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# Excalibur

York University Community Newspaper

Vol. 14 No. 7

Thursday, October 25, 1979



Margaret Laurence and June Callwood address York audience. Story page 4.

## GAA negotiations stall Talks on rocks

Jonathan Mann

Five-month old contract negotiations between the Graduate Assistants Association and the university administration are at a standstill. The union, representing approximately 750 part-time faculty members and teaching assistants, is pushing for higher wages, job security, and contract clauses on sick leave and academic freedom. (See 'York Unions' page 6). The G.A.A. contract expires annually on August 31.

Asked about the probable outcome of the stalled negotiations, G.A.A. president Michael Michie replied, "I'm pessimistic about the possibility of a settlement. At the moment the two sides are far apart." Michie cited the university offer of a 5.9 per cent wage increase as being

well below the current rate of inflation. Stressed Michie, "We won't accept 5.9 per cent."

University negotiator D.J. Mitchell indicated he was optimistic that the two groups will come to an agreement. In a telephone interview on Tuesday Mitchell declared, "They (the negotiations) have to open up. It's not in the interest of either party to let them get bogged down." Mitchell refused to comment on the university's wage offer, explaining, "It's not really fair for either side to talk while negotiations are going on."

The union will not take action immediately because the matter has not yet passed through the contractually-specified conciliation process. Even if the process does not come to a conclusion satisfactory to the membership of the G.A.A., and some strike action is likely, Michie made clear that "whatever action we contemplate, we would have to make sure that the students' interests weren't harmed." Michie is confident of student support for the G.A.A.'s efforts. "The kinds of things we're struggling against," argued Michie, "are the same things that are hurting students - cutbacks, oversized classes, etc."

Asked whether the university administration had been cooperative in its efforts to hammer out an agreement, Michie replied, "They have been difficult to work with throughout these negotiations."

## Harbinger fears shutdown

James Carlisle

After thirteen years of service to the York community, Harbinger may be forced to close its doors due to inadequate funding.

Harbinger has received only \$1,300 to date, although its projected expenses are \$8,300 for the year.

The CYSF budget tabled at Monday's meeting allocated \$2,000 to Harbinger. Dwayne Anderson, one of Harbinger's two full-time coordinators, told the meeting that "the minimum we would accept from CYSF in order to operate is \$4,000."

Peter Brickwood, a student BOG representative, indicated that he would propose a motion to give Harbinger the \$4,000. No vote could be taken at the meeting as there was not a quorum present.

Anderson has approached the College Councils and trust funds for the rest of Harbinger's budget. He has yet to hear from most of them.

Anderson explained that Harbinger was only able to keep operating last year due to a grant of \$1,505 from the University Administration. He said that the chances of such a grant this year are remote.

In an interview, Anderson explained that Harbinger provides peer counselling services for "whatever problems people approach us with." One third of Harbinger's activities involve research into world

population problems. The collected material is made available to students interested in these problems.

Harbinger works in conjunction with the Counselling and Development Centre (CDA) and with Health Services. "CDA works mainly on the psychological level," said Anderson. "We refer people to them who require long-term one-to-one counselling in a particular area."

Dr. J. Wheeler, the director of

Health Services, is a member of Harbinger's Board of Directors.

Unlike CDA and Health Services which are funded through the University Administration, Harbinger must appeal yearly to student groups for financial support.

Anderson explained that if Harbinger gets fifty per cent of its budget, but not enough for the whole year, it will remain open as long as possible, stating, "We'll run until the money runs out."

He claimed that Harbinger's services could not be scaled down to stretch a reduced budget over the whole year.

In summarizing the situation, Anderson stated, "I find it very frustrating that, in today's society, we have to look at the dollars and cents of a thing rather than at the personal needs of the people."

A final decision on closing Harbinger will be made after the CYSF budget meeting, Nov. 6.

## Elections? Not this time

Neil Wiberg

CYSF President Keith Smockum declared two student government positions acclaimed and one post vacant at the close of nominations on October 19.

Jennifer Gonsalves was declared CYSF Director of the Women's Commission, while Andrea Doucet was acclaimed as a student representative on the York University Board of Governors. No candidate was nominated for CYSF Director of University Affairs so the post remains vacant. Nominations will be reopened in November.

Smockum attributed the lack of candidates to a "not totally adequate" job of advertising the posts. He pledged to come up with a better mechanism to run

all campus elections by March.

Smockum stated, "There is a great deal of student apathy at York. This apathy must be dealt with. All student elections including those at the college level are being affected."

Smockum also blamed Excalibur for the lack of interest. "This vacancy on the Board of Governors came about due to the resignation of Shawn Brayman. This resignation should have been covered in great detail to inform the students of the vacancy."

Gonsalves, a second-year mature student in Psychology and Health Administration, expressed concern about government cutbacks affecting



Andrea Doucet

single mothers and about the sexual harassment of women at York.

Doucet, a third-year Political Science student, told Excalibur she wants to emphasize the detrimental effects of tuition fee increases to the Board.

"With tuition fees going up, there is a need for the student members to speak out," she said. "Student members are in a minority position on the Board, so we must be hard-working to compensate for this. I also want to provide the students with more information on the preparation of the University budget."

Doucet is also the chairperson of Bethune College Council.