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York's Third World students have changed a lot since '69...

By Paul Stuart

Third World students are a minority twice over: foreigners in a city which has never been known for the warm embrace it extends to strangers and black people in a country with a strong racist streak.

It has been ten years since black pride, black power, black dignity were words which dominated the headlines and placards — ten years which have seen the political direction of York's Third world students change considerably. If anyone is in a position to provide a historical perspective on the changing aspirations of York's Third World Students, it is Ato Sekyi-Otu, a political science professor and senior tutor at Bethune College who came to York from Ghana, after a stint at Harvard, in 1971.

After 16 years on North American campuses Sekyi-Otu has watched the consciousness of third world students go through three distinct stages. He told Excalibur, on Sunday:

"There has been a change from a concern with race and blackness, which reflected the political concerns of the black movement, so-called. There was a necessity to



Paul Stuart - photos

Bethune Senior Tutor Ato Sekyi-Otu

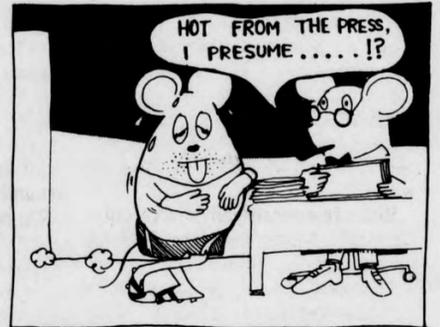
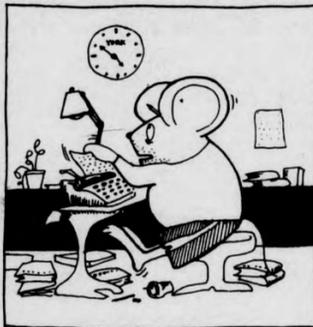
assert one's racial identity — a conscious or unconscious reaction to the fact that (before the 60s), black students were the ones who had to get accepted — we were saying, 'we don't have to get accepted, we've got our own thing going'."

A hangover of this approach persisted well into the 70s at York.

As the years went by, said Otu in an interview at his small, comfortable Scarborough Town House, "many black militants began to turn to Marxism, an emphasis on class consciousness and a repudiation, sometimes uncritical, of 'Dashiki nationalism!'"

(continued on pg. 5)

Yeomice



by A.C.

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