

A coast-to-coast cutbacks battle

ST. JOHN'S (CUP)—Fighting cutbacks will be the main focus of the National Union of Students (NUS) this year.

Delegates at its May conference here adopted an anti-cutbacks strategy that is to be organized at both a national and local level and will include possible mass actions during the fall and spring.

The main feature of the campaign will be grassroots organizing to encourage the formation of local anti-cutback coalitions. These coalitions are to work with community groups to form a broad alliance to fight cutbacks.

Provincial and regional organizations will co-ordinate activity at individual campuses and plan provincial actions, while NUS will maintain an over-all national view, and co-ordinate activities on a national level.

David Chodikoff, president of the Council of the York Student Federation, attended the May NUS conference with CYSF vice-president George Karayinnes. In late August, Chodikoff told Excalibur that while York has not yet worked out its own cutbacks policy, "we do support, though not blindly, both NUS and the Ontario



Bruce Wood, NUS fieldworker

Federation of Students and encourage students to become familiar with them."

Much of the work against cutbacks is co-ordinated at the provincial level. Chodikoff is a member of OFS's Long Range Planning Committee and is presently doing a paper for the Federation entitled "A Critique of

Current Decision Making Processes for Ontario's Post Secondary System."

According to a conference document, NUS will focus on the role of the federal government in financing post-secondary education, and how that role ties in with cutbacks.

The campaign will, it is hoped, capitalize on the momentum created by anti-cutback demonstrations that happened throughout March and April. Although these campaigns were supported by NUS, they were not part of any planned NUS campaign, and were for the most part organized at a local level by students and student unions.

The NUS campaigns, instead, had focussed on student aid and unemployment. NUS' new campaign will combine these issues into the over-all anti-cutback fight.

To provide a national focus, the NUS strategists will have a national program of demands including:

- An immediate freeze in tuition fees



Maureen O'Reilly, OFS fieldworker.

- No deterioration in student aid programs
- Immediate job creation to alleviate student unemployment and underemployment
- Government funding to post-secondary institutions that at least matches the inflation rate
- Federal insistence that provincial governments spend federal transfer payments for education on education
- No reduction in academic programs

- No increase in class sizes or contact time
- No loss in real salary or real income for campus support staff or students
- Systematic planning of post-secondary education by those in Canadian society who work within it or who pay for it through taxes.

In August meetings between NUS and the various provincial and regional organizations, delegates discussed integrating lobbying efforts.

NUS will focus on specific areas of federal government involvement, especially student employment programs and the Canada Student Loan Program. They will make sure all campuses know what is going on across the country and that individual institutions are being well served by the provincial and national organizations.

They also decided to use the federal election as a means of increasing public awareness about student unemployment and cutbacks.

Adieu to Harvey



I am resigning from my seat on the Board of Governors of York University. The announcement was made at the BOG meeting of September 11 and will be effective after the October meeting.

Elections had been planned for late October to fill the single vacant student position; it is also the most opportune time to fill my seat.

Many of you may not know what "the BOG" is; in twenty five words or less, it is the financial decision making body of York (while the Senate looks after academic matters). It is composed of 32 members, of whom about 60 per cent are from Big Business, while two each come from the student, faculty, and alumni constituencies. Future columns will deal with the corporate connections of our BOG.

The past year has been exciting. My columns in Excalibur were a pleasure to compose and the numerous people I worked with and grew to know made my life much more pleasurable.

This will not be my last column in Excalibur; hopefully when the two new student Governors begin their terms they will continue my policy of not only reporting each meeting, but also digging behind the facts and figures handed out by the administration.

This weeks column is short due to time and space considerations. Next week will have further details of the September 11 meeting.

Looking back, the most significant effect I had on the BOG was the ending of their secret meetings, a tradition from the first days of York. Since the implementation of open meetings the attendance by spectators has gone up and down, but at least you have the right to attend.

Harvey Pinder

York Unions



Unions back YUSA

This column will express our solidarity with the York University Staff Association (YUSA) in the event of a strike.

This year the York administration has offered all the campus unions packages of salary increase plus fringe benefits that come to around 4%. We find these offers entirely unsatisfactory for a number of reasons.

Firstly, with the rate of inflation approaching 10%, a 4% increase amounts to a 6% wage cut. In the second place, the AIB has meant that all of us have had wage increases in the past two years that have either fallen behind or barely kept up with the rate of inflation. Thirdly, the vast majority of all contract settlements over the past summer have been between 6 and 10%. Finally each campus union has reasons of their own to be dissatisfied.

