

Georgetown Y celebrates our multiculturalism



The Fearon Irish Dancers were featured at the YMCA's International Festival Friday night. The dancers have won the North

American Championships three times. The Senior Dancers won the World Championships in 1985 and placed second this year.



Members of Georgetown's French Canadian community led a full house crowd in a sing-song of traditional French Canadian songs at the John Elliot Theatre Friday night. The group formed a part of the Y's

International Festival, which also featured representatives from Scotland (Georgetown Girl's Pipe Band), Bermuda (Lou Darcie), Ireland (Fearon Dancers) and India (Itajou). Herald photo



Allison Tsang, Maureen Tse and day night with a Chinese Cultural Maria Hwang entertained a full dance. The dancers were part of the house at the John Elliot Theatre Fri- Y's International Festival. Herald photo

Tensions on picket line

Eggs pelted at substitute staff

By DONNA KELL
Herald Special

CUPW local vice president Joe Paonessa and his union members are not taking replacement labor lightly.

"We've got binoculars and we've



SKIP THE SCAR

FIGHTING BACK - CUPW local vice-president Joe Paonessa (seen above) and his membership didn't take lightly Canada Post's decision to bring in temporary workers last week before the union members were legislated back to work. (Photo by Donna Kell)

taken pictures of them" said Mr. Paonessa in the wake of an Oct. 14 evening involving the arrival of temporary postal workers. The substitute workers were pelted with eggs as they drove into Georgetown for their midnight to five a.m. shift said the union official.

"The bus came in last night, painted black, with its lights off" said an angry Carol Copland, a regular worker at Georgetown post office. "They start hiding their faces so we can't see who they are" said Mr. Paonessa, who sees the replacement workers as "a bunch of snivelling cowards."

Mr. Paonessa's main complaint with the post office is job security. For him, substitute labor really hurts. "I'm hoarse from yelling at those guys going in. It's certainly an experience watching those guys go in and take your jobs."

"With the low unemployment rate" said Mr. Paonessa "you'd think they could find their own jobs."

The post office wants to cut 42,000 clerical positions, including several at the Georgetown plant. Mr. Paonessa, Ms. Copland and the other strikers expressed a concern for seniors who would have to walk not across the street, but to Delrex Smoke Shop to mail their letters. "These people are old and can't get around" said Mr. Paonessa.

The government cuts would be to save the taxpayer money, but this makes no sense to Mr Paonessa who

said "they bring in 20 seabs to do the work normally done by five."

"They're getting more than we are, and they have no experience"

See also B7

said striking CUPW member Bob Platts. Mr. Platts also explained that the overtime pay and cheques from last month are being held back. The union members do receive a strike pay, but it is only \$100 a week and does not arrive until two weeks into the strike. "We're not here (striking) for the money" said Mr.

Paonessa. Thursday, he and other CUPW members tried to dissuade people from entering the Post Office. "Most people support us" said the union vice president, "it's job security and they're sympathetic." "One out of every ten will go in" he added.

People going are in wasting their time, said Mr. Paonessa. "The mail is piling up -- wait until their Visa bills come in unpaid."

Many drivers going past the Maple Street office honk their horns and smile, or give a thumbs up sign to the strikers. Joe Paonessa recalled a passerby who offered the group some coffee, "you just can't beat that" said Joe.

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