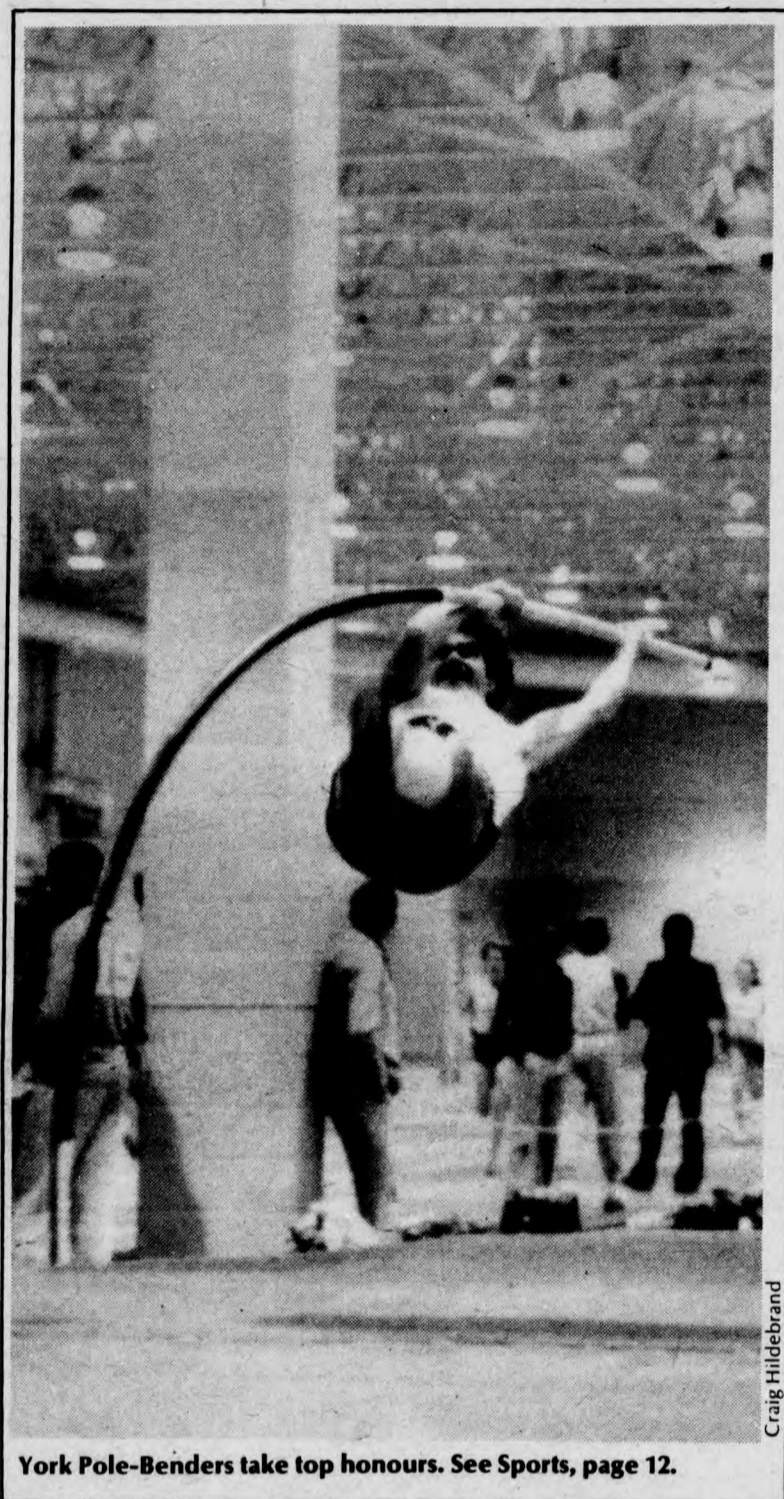


Excalibur

York University Community Newspaper

Vol. 14 No. 16

Thursday, January 24, 1980



York Pole-Benders take top honours. See Sports, page 12.

Craig Hildebrand

Grads settle at eleventh hour

Mark Monfette

The threat of a strike by the Graduate Assistants' Association was lifted last weekend when the union's executive agreed to a tentative settlement.

voted on next week by the membership, would increase salaries by an average of 9.5 per cent, guarantee maternity and sick leave, and give some assurance of job security. Academic freedom, defined as the right to pursue knowledge

from any point of view, was not granted the union.

The agreement was reached last Saturday morning after 24 hours of continuous bargaining in the Sutton Place Hotel. Negotiations began last May.

Michael Michie, chairperson of the GAA, declared the settlement a victory for the union. "We're the first union in Canada to have any sort of job security for teaching assistants," he stated. "I'm pleased because it's forced the university to treat us seriously."

If the agreement is ratified by the members, then part-time faculty—approximately half the membership—will be hired on "applicable prior experience". Michie stated that this is "seniority in all but name."

Teaching assistants will be broken down into two pools, with top priority going to those in PhD 2, 3, 4, and 5 who have at least one year experience. Those in the top pool will be guaranteed three years of employment while in the pool. The others have won the assurance that they will not be discriminated against.