For example, faculty salaries at York are among the lowest in Ontario.

Also CUPE, which represents maintenance and cleaners, was forced to accept a 4% settlement in the Spring. Being a relatively small union and with classes over, they could not have exerted much pressure on the university by striking. Though very dissatisfied, they were forced to accept the 4%.

We hope that the administration will make sufficient concessions to avoid a strike. If intransigence by the administration should force YUSA to strike the university would be crippled at a time when we are just getting the academic year under way. It would be impossible to operate the library, the reproduction of typed and written material would grind to a halt, the telephone system would be ineffective, and the process of sorting out people and courses particularly at the first year level would fall into confusion.

Obviously students who are just starting their academic year would be hurt the most. But York also serves the community as a

whole which would be hurt by the closure of facilities like the library.

It is the responsibility of the administration to secure sufficient funds to maintain the quality of education at York and an adequate living standard for its employees. As members of the York community we work along side each other and we all face the cutbacks and austerity policy of the administration and provincial government.

We hope that a strike will not occur, but if it does we recognize that YUSA is in the front line of a battle we are all waging—a battle to maintain quality education and our living standard. We have compelling reasons to give all the support we can to YUSA in the event of a strike.

Graduate Assistants Association
Canadian Union of Public Employees (York Local)
Operating Engineers (York Local)
York University Faculty Association

letters

All letters should be addressed to the editor, Excalibur, Room III Central Square. Letters must be typed, triple-spaced, on a 66 stroke line. Letters are limited to 300 words (seven column inches). Name, address, or phone number must be included or the letter will not be published. Excalibur reserves the right to edit for grammar and length.

Deadline Monday 4 pm

Manus is "excellent"

The new format and content of Manus this year is excellent. Any new York University member who reads this publication from cover to cover should have very few questions left about surviving at York. The publication also helps tie many of the activities, events and information together which all aid in creating a community out of what occasionally seems like a "wasteland of the North".

(Ms.) V. Monty
Assistant Head,
Government Documents
& Microtexts,

A regrettable Manus omission

Mr. Leibovitch was quite correct to point out the shortcomings of the college system at York in this

year's handbook. I regret he has not found fault with CYSF for, among other things, its inability to offer satisfactory college representation.

Richard T. Linley,
Stong

Gay Alliance meets

On Tuesday, September 19, the Gay Alliance at York will hold its first meeting of the school year at 6 pm in Room 577 South Ross.

The primary aim of GAY is to unite gay people in the York community and Downsview through social activities such as dances, trips and meetings with other groups like Gay Youth Toronto. To those unfamiliar with the Toronto gay community GAY offers support, information and access to services in the city.

GAY is a member of the Coalition for Gay Rights in Ontario (CGRO) and in the past has been

politically active in the gay movement. Last year we raised money for the Body Politic Defense Fund, supported the John Damien Rally, and joined in the Anita Bryant and International Women's Day marches.

All gay men and lesbians from York and Downsview are welcome. We need your ideas in planning for the new year.

Gay Alliance at York

Feeling insecure? You should

Every year a substantial amount of personal property is stolen from offices, and rooms in residences. Most losses can be attributed to a failure on the part of losers to appreciate that the majority of buildings on campus are accessible to any member of the community at large, and that individuals must take reasonable precautions to safeguard their property.

Most thefts take place when rooms are left open or unlocked and purses are in evidence on the tops of desks, tables or filing cabinets; jackets containing wallets are left unattended; or small portable items are left where they are clearly visible to would-be thieves. Members of the community are strongly advised to lock their doors when vacating offices or residence rooms, even if they only intended to be away for a short period of time, and to ensure that purses, wallets, and other small items of value are kept locked in drawers, cupboards or filing cabinets, or on the person, at all times. As far as practicable items of value should not be left in the lockers in the Tait McKenzie Building when the facilities there are being used.

It should be noted that there is no provision in the University's insurance for theft of personal effects, and persons having items of significant value on campus are advised to maintain the necessary

coverage under their own policies.

C.G. Dunn
Director of Safety &
Security Services

Letters deeply appreciated

My name is Bill Howard and I am an inmate at Collins Bay Pen. I am serving a sentence of six years, but I'm expected to be released very soon. I would very much like to meet some people to maybe get me off on the right foot. This is my first and last time I want to come to prison. Excalibur was mentioned to me by an organization called Operation Springboard. I might add that I'm from Toronto and I plan to return there.

I'm a photographer and a hair stylist by trade. Letters from anyone who is willing to correspond with me will be deeply appreciated and will be answered.

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