

In this Issue -

Union Delegation in House, Bursaries Awarded, Local News, You Asked, President's Message, and Upcoming Events

Edzerza Stonewalls in Legislature Minister Speaks! Disappoints.

John Edzerza, Minister responsible for the Public Service Commission, rose on the first day of the fall legislative sitting to respond to Opposition questions about the government's ham-handed computer use investigation. A

delegation of union members, many from locals representing government employees, filled the gallery in the hope of finally getting some answers.

Edzerza fiddled and fumbled his way through the session, fielding all questions directed to the government that related even superficially to the computer use probe. His refusal, or inability to provide any substantive responses shocked and embarrassed the gallery. Many in atten-



Union members listen in vain for answers about the computer use issue before walking out in frustration.

dance had not witnessed a legislative session before. Edzerza's performance did little to engender confidence in the system.

The delegation wore white t-shirts that read, "We Deserve Respect", a message apparently still lost on the government.

Edzerza's only notable response was his acknowledgement that the process had, in his words, "spiraled out of control". This rather obvious statement of fact was, nonetheless, a surprising admission. Until now the government had maintained that the process was under control.

"At least we finally have a recognition from the government that this did spiral out of control", said YEU President Dave Hobbis. Edzerza's "absolute and abject failure" to answer any questions

appalled Hobbis and the others in attendance.

The presence of the union delegation in the gallery served further notice to the government that the membership has no intention of allowing this issue to be ignored or forgotten.

Bursaries Awarded

Eight Yukoners have been awarded bursaries of \$1000 each by the Yukon Employees' Union. The 2003 recipients are:

Michael Reynolds - first recipient of the Don Galbraith Memorial Bursary

Courtney Sipple - Trades Bursary

Janelle Hardy

Caley English

Delany Gehmair

Ben Bryce

Alan Hill

Sean Petersen

Live Music & Refreshments! 201-2285-2nd Avenue (across from the Westmark Klondike)

Join Us at the YEU Human Rights Day Open House - Friday, December 5th, 2:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Bowers Elected to Component Executive

Mark Bowers was elected to the position of YEU Component Director on October 30th. The tightly-contested result was achieved on the 4th ballot.



Congratulations to Mark and sincere thanks to the other candidates, Mike Travill, Lorelee Kesler and John Nesgaard.

Yukon College Talks Suspended

The Employer broke off talks at Yukon College on October 30th. They informed the negotiating team for College Employees that because they saw no movement on their issues, they were applying for conciliation.

The Employer wants to delete most of the Letters of Understanding, including Letter of Understanding A - Job Security,

and to leave crucial elements out of the agreement. They also want to make significant changes to Article 59 - Joint Consultation, changes that would render the committee ineffective.

Furthermore, the Employer's monetary offer was 7% over three years, INCLUSIVE of affected fringe benefit premiums and pension increases. The word "inclusive" means that increases to benefits and pension contributions would be deducted from the 7%. If the team were to accept this proposal, it would mean that the members would be paying the Employer's increased share of the pension contributions.

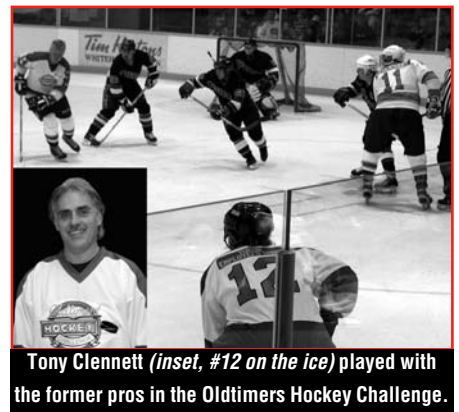
These and a number of other Employer-issues would constitute significant erosions of the hard-won rights of Yukon College Employees, rights that the negotiating team felt could not be surrendered.

An information meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, December 2nd in Room C1530 at Yukon

College. Members of the employee's negotiating team will be there to provide details about outstanding issues and to seek input from the membership.

Union Member Suits Up with Former Pros

Tony Clennett took to the ice with a team of legendary hockey heroes during the **Oldtimers Hockey Challenge** held in the Takhini



Tony Clennett (inset, #12 on the ice) played with the former pros in the Oldtimers Hockey Challenge.

Arena on November 4th. Tony won the draw among YEU members for a spot on the team.

The Yukon Employees' Union was a sponsor of the event, which raised funds to assist the Whitehorse General Hospital.



YEU you asked

"Here are some answers to questions that might affect you or your co-workers."

Q. I work for YTG. We've been working overtime a lot lately, and my supervisor says I cannot get it paid out, but have to take it as Compensatory Leave. Is this right?

A. According to the YTG Collective Agreement, Article 16.06 (a) "overtime earned by a regular employee within any pay period may, at the employee's option, be paid out at the applicable overtime rate or, alternatively, may be banked

and liquidated as compensatory leave."

While the employer has the discretion as to whether or not they authorize overtime, they do not have the right to dictate whether you are paid out or bank it as compensatory leave.

YEU from the President



At the time this newsletter went to press, we had not received arbitrator Vince Ready's decision on the terms of a Collective Agreement for Yukon government employees.

Our members can be assured that immediately upon receipt, details of the decision will be conveyed via a posting on the YEU website, fax and email transmissions, and following that, through community meetings.

A host of other issues and actions affecting our members continue to require our attention. I have summarized a few of these issues below.

