

YUFA conciliation fails

Doug Whittall

With the York University Faculty Association's contract expiring on April 30, negotiations between the union and the Administration have ceased due to a provincial conciliator's inability to bring the two sides closer to an agreement.

Meetings ended last Thursday with the filing of a "No Board Report" which states that "conciliation had failed to bring about a settlement, or even the hope of a settlement." After their contract expires the union will be in a legal position to strike.

YUFA chairperson Howard Buchbinder, who requested conciliation, expressed dismay with the administration's bargaining tactics and charged that they were "playing power games."

"We came into conciliation with a very large concession," says Buchbinder, "and they came back with a fractional move of less than a percentage point. The administration is really practicing brinkmanship in its labour relations; we call it strike-baiting."

Bill Farr, Vice-president of Employee and Student Relations is "hopeful" a solution will be reached before the contract

expires and says, "At Thursday's session the union came down from their original 39 per cent by 13 points. That leaves them at around 23 or 26 per cent, depending on how they cost their pension item. I've given the figure to our consultants to evaluate."

The union, on the other hand, says their demands add up to a 22.5 per cent increase. While the two sides are not far apart in terms of numbers, they are at odds over non-monetary issues such as class sizes and summer teaching assignments.

Under the administration's proposal, professors slated to teach Fall/Winter classes can find their courses cancelled if the enrollment is low. They could then be required to pick up courses in the summer session regardless of previous plans they may have made.

YUFA negotiator Joe Ernst explained the problem, saying, "they've upped the ante with this summer teaching proposal where it's possible for the administration to assign summer teaching to our membership at any time." He adds that, "it's not a consultative thing, it's a power thing."

According to Ernst, profes-

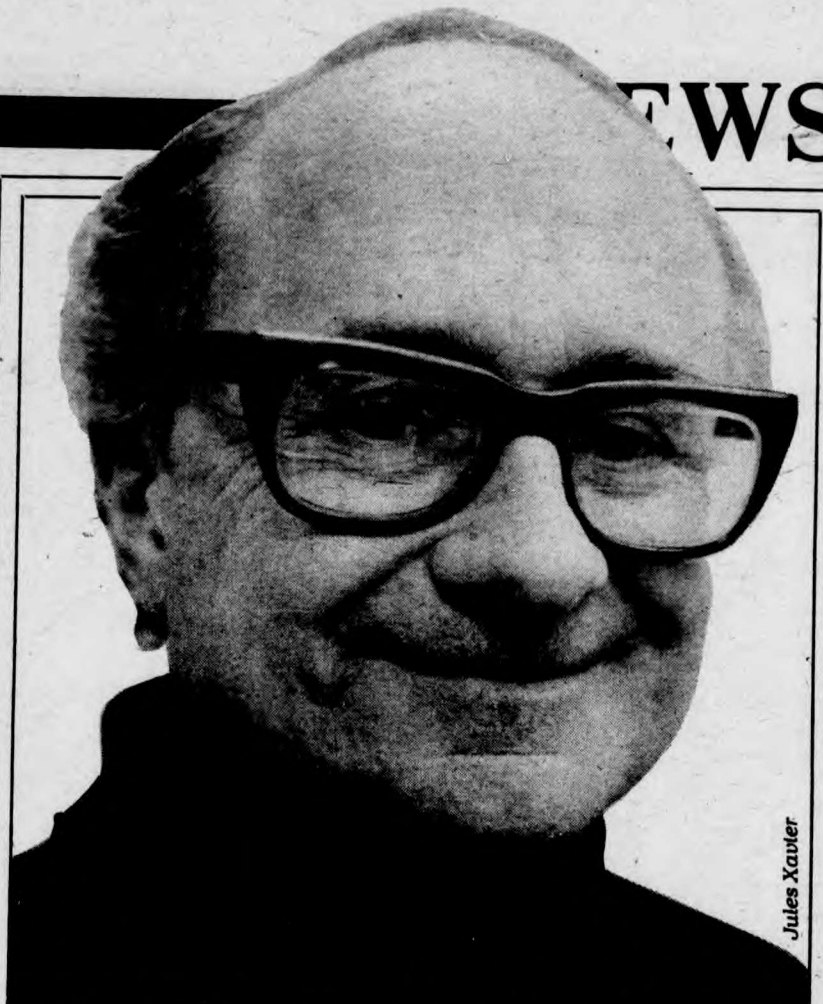
or's research will be inhibited by this proposal, which will ultimately result in "administrative power of the kind that interferes with the educational process."

Buchbinder also accused the administration of "not recognizing what collective bargaining is all about ... Farr and the administration want to negotiate this contract through the media, instead of at the table."

"A settlement must take place at the table; all we ask is, why not use the process the way negotiations are designed to take place." The union is presently waiting for a "serious" counter proposal from Farr.

"We're ready to come back tomorrow, if there's any new proposals, if he wants to call us, we're listening," said Ernst.

Collective bargaining procedure calls for the appointment of a mediator after the "No Board Report" is filed, and before the contract ends. Buchbinder says he has called a special membership meeting to discuss the union's options as the contractual deadline approaches and job action becomes possible. Last year, job action resulted in the withholding of final grades.



Jules Xavier

Atkinson Associate Professor John McNamee is pro-nuclear.

Faculty Focus

John McNamee: Atoms for Peace

Doug Whittall

Atkinson Associate Professor of Computer Sciences, John McNamee, wants to see the superpowers negotiate an end to the arms race.

