

Students and faculty involved

# Bitter struggle at Artistic Woodwork continues

By Brian Milner

The Artistic Woodwork strike, in which a number of York students and faculty have been involved, is a particularly bitter one.

Forty-six persons have been arrested in the strike, which began Aug. 21 when 115 workers walked off the job at Artistic, the largest maker of mass-produced custom picture frames in Canada.

The Canadian Chemical and Textile Union, which was involved in the protracted Texpack strike in 1971, organized the Artistic workers at their own request last spring, according to Treat Hull, a strike supporter and York student.

The organizer was Danny Drache, an Atkinson political economy instructor, who has also served as a negotiator for the predominantly Italian and Greek workers.

In the course of three months of serious negotiations, the union won a 65 cent wage hike over two years. Previously, the mainly skilled employees were receiving \$2 to \$3 an hour.

But the union rejected management rights and seniority clauses which, it says, would have emasculated it.

Basically, the company rejects the principle of seniority rights and insists on a management clause which would hold the union responsible for worker

actions such as wildcat strikes.

The company has not closed down, but is operating with about one-third of the workers, the same number who originally opposed the CTCU's certification. The union accuses them of strike-breaking, and also accuses the company of bringing in outside scab labour.

Chinese and Latin Americans have been brought in, according to Hull, and the language barrier has been a problem.

"They probably didn't know they were strike-breaking," Hull said in an interview last week.

Strikers and supporters complain of police harassment. Ray Van Eenoogh, a York student arrested once for assault and once for mischief by obstruction, said in an interview Monday that police have been selecting persons out of the picket lines, concentrating on those already charged with an offence.

Most of the arrests involve mischief by obstruction (hindering) the lawful entry into and exit from the plants.

Under the law, strikers have the right to inform workers of the reasons for their actions, and request their support. But they cannot physically restrain anyone from crossing the picket lines.

According to one strike supporter, the police have been forming a flying wedge to usher people into the factories in the morning. Anyone bumped

in the rush is then charged with obstruction.

Police officials deny they are acting with unusual zeal in this strike, claiming they are only attempting to keep the peace.

Alderman John Sewell, who has

spoken on the picket lines, has asked for an inquiry into police actions.

Support for the strike has been growing. York faculty members Mark Golden, John Hutcheson, Robert Albritton and John Laing have all been involved in organizing support.

Aldermen Sewell, Dan Heap and Dorothy Thomas, the Waffle movement, and the Italian Democratic Association are numbered among the supporters of the workers, many of whom are in Canada on landed immigrant status.

## Chile is not banana republic

"I call on you now to do what you know you must do, and what you will do is forge the socialist revolution."

After these last words, broadcast on national radio to the people of Chile, Salvadore Allende, first Marxist president of Chile, returned to the Presidential palace dressed in military garb with helmet and an automatic rifle. This, Maurice Zeitlin stated, is the same determination which the military junta encounters in the streets of Chile today.

The country, he predicted, will be governable "only if they are willing to run it as it is: an occupied country."

Zeitlin, a professor of Sociology at Wisconsin University and noted expert in Latin American affairs, gave a special lecture at York, Monday, on the topic of Chile and the politics behind the coup.

North Americans, he believes, view Chile as just another banana republic with one more palace coup. On the

contrary, the Chilean political system ranked in stability along with the "advanced capitalist democracies of Europe, such as Britain, Holland, or France".

Speaking about the most recent events in Chile, Zeitlin described how the junta was now carrying out house to house searches in working-class neighbourhoods for senators, labour leaders, and leftist students. The military, he said, knew the workers would hide these people, till they were able

Support for the Left in Chile has an historical base.

"Both the Communist and Socialist

parties were based in the masses," Zeitlin claimed. The MIR (The Revolutionary Left Movement), originally a leftist student group, had gathered strength during the Allende regime by supporting the seizure of unused land by peasants. Now, Zeitlin said, they head up the *Comandante Unico* along with leaders of the socialists, and one section of the Communist Party which split following the coup.

Zeitlin related clandestine radio reports which described this force as a "unified insurrectionary armed force committed to the struggle for socialism."

## Speaking on humour is a difficult task

By Susan Cooper

Humour is a difficult subject to speak on. However, Professor Patrick Pierre Rafroidi, is conducting a lecture tour of Canadian universities, doing just that.

Last Wednesday, Rafroidi, who is chairman of the English department and vice-president of the University of Lille, France, spoke to over 50 students in the graduate lounge of the Ross building, on the topic "Humour Anglais, Esprit Français."

He began by describing the 'striking love-hate relationship' between France and England down through history; of how in the 18th century, French and English armies "gleefully extinguished each other but borrowed one other's expressions."

George Moore was used as an example of an author, who greatly admired Baudelaire and Flaubert, while furiously denouncing the use of French words such as *résumé* or *chauffeur*, which were cropping up in the English language.

On the other hand, Professor Rafroidi commented that Anglomania flourishes in France. He read a few quotes in French from a recently published book entitled "Parlez-vous Français?", which elicited hearty laughs from the more enlightened half of the audience, as did the poem "Définir l'Humour" by Jacques Prévert.

For the others, however, there were numerous witticisms to appreciate in English. For example: "The French never care what they say actually, as long as they pronounce it properly," and "A sweetheart is a bottle of wine. A wife is a winebottle." (Baudelaire).

When describing visits of the French and English to each others' countries, Rafroidi quoted Voltaire's disdainful comment: "These English have 42 religions and only one source!"

Rafroidi also touched lightly on Quebec humour, mentioning a poem by F.R. Scott entitled "Bonne Entente." He wrapped up his talk by proclaiming the universality of absurdity and then answered a few questions from students.

Everyone seemed to enjoy the lecture. Several enthusiastic persons called him "a good actor", and admired his knowledge of literature. Professor Rafroidi has written several books including "L'Irlande et Le Romantisme."



CALL FOR 'LABATT'S BLUE'

A little Trouble in the morning...



After Shave and Cologne with a distinctive, disturbing fragrance that can give a whole campus Trouble up to 8, 10, or even 12 hours! and you've got Trouble all day.