Excalibur

Everything secret degenerates; nothing is safe that does not show it can bear discussion and publicity
—Lord Acton

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More than money to unionization moves

The York University Staff Association and the Teaching Assistants have each become full-fledged unions this week. What does this say about this university's administration?

There was a time (when an university education was in vogue and government funding unlimited) when a YUSA would not have been able to receive a 79 per cent vote, in favour of certification.

And it's more than the drying up of the money-flow which has contributed to the change in the support staff's attitudes towards the administration, although money certainly plays a key role in the rift between the administration and its employees.

There is little doubt that staff salaries have fallen far behind comparable wage scales in the public and private sector, beyond the York campus. But perhaps more important, in trying to assess the dissatisfaction of staffers with this administration, is the low priority staffers feel the administration has given them.

The President's Committee on Staff Compensation and Personnel Policies reported two weeks ago that much of the tension between the support staff and the administration, is caused by the boss-worker posture the administration has taken with the staff.

The committee reported that there exists a feeling among the staff that the university does not consider them an important part of this university. This, as mueh as the low salary scales, has contributed greatly to YUSA's successful drive to certification.

Jerry Goldhar, first vice-president of YUSA told Excalibur the day after the report was distributed that the staff's drive for certification was a direct result of the support staff's dissatisfaction with the university administration. He intimated that he did not believe YUSA would have formed a union, had relations between staffers and the university administration been more harmonious.

Clearly, the university must share a substantial portion of the blame in the souring relations between it and the varied special interests groups forming all around them. The university faculty association is currently in the midst of a campaign to become certified as a bargaining unit, meaning that all special interests groups on campus will be unionized.

If the university feels endangered by such a situation, it need not look any further than itself for the cause.

While other universities have been willing to budget a certain deficit, York has refused to do so. The price of this refusal has been to alienate many of the groups on campus, upon whose good will this university is dependant.

The certification of YUSA and teaching assistants is a welcome sight and may in the long run improve the relations between the two.

Because the staff and teaching assistants have acquired a more powerful bargaining position, the administration may be forced to respect the groups, in an effort to appease them.

Let's discuss it!

Excalibur
staff meeting

today 1 p.m.
room 111
Central Square

Everyone welcome

Editor-in-chief — Julian Beltrame
Managing editor — Oakland Ross
News editor — Anna Vaitiekunas
Entertainment editor — Agnes Kruchio
Sports editor — Myles Davis
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Business and advertising manager — Olga Graham

YORK YOU, BUDDY

Tait-McKenzie. Monday at noon. We walked quickly through the men's locker room where towelled, non-smoking men made their unhurried ways to and from the showers.

York's Dr. Nabil Labib had challenged Azziz Khan to a showdown on squash court number four and we couldn't be late.

We weren't. Neither were thirty or so other fans who were jostling for position against the gallery railing and dragging benches on which to stand from the locker room.

We synchronized our watches: 12:01. And licked our lips. The name Khan means squash and we knew it. Khans have dominated the game for two generations. We all knew that. We only hoped that Labib, York's soft-spoken physicist-turned-entrepreneur, wouldn't let the thought tighten his wrists.

12:15. Squash is a hell of a game to watch. Intricate, tricky, explosive. But an empty squash court is dull.

12:30. Nabil Labib strolled onto the court, a vision in pastel pink shirt and white shorts. Khan, also a vision in pastel pink shirt and white shorts, strolled onto the court right behind.

Volunteer referees and linesmen were chosen from the crowd. Labib won the toss and elected to serve. He went ahead 5-0. Khan battled back to 6-6, and proceeded to miss every dink or chip shot he attempted. Labib played steadily and won the first game 9-7.

The second game was a see-saw battle which Khan won 9-7.

The spectacular rallies we expected were missing. The shots that snap against three walls and die — where were they? Khan didn't seem to be concentrating, or something. Was he just toying with Labib?

Labib won the third game 10-8. That should have given him the match, but Khan protested. "I thought it was best out of five" he complained.

Labib, a gentleman on the court as well as in the store, agreed to continue.

The fourth game confirmed our suspicions. Khan sent Labib sprawling; he won 9-3 almost without moving his feet. And they decided to call it a draw.