The union also won three weeks paid absence for those sick or pregnant. Although there had been no punitive measures taken in the past for those who were absent, the union wanted to "codify" the unwritten agreement.

Under the new settlement, course directors will get \$3,920, a rise of 9.6 per cent. Individual tutors, college tutors, demonstrators, and markers and graders will get 8 per cent. Teaching assistants will receive \$3,520, a 10 per cent increase.

D.J. Mitchell, chief union negotiator, refused to comment on the details of the settlement until the membership has ratified it.

But Science may suffer

James A. Carlisle

Following the administration's tentative settlement with the GAA, graduate students in the Faculty of Science now fear that their incomes may be substantially reduced.

The proposed contract states that students may lose first priority for Teaching Assistants if they have an income of \$3,250 or more. Many Biology grad students receive more than that amount as support from research grants. Some fear that they will not get teaching assignments because of this.

"The problem is that some people depend on teaching," according to Bob Keenan, Chairman of the Association of Graduate Students in the Biological Sciences. "It means that \$3,250 is what they may have to live on and that is unacceptable."

"There should be some sort of minimum standard which we say is adequate for a grad student to live on," added Keenan.

Several Biology grad interviewed said science students should have received special consideration in the proposed contract. "A research assistantship for a science student is a full-time job," stated Carol Carruthers, a member of the A.G.S.B.S. executive. "That is not at all the same thing as an RA for Arts students."

One official in the Faculty of Science asserted that such difficulties will not arise for the Biology students. The loss of priority will not be automatic, as the contract says that students "may" lose priority, not that this loss will definitely occur.

The official added that, for the most part, only Biology grad students are likely to be competent to teach in Biology laboratories.

Biology grad students are meeting this morning to discuss the implications of the settlement.

Typists take a trip

Jay Naster

A move by the university administration has led to a change of ownership in the Typing Service at York following the implementation of a little-known clause in university policy. A further result has been the relocation of the CYSF Typing Service on Jan. 1 to Founders College.

The clause did not surface until the typing service, directed by Dianne Wallace, had been turned into a profit-making enterprise about a year after its creation.

Keith Smockum, CYSF president, received notice of the change in a letter from the director of York's Department of University Facilities, E.S. Annis.

"As it would appear, the particular space now used for the typing service is not required to meet the original requirements," the letter says. "Consideration should be given to withdrawing it from CYSF for allocation for other activities."

The "original requirements" reference comes from the Student Entrepreneurial Policy, effective July 1, 1972: "Any space used for a business-type operation must be specifically

approved by senior University officers...at least on an annual basis." The clause concludes that CYSF is prohibited from renting its Central Square locations for commercial purposes.

"We were unaware of such a policy at that time," Smockum said when asked why the service was granted the location in the first place. But Assistant Vice-President John Becker disagrees.

"We told them (CYSF) about our objections. Maybe they just don't want to pull their records to find out," Becker says the university has always objected to the CYSF using the former typing service office for commercial purposes. He said when another possible location for the service became available, the university decided to act.

The situation began almost two years ago when CYSF rented the Central Square office to previous owner (of the typing service) R. Neagle, in the hope of creating a badly-needed campus typing service.

Under the original contract, CYSF was to act solely as landlord, leaving the business operation to the owner. Last May, the contract expired and the university presented Smockum with two

options: a) to relinquish control over the office; or b) to move the business to another location and use the Central Square location for non-commercial purposes. Concluded Smockum: "We either were to move the service or there would be no service at all."

Last September, Wallace was offered the chance to rent directly from the university, but the university rescinded its offer and signed the current agreement with CYSF. The Typing Service office is now rented out

See Wallace page 6

Paper won't fold

Turning the corner into a new decade *Excalibur* said farewell to one third of its office space and hello to a new business and advertising manager.

Both events were significant of the effort made by the struggling weekly to resurface after sinking dangerously into debt over the past two years.

The loss of *Excalibur's* front room facing Central Square was the decision of an emergency management committee formed to produce a budget that would be acceptable to *Excalibur's* major creditor, the university administration. The room is to be leased out to a small business with rent money going towards the paper's debt.

News Editor James A. Carlisle, CYSF President Keith Smockum



Alex Watson

and Board of Publications Chairperson Lisa McCabe, after many hours of consultation over the Christmas holidays, eventually came up with a budget which administration has approved except for one clause.

Bryon Johnson

The outstanding disagreement involves the room's eventual fate. The administration is seeking control of the room, while *Excalibur* and CYSF both argue that the room should remain in student hands.

New Business and Advertising Manager Alex Watson joined the staff this month, replacing retiring Olga Graham.

Watson is a veteran in the field of publishing with extensive editorial, management and sales experience. His work has won him 10 editorial awards. During the past decade Watson has been self-employed as a communications consultant.

"The paper looks good, the writing's good," says Watson. "What we need now is a paper that can do a bigger job."