Benni discusses vote's ramifications

The results of the recent election are now in. A majority of the faculty has voted, and a majority of those who voted have said they wish the American Association of University Professors to represent them in bargaining. Accordingly, I shall recommend to the Board of Directors at its next meeting, on December 3, that the AAUP Chapter be designated the exclusive faculty bargaining agent. I anticipate the Board will grant such recognition at that time. The actual process of bargaining should begin as soon as certain preliminary matters have been resolved.

In the near future I shall also recommend to the Board a pattern of internal organization for the administration's part in bargaining. We must have clear lines of responsibility and broadly understood channels of responsibility. Meanwhile, it would of course be inappropriate for members of the administration to make any commitments concerning matters which may become subjects of bargaining. I am sure that all members of the University community understand that such commitments cannot be made during this transitional period.

It is quite possible that the next session of the General Assembly will bring legislation specifically sanctioning bargaining by public employers. Preparations should be made to supervise elections and resolve disputes. Should such legislation be enacted, I assume provision would be made for the survival (at least for some set period) of contracts negotiated before the effective date of any new law.

One issue that must now be faced is the role of students under collective bargaining. The Board and the administration have affirmed that the student state in University governance should not diminish as a result of bargaining. The precise implications of that commitment remain to be worked out. It would be premature to make any further statement on the student role until the AAUP has heard the students' views on this question. I expect there will be time before bargaining begins to review various options and models and determine a satisfactory structure.

Finally, let me say just a word about our relationship with the AAUP Chapter on this campus. During my own time as President, this relationship has been a most cordial and satisfactory one. Our Chapter of AAUP is one of the largest and strongest in the country. It has a long and distinguished tradition of protecting academic freedom and the rights of individual faculty members, through both formal and informal intervention. Moreover, collective bargaining is not a new experience for us at U.C.; we have dealt in the past with such organizations as the AFSCME, the Ohio Nurses Association and the Health Science Staff Association. I have every expectation that our relationship with the AAUP will continue to be a satisfactory and cordial one despite the obvious changes that bargaining will bring in that relationship. I look forward to working closely with the officers of the Chapter in maintaining our commitment to, and continuing to, improve the quality of education and the opportunities for scholarship and service which characterize this great urban university.

“Very pleased,” comments Levine

This is a statement by Dr. Maita Levine, President of the U.C. AAUP.

“We are very pleased that the turn-out was large and that a substantial majority of those who voted favored the AAUP as Collective Bargaining agent. We shall strive to improve the economic status of the faculty and increase the faculty role in university government and to remain the watchdog of academic freedom. We hope to begin negotiations very shortly.”

CG&E uncovers Indian site—just in time

Construction by the Cincinnati Gas & Electric Company near Cleves has uncovered an important prehistoric Indian site. With the help of volunteers from this area, the University of Cincinnati's Department of Anthropology is trying to excavate the site and preserve the artifacts before construction is continued.

Kenz Vickery, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, is directing the excavations. He considers the site to be "major," one of the most important ever found in this area. It is located off Brower Rd., near Shawnee Lookout Park, and has been tentatively dated at 2900 B.C.

So far projectile points, stone grooved axes and plant processing tools, such as pestles, have been uncovered. In addition, Vickery feels that the scientists may have evidence of wildfires or fire screens based on preserved post holes, which is a very important find, he says.

The volunteers have been working nearly 24 hours a day at the diggings, even in the rain. Over 50 persons turned out Sunday to help.

Located on a flood plain of the Ohio River, the site was probably a camp used seasonally by a group of prehistoric Indians. The land is near a tract owned by the DuPont company, where CG&E is constructing to put in some power lines. Both companies are helping the department's excavations with some funding.

CG&E plans to continue construction within the next two weeks, says Vickery, and he fears that the material will be destroyed by the bulldozers before it can be removed to the University for study.

He is asking for volunteers—no experience necessary—to help with the project. Those interested should call the Anthropology department, at 475-2772, for more information.