First settlement at York

GAA uses 'union militancy' to gain contract

By ROBERT JOSEPHS

The York University Graduate Assistants Association (GAA) signed its first ever contract with the university for the 1976-77 academic year. The agreement was reached on the eve of strike action.

The GAA had voted to withold grades for their summer school students if agreement had not been reached with the administration's bargaining team by August ninth. A strike vote taken by the GAA in July had the support of all but three members at the meeting.

At that time the administration's offer had not changed since April when contract negotiations began. The contract proposed at that time could potentially have cut teacher's assistants wages and would not have recognized the need for union check-off of dues.

The most contentious wage issue revolved around the administration's proposal that \$900 of the assistants salary be paid in the form of a bursary. The GAA opposed this stating such an agreement would not be a secure one for members.

In the end the GAA was able to win this concession and be paid in a straight salary the \$270.00 offerred by the administration. According to GAA spokesperson Robin Envers, a member of last year's executive and bargaining committees, "It was a fantastic victory and one directly attributable to militancy on the part of the union."

The new contract covers teaching assistants and part-time teachers. Wages for most teaching assistants will be up 12.5 per cent from \$2,400 a year to \$2,700. Course directors will now be paid \$3.100

The other success for the union was recognition by the university as the official bargaining unit for graduate students through the signing of the first contract. It also guarantees a check-off of union dues from the assistants and parttimers unless they 'opt-out'. The bargaining committee sees this as an important victory since it

guarantees an adequate budget for equal pay, parity and unity between the GAA to hire a full-time staff

The new staff person will be Ilene Crawford, a member of last years executive and bargaining committees.

According to Robin Envers primary among battles ahead for the GAA will be, "Equal work for

graduate students and part-timers will also be a foremost problem." The problems of job security for part-timers and the covering of graduate assistants working on masters degrees in the union will also be important.

Salary problems still remain even with this year's hike. York

university graduate assistants presently are paid much less than those at other universities, such as MacMaster and the salaries agreed to were considered low even by members of the administration's bargaining committee. But the union now has a secure footing and will be moving to meet these and other problems in the coming year.

After last year's food fracas, Crandles and caterers are looking forward to 'good healthy competition'

By IAN MULGREW

After last year's food fracas, with its fiery rhetoric and student boycotts, and a summer that saw several major changes, the campus caterers and the University Food and Beverage Services are looking forward to their best year ever.

With the resignation of John Mitchell, last year's beverage manager, the university decided to amalgamate the Food and Beverage services under the management of Norman Crandles in hope of "streamlining the operational and communication aspects of both.

"I run the whole show now," said Crandles. "I oversee everything and the students will be getting better food and better service.'

Another major change in the food scene at York that occurred over the summer was the University's termination of Commercial Caterers contract, which was to run, until July 1977.

"Commercial wanted out," said Crandles. "They were having trouble with their operations and did not want to continue."

Commercial had been the target

of the student boycott last year and came under repeated attacks from Dale Ritch, last year's student president.

"I don't think that the boycott or anything else the students did affected Commercial," claimed Crandles. "It was just the nature of their operation that caused the problems."

With Commercial vacating complex two and Central Square, one year contracts were awarded to Saga Canadian Management Services Limited and to Food and Plenty Enterprises. Saga is in complex two while Food and Plenty runs Central Square.

Saga operates on 21 campuses throughout Canada and say they are looking forward to serving

"We're looking forward to good healthy competition between the caterers and we're really going to try and get established," said Derek McAlduff the Food Service Director for the Saga operation.

Food and Plenty Enterprises supplied the York pubs with food last year and are looking forward to serving the students in Central

"We're planning to provide quality, service and variety," said Peter Wilson and Doug Lamont, the former York students who founded Food and Plenty. "This is why we've changed the serving style in Central Square and that's why we're so receptive to any student suggestions."

Two years ago the York food outlets were controlled by a monopoly operated by Versa Foods Services, this year there are seven different caterers on campus.

"This was our goal and we've attained it. We've broken down the monopoly and we're looking forward to our best year ever," said Crandles. "I created this multicaterer, modular food system and I think that it's the best anywhere."

Returning residence students also received a surprise this year: the university has instituted a twotiered compulsory meal plan.

Previously, residence students paid a set amount of money to the university and, in return, received a supply of scrip, ("funny money") that was redeemable at food outlets for sustenance. Ideally the amount

of scrip issued would be enough to cover all a student's meals for the year.

Last year, however, the scrip system came under a vociferous attack initiated by Dale Ritch. Ritch claimed the amount of scrip issue was not enough to live on and that it forced students to eat only at those outlets that would redeem the 'funny money'.

In spite of this, the university has increased the amount of scrip being issued this year and has given the student a choice of two compulsory meal plans. The meal plans cost \$600 and \$720, which represents increases of \$140 and \$260, respectfully, over last year.

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