think initially students were left out in the cold, the union didn't approach students. The first time many people found out about the strike was when they were waiting in their cars for half an hour on the picket lines."

Asked to comment on the statement, Peter Brickwood, chairperson of the student strike support committee, disagreed strongly with the views of the student reps.

"We feel that it is the administration's intransigence that has caused the breakdown," he said, when contacted at the president's office, Tuesday midnight.

"They have bargained on job security and they are now refusing to bargain on wages. Bargaining, by definition, means to find a compromise. The administration has refused to budge from an offer of a four per cent wage increase."

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Staff fringe benefit proposal was for 0.6%

On the front page of last week's Excalibur, a typographical error resulted in the omission of a crucial decimal point.

The York University Staff Association was in fact, requesting an increase in fringe benefits of just 0.6 per cent, not six per cent. The correct figure

was stated in last week's editorial.

We apologize to the staff association and to all our readers for the mistake.

Excalibur would like to thank Steve Toth, who co-reported last week's front page article, headed, Staff Strike could be a long haul.



Barb Taylor