

## York Unions

The Graduate Assistant's Association would like to clear up a number of inaccuracies and distortions presented by *Excalibur* in Editorials on GAA negotiations that have appeared during the last two weeks. We are surprised that *Excalibur*, which has performed such a creditable job of reporting on the issues surrounding the contract talks up to now, would suddenly allow itself to slip into such a misinformed editorial position.

The provisions in the new Collective Agreement do not discriminate against incoming students. They merely give first priority to students already committed to programmes at York, and only for a portion of their years in those programmes. Our agreement acknowledges the University's need to attract new students to York, but it has always been our position that the University also has a responsibility to make it possible for students to complete their programmes. In fact, our new agreement should make York more attractive to new students, since it allows them to

plan on support for a specified number of years.

How Teaching Assistantships are allotted has always been an issue for graduate students at York and has been covered by an article in the GAA Collective Agreement since our first contract. The provisions we won this year for the most part merely codify current policy and give graduate students access to the grievance process if problems arise, where before they had no recourse of any kind. Our provisions constitute anything but a "closed shop". In fact, our new contract unquestionably retains an "open shop" policy, one which which the University's proposals had endangered.

There were several notable contradictions in *Excalibur*'s position. We would like to point out two: In their first editorial against the Union's competence to raise the issue of job security for TAs, *Excalibur* both acknowledged that the University had submitted a disastrous proposal and at the same time suggested that the Union should trust the authors of that proposal to serve the best interests of graduate students. They can't have it both ways.

Second, the editors argued in their second editorial on the topic that students would benefit from experienced teachers. At the same time, they argued that untried graduate students, those with not teaching experience, should be given a "chance".

Moreover, we must point out two striking misrepresentations in Excalibur's reporting of our negotiations. Excalibur has consistently depicted the GAA both in headlines and in coverage, as representing graduate students and has completely ignored the fact that fully one-half of our membership is comprised of parttime faculty.

Finally, Excalibur has consistently adhered to an argument which claims that "professionals" are not "workers". The presence of two unions on this campus, YUFA and the GAA, both of them representing "professionals", should be indication enough that there is no necessary contradiction between considering oneself both a "worker" and a "professional".

We must add that over the past few weeks several members of our executive spent considerable time explaining the issues involved in our negotiations to the editors and staff of Excalibur. We are surprised that, in the face of abundant information, Excalibur chose to take such a misinformed editorial position.

The Executive GAA

## **NOTICE TO BETHUNE STUDENTS**

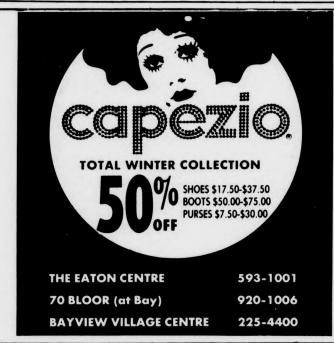
On February 7 and 8, 1980 students of Bethune College will be making a decision concerning their involvement in Central Student Government. The Student Federation feels that a united student body will have stronger representation both with the Administration and the Ministry of Colleges and Universities. In times of record tuition fee hike and mounting cutbacks students cannot afford to remain isolated from major issues that affect their academic career.

The Federation offers many services to students and is continually expanding. A few of the major ones are:

- 1. The Student Typing Service
- 2. Student Security Service
- 3. Student Used Book Store
- 4. International Student Identification Card
- 5. Student Speed Reading Course

For these reasons we ask you to vote **YES** on February 7th and 8th, 1980.

**VOTE YES TO JOIN THE STUDENT FEDERATION** 



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