Yukon College Negotiations

Negotiations toward a collective agreement with Yukon College failed to reach a successful conclusion. The employer broke off talks on October 30th, and applied to the Industrial Relations Board for the appointment of a conciliator.

A strike vote meeting will be convened as soon as the conciliation dates are set.

Computer Use Disciplinary Hearings

Activity beyond the media spotlight continues in the wake of the

government's bullying. A recent decision in the Union's favour postponed hearings scheduled for mid-December. The board granted the delay to allow the parties to discuss outstanding preliminary issues. This decision seems to support the possibility of mediation.

The comments attributed to PSC Commissioner Pat Daws in a *Whitehorse Star* report following the Yukon Federation of Labour convention have caused PSAC/YEU and myself as YEU President to explore legal action for defamation.

Ambulance Services

YEU is working on behalf of Local Y017 members facing a myriad of issues affecting Ambulance Services. These include hours of work, scheduling, stand-by, training, bravo service, air medevac service, etc. Action by concerned volunteers has led to extensive media coverage on yet other issues. We hope this may force the government to finally take steps to resolve the situation.

F&CS Case Loads

Unsolved issues from some months ago have resurfaced. Case load problems at Family & Childrens Services have not been resolved. Many workers carry double the recommended caseload due to multiple vacancies and extended leave situations.

While the employer has taken some action to

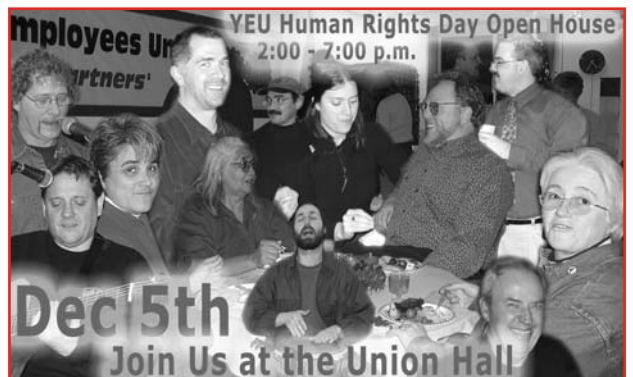
attempt to alleviate the situation, our ongoing support for these members remains a high priority. The Ministerial/DM levels of Health & Social Services have thus far declined to meet with us. Our concern is that the conditions these workers endure is leading to safety issues, liability concerns, stress, burnout and high employee turnover.

Rally at Legislature

I thank all the members who participated in the protest rally on the opening day of the Legislature. Sadly, those in attendance were exposed to an uninformative and embarrassing performance by the Yukon Party government.

Economic Development

Regrettably, the government's consultative process on the creation of a new Department of Economic Development overlooked the obvious fact that labour was an interested party. It took an initiative by the Yukon Federation of Labour to wrangle an invitation for YEU to be represented on the review committee. In order to advance our positions, I have agreed to join Brother Rody as a labour representative.



Human Rights Day Open House

Yukon Employees' Union invites members and friends to an open house on December 5th, to commemorate Human Rights Day! Join us in our celebration of the rights already achieved, and in our rededication to our work towards equal treatment for all people.

Live music and refreshments will be provided. The event takes place at the Union Hall, 201-2285-2nd Avenue (across from the Westmark Klondike), from 2:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Disability Awareness Expo

The Yukon Council on Disability presents the 2003 Disability

Awareness Expo on December 4th at the Elijah Smith Building (Main & 3rd) between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

See over 20 demonstrations, with exhibits and displays. Try out a sports wheelchair, see what's new and exciting for people with disabilities, and learn about challenges and solutions. Complete the Activity Passport and you could win a free trip to Vancouver or other prizes. Call 668-6703 for more information.

We share the air

Please prevent harm to people who suffer from respiratory difficulties. Avoid using scented products in the workplace.

Upcoming Events

YEU Executive Meeting

Monthly - 2nd Thursday, 6:30 p.m.

Union Office. All members are welcome.

Local Y011 Information Meeting

Dec 2 - 4:30 p.m.

Yukon College Employees information meeting on the Contract negotiations. Room C1530, Yukon College.

Disability Expo

Dec 4

YEU Human Rights Day Open House

Dec 5 - 2:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Drop in and celebrate Human Rights Day at the YEU Union Hall. Enjoy music and refreshments in the company of friends.

White Ribbon Campaign

Dec 6

Human Rights Day

Dec 10

Health & Safety Committee Member Training

Dec 13-14: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Workshops:



L.O.A.T. Course Completed - Left to right: Anne Juneau, Sheila Branigan, Melissa Mandryk, Nicola Walch, Carrie Docken, Cara MacAdam, Brenda Baxter, Jim Brohman, Dan King, Debra Racicot, Denise Pollock, Ron Davis, Bonita Espelien, Bob Nardi, Russ Carpenter, Betty Sutton and Mistie Couture.

Health & Safety Committee Member Training
Dec. 13th & 14th. YEU Boardroom, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Improves understanding of the Yukon Occupational Health & Safety Act and Canada Labour Code Part II, recognition and Identification of health and safety hazards, and workers' perspective on H&S issues.

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Fridays 8:30 am - 12:00 pm

1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Members are reminded to notify the YEU office of any change of address or name changes. Call Linda Bidrman - Membership Services, email lbidrman@yeu.ca or fax the number above.