

On the front line

Summer 2003

Discussing the Double Cohort

The number of university-ready students is exploding this year. Already 20,000 more students are expected to start at UofT in September.

The double cohort is stretching budgets thin with the need for more residences, more professors, and more support staff University-wide. All this is happening in the face of budget cuts which means that more is expected of us as employees. Stress levels are bound to rise dramatically as demands for services increase. Increased tuition also

presents a burden to students and parents alike.

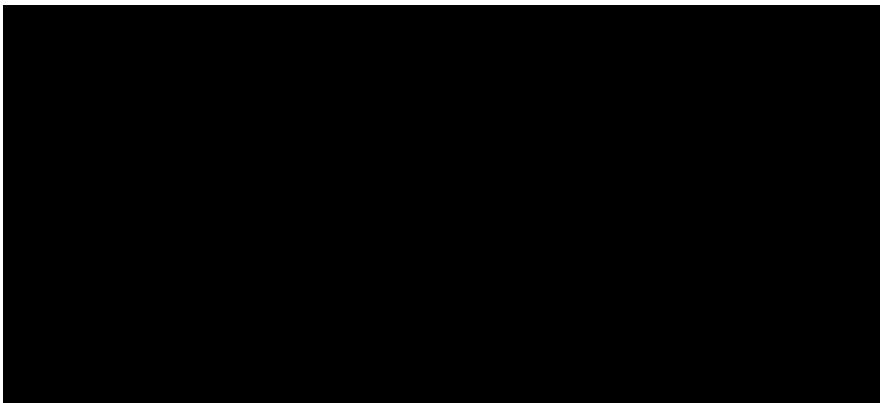
Our staff takes great pride in doing our jobs, however, decreasing funds and resources for the infrastructure of the university is making it difficult to carry out our tasks.

What can we do? Think carefully about the services that are really needed. We welcome your thoughts and ideas in the coming months since the entire university community is affected. Let's start discussions at our meetings to raise awareness of this complex situation.

Name the Newsletter Contest

We're hoping to have a more inspired name for our monthly union newsletter and with all the creative talent in the Libraries, we're sure a winner will surface.

Entries can be sent to Amanda Wagner in the Information Commons on the first floor of Robarts Library or at amanda.wagner@utoronto.ca. Please include your full name, work phone number and office location with your entries. The deadline is Friday, August 15. You may submit as many names as you want. Enter now to win a fabulous cash prize!



IN THIS ISSUE

Discussing the Double Cohort

Name the Newsletter Contest

IMPORTANT GMM in September

Bulletin Summer Issue

An Excellent Response

Job Evaluation Forms

CUPE Ontario Convention

Political Issues

Bulletin Summer Issue

With summer hours upon us and many people away on vacation, we are publishing a summer bulletin which will cover June, July and August news. Monthly bulletins will resume in September.

An Excellent Response

Thanks to all staff for completing the staff contact information. It was a great success and we are building a comprehensive list of names, phone numbers and addresses. It is not too late to hand in these contact forms if you have not yet done so.

Job Evaluation Forms

Job evaluation is still ongoing and we have yet to receive all of the questionnaires that were handed out. If you have not yet handed yours in, please do so as soon as possible. It's your chance to have a say in it!

CUPE Ontario Convention ~ Hamilton, May 22-24

Local 1230 was represented at this 40th annual Convention by the President, Ilka De Diego, the Secretary-Treasurer, Bernie Disonglo, and the Chief Steward, Diane Fleming, who is also on the Executive of the OUWCC (Ontario University Workers' Co-ordinating Committee) The Convention of at least 700 CUPE delegates and officials chose as a theme for this year, "We Can Make a Difference", referring especially to the role CUPE will play in addressing many critical issues such as privatization and under-funding, during the next few months prior to the forthcoming provincial election. Much planning and strategizing has gone into mounting a CUPE agenda to address these issues.

Sid Ryan, President of CUPE Ontario, spoke to the Convention on Thursday. The focus of his address was the number of successes CUPE, (now some 540,000 strong nationally) has had in its forty-year history. He reminded delegates that much of Canada's progressive social change has been influenced by resolutions and policies adopted by CUPE. Issues such as pay equity and same-sex benefits have been moved as resolutions at CUPE conventions. Looking to the future Ryan said that, not only must CUPE carry forward this tradition of progress, but must also look to addressing in a positive and progressive manner, the very structure of CUPE itself as a Union.

Brian O'Keefe, Secretary- Treas-

urer of CUPE Ontario presented his annual report, cautioning the delegates about tough financial times ahead. Much money will be spent on building CUPE at the local level and mobilizing members as activities increase with the pending elec-

"Small countries have free university education.

Why is it not possible here, in Canada, to have free, universal post-secondary education?"



Ilka De Diego

tion. On a positive note, O'Keefe reported that CUPE Ontario brought in some 3,000 new members in 2002, providing additional revenue. The issue of raised per capita tax brought forth a heated debate, after which a 5-cent per capita increase was approved.

Delegates viewed an informative and entertaining video entitled "Double Cohort, Double-Crossed" highlighting the impact of under-fund-

ing and privatization on workers and students in the university sector. Following the video, many delegates spoke to these issues. Local 1230 President, Ilka De Diego, said that "Small countries have free university education. Why is it not possible here, in Canada, to have free, universal post-secondary education?"

Howard Hampton, Leader of the Ontario NDP, spoke on the issue of globalization, and privatization as the greatest threats to our working life. He urged all to "vote what you believe in – you might just get it".

National President, Judy Darcy, addressed the Ontario Convention for the last time. She cited privatization as the single biggest fight for CUPE across Canada. Darcy looked back at her 30-plus years as a Union activist, and said how difficult her decision to retire had been. As a tribute to Darcy, a video "collage" depicting her career was shown.

National Secretary-Treasurer, Claude Genereux, delivered both good news and bad news. The budget deficit has been cleared up, with a small surplus. At the National Convention in October, options for improving the strike fund will be discussed.

We congratulate our colleague, Mehdi Kouhestaninejad, President of CUPE Local 3261 and President of the Toronto District Labour Council, on his being elected to the Executive Board of the CUPE Ontario Division. Congratulations Mehdi !

.....

Political Issues

In order to help bring about a change in government, CUPE National had asked that locals across Ontario support the NDP party, principally it's leader, Howard Hampton, by donating to their campaign. We have been asked to do this to fight against

Ernie Yves and his Conservative mandate.

Because donating money to political parties is a very sensitive issue, our president presented it at the last GMM and promised to get back to the members with the final decision.

At our July Executive meeting, it was decided that we as a local will not be contributing to any political campaign because historically, the consensus of this local has been to not contribute our local's funds to any political party