

Caretakers demand new union

By BRIAN MILNER

Militant workers at York are trying to replace the American-based Building Service Employees' International Union with a well-known Canadian union.

Six workers took up a petition in May to oust the union and quickly obtained 130 signatures, about half the membership.

A vote taken Aug. 5 to decertify or sanction the union won't be counted until the Department of Labour rules on a union motion to let 34 vacationing workers vote.

"CUPE (Canadian Union of Public Employees) is behind the whole thing," Don Barkley, BSIU business manager said.

"These guys (dissident workers) show up with lawyers ... and we can't even afford them."

Barkley bluntly described the workers' actions:

"Disenchanted employees got together in conjunction with an outside union to throw us out.

"As far as I'm personally concerned the ringleader is a paid hand."

Walter Zampolin, 29, an Osgoode night cleaner hired last December, is the shop steward leading the fight against the BSIU.

"I'm not an organizer, I'm just a fed up worker," Zampolin said.

Grievances have multiplied since last December when a strike motion was defeated by one vote on the advice of the union. The problems then were mainly wages and the pension plan.

Now, besides wages, workers are concerned about the work load,

promotion practices, alleged union neglect and the "white-shirted" supervisors.

The work load is considered "extremely heavy" by many of the cleaners. (The union also includes tradesmen and parking attendants.)

One worker reports that he formerly had 28 washrooms to clean on one nightshift. He now estimates his workload at over 20,000 sq. ft. per shift, including washing, sweeping, and buffing.

Zampolin claims the union agreed to an unlimited work load: "The union doesn't seem to have any say at all ... nobody bothers putting in any grievances any more."

Barkley, who took on the job of repairing his union's damaged reputation in March, said Tuesday that "the workload problem and the representation problem exist because of a communication gap between the union and the employees.

"Union meetings (to discuss policy) are open to them, but these people haven't attended ... problems have carried on, been exaggerated ... and are essentially untrue.

"In all the cases of grievances that have been brought to the union's attention the problem has been corrected," he said.

"In Canada we try to run an industrial participatory democracy ... with the as workers part of the decision-making process of the union ... eventually the university."

To improve "worker understanding of union objectives" interpreters were brought in to help Italian speaking employees (a majority) in the spring. They were not present at the December strike vote.

The building services union sends out all notices in both languages now. Barkley has un-

dertaken to meet with workers individually if necessary. But, as he says, it may be too late.

The BSIU has good reason to suspect CUPE. Two contracts, the Toronto Separate School Board and the Simcoe County Board, have been lost to CUPE.

"CUPE has an excellent con-

tract with the Toronto Board of Education and they're flaunting it around," Barkley said.

But CUPE is also a Canadian-based union and this has influenced at least some of the workers.

"We want a Canadian union for Canadian employees," Zampolin said.



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Canada briefs

Drug busts mainly fined

OTTAWA (CUP) — Almost 100 per cent of those convicted for marijuana and hashish possession are being punished with fines not jail sentences, justice minister John Turner said last week.

Speaking to a group of Roman Catholic lawyers in Toronto, he said that since the proclamation of the Criminal Records Act two months ago the nation's courts were handing out summary rather than indictable convictions.

The chief difference between the two types of convictions is severity of sentence. Summary convictions usually carry a maximum penalty of six months in jail and a \$500 fine while indictable offences usually mean anywhere from two years to life in a federal penitentiary.

"We do not want to send an entire generation to jail and we're not doing so," he said.

Turner also pointed out that if there is a summary conviction an individual can apply in two years time to have his record wiped out.

Simon Fraser boycotted

BURNABY (CUP) — The Canadian Sociology and Anthropology Association has advised its members not to accept employment at Simon Fraser University.

The CSAA has also issued an appeal to sociology and anthropology departments at other Canadian universities and abroad to offer positions to faculty wishing to leave SFU.

The move follows the recent refusal by SFU president Strand to abide by an investigating committee's ruling that there was "no cause for dismissal" of the seven radical professors Strand fired earlier this year.

The committee called for the reinstatement of the suspended faculty members.

Other academic associations that have already called for a censure of SFU through the Canadian Association of University Teachers include the American Sociology Association and the American Anthropological Association.

No funds for Canadian studies at Waterloo

WATERLOO — Powerful administrators at the University of Waterloo are sabotaging a Canadian studies program by stripping it of adequate funds, the student newspaper, the *Chevron*, reports.

According to the report, a group of professors drew up a "thin, sensible budget, with no padding added" of \$20,000 for the program and presented it to then-acting arts dean Warren Ober, who told them there were not enough funds in the arts faculty budget for the project.

However, the report says, "Ober and Jay Minas, who was academic vice-president at the time, told President Petch there was enough money in the arts faculty budget and it would not be necessary to take any out of the academic development fund.

"They were either lying to the Canadian studies group or to Petch and after further checking it was found that they were lying to Petch. There were not enough resources in the arts faculty budget."

Student psychology course gives self-determined credit

By MIKE SAVAGE

The Philosophy of Humanistic Psychology is the name of York's newest student-run course.

Organized by the psychology students union the course was open to anyone who has already taken any psychology course.

The course, limited to 15 persons, is already filled.

Henry Grayman, a student organizer, said, "This small number will maximize cohesion and allow for democratic process. The only requirement is that students attend 80 percent of course meetings which will be held at least once a week."

Howard Halpern, another student organizer, said the course "is not a counter-course. It is a course in its own right and lasts a full year."

There is, however, another

course, Philosophy of Humanistic Psychology 11, which the psychology union, in room 249, of the behavioral sciences building, is now organizing.

Both courses will "call upon resource people, rather than having the professor tell you where it's at," Grayman said.

A student can join either course by signing for psychology 389 or psychology 489 and making a contract with a psychology professor to participate in the course.

The student agrees to cover a specified amount of work and, on completion, receives a grade or a pass specified in the agreement.

The course "does not have to be a do-your-own-thing course ... It's for students interested in working together, who believe students can help each other learn," Halpern

said.

The student-run courses were intended to be organized and listed in this year's calendar. A proposal to this effect made by a student to the undergraduate curriculum committee in March was rejected.

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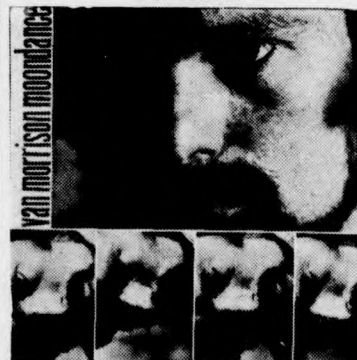
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