McNamee, who is also chairman of his department, is committed to publicizing the dangers of the arms race through his activities as Vice-chairman and promotional secretary of the York Association for Peace. "We're loosely plugged into eleven different disarmament groups in the Toronto region," says McNamee. "Our job is partly trying to get information, and partly informing people about what's going on."

Born in England, McNamee studied mathematics at Cambridge and then earned a Ph.D in Nuclear Physics from London University, before coming to Canada in 1961. Because of his background, the outspoken professor is well aware of the threat of the destructive fire of nuclear fission poses to mankind. "I really struggled with the problem while doing my Ph.D. I didn't see anything wrong with nuclear power because a doctorate in nuclear physics is very theoretical; we can make bombs or reactors." McNamee, who is "very strongly" pro-nuclear, explains straight-forwardly, "I am one who believes in atoms for peace, not war."

The Y.A.P. has organized four seminars so far this year, and McNamee has been a featured speaker on two occasions in the last two weeks. Speaking last Thursday, McNamee said, "We're saying that it is possible to negotiate and lay down our arms with the Soviets. We also believe Canada should withdraw from our N.A.T.O. commitments." Describing his involvement in the peace movement, McNamee recalls, "In the Sixties we all felt deterrence was working because both sides were scared; now I'm pessimistic about disarmament as long as Reagan and the people around him are still in power."

"Now the question is: do we take the Russians up on their offer for negotiated disarmament, as U.S. President Carter did with SALT II."

Besides being a peace activist, McNamee is also concerned about the computer's effects on society. As one who used the mechanical hand-cranked calculating machine before the advent of the microprocessor chip, he has lived the computer revolution. He has recently written a paper in which he advocates full employment fiscal policies in order to maintain a stable computerized economy.

"The computer is a very good thing, as long as we follow proper economic policies," he said, "but they can still be misused by a few. And the computer is certainly a part of the arms race problem," he adds.

Professor McNamee is working hard to inform the York community about the importance of making an intelligent decision on a problem which threatens us all. The Y.A.P. meets Wednesday afternoons at 5:00 p.m. in Curtis 110. All are welcome.

Excal elects new editors

M & T new campus media czars

Berel Wetstein

This week saw the low point of *Excalibur's* miserable history, when Michael Monastyrskij and PJ Todd were elected next year's editors. The editors came well-groomed for their jobs, as Mr. Monastyrskij is this year's news editor. The staff, relieved to be rid of Elliott Lefko and Gary Cohen, flocked to vote for anyone who seemed to differ in either sex or religion from the current editors.

Paula ('PJ') Todd has once read the Toronto Sun, and therefore the staff saw her obvious talents.



New Excalibur editors Michael Monastyrskij and Paula Todd.

Both editors speak many languages and have promised to use at least three of them in every article. Ukrainian, Russian and

Croatian will soon be familiar to this journal's readers.

Mr. Monastyrskij says that, as a requirement of working for the *Excal* each staff member must first be able to spell his name correctly (in Ukrainian). Ms. Todd, on the other hand, insists that a writer guess her middle name to obtain an assignment.

With regard to their immediate plans, Mr. Monastyrskij said, "I'm hoping to stay off the sauce." Ms. Todd added, "I hope to discover what a managing editor is."

Excuse us ...

In its edited version, Cathy Moffat's March 25 article *Assassinated for teaching*, identifies Ana Castillo as a Salvadorean guerilla representative. As a spokesperson for the Democratic Revolutionary Front, Ms. Castillo is not a representative of the guerillas, but rather of a civilian coalition sympathetic to the aims of the guerilla movement. *Excalibur* regrets any inconvenience this error may have caused Ana Castillo, Cathy Moffat and our readers.

The March 25 article *Saturday Exams are on* incorrectly states that the administration's proposal to hold some exams on Saturday had been accepted. Saturday exams are in fact contrary to a rule passed by the University Senate in 1975. The only exceptions are exams for classes that are normally held on Saturday. *Excalibur* regrets any inconveniences its error may have caused.

In the March 25 article, *Bevilacqua is victorious but Pearlman challenges* there is a typographical error. The correct spelling of the name of the unsuccessful candidate for Director of Women's Affairs is *Franka Andriano*. *Excalibur* regrets the error.



Keep your hands off Oasis magazines

Ian Bailey

Magazine reader—subscribe!

The Oasis, after a visit from District Manager Bruno Brandt, is making it harder for you to get your free peek at this month's *Omnit* or this week's *Maclean's*.

When his entry to the store was blocked by a small magazine-reading crowd, Brandt, a representative from United Cigar Stores, the parent organization of the store, asked Mrs. Hill, the store's manager, to put up a sign asking patrons not to stand and read. The sign is a standard feature at other UCS locations.

Mrs. Hill and her staff have been aware of the mess that readers were making by not properly replacing their favorite periodicals and the decision came as no surprise. "It's okay to fumble through, but to sit and read is not right. Some people even take notes" said Hill.

Media unfair to business

Berel Wetstein

The media, particularly the CBC, portrays business figures as if they were all thieves and business must do a better job promoting its position, concluded Paul Morton, President of Global Television Network.

Morton, who was the final speaker in the Administrative Studies Dean's Colloquium on Relations between the Media and Business, said he did not understand why the CBC refused advocacy advertising.

But then he suggested that perhaps big business has more resources with which to promote its point of view.

Blaming the media for poor coverage of business, Morton suggested that "we seem to have been unable to find a personality that is both visually pleasing and knowledgeable in business." He said that Global has decided to find a businessman who can make the jump to television as opposed to teaching a reporter business.