

**Some guests couldn't leave Spain**

# Handful of students attend Spain conference

Bethune College was the sight last weekend, of a conference called "Spain: 1936-1976". The attempt of organizers was to deal with "the social and cultural aftermath of the Spanish Civil War" and to present a total picture of Spain as it exists today through the country's history.

To this end, Gloria Montero, chief co-ordinator believes the conference was a success, particularly because it brought first hand reports from Spain today to conference participants who could assess the present situation.

Presentations and discussions took place on a large number of issues linked to Spain. These included the impact of the Spanish Civil War on literature, its key role in uniting the left in Europe and North America and the war's contribution to medicine. Cultural presentations of poetry, film, art, and theatre, of Spain also occurred, along with a discussion on the struggle of the national minorities, the Basques, the Galicians, and the Catalonians. The Basque struggle for liberation has been recognized as crucial in the exacerbation of the dictatorship of Franco, and now plays a role in threatening King Carlos's regime. Over half a million Basque workers were recently on strike to protest the death of four of their comrades during street battles against the police.

The presentation that served as the keynote address was that of Rafael Ribo on "Spain: Today and Tomorrow". He attempted to describe how the "myth of romantic Spain" actually hid the rapidly developing industrial state. This he said, was especially true in the Basque and Catalan regions, where the process of urbanization and the intensification of work created extreme labour militancy.

Ribo, who described himself as a "social democratic lawyer", stated that it is generally understood that the King has no power, and that the power comes

from Franco's followers. No real change has been made in Spain since 1939, he said. The present struggle according to Ribo was for three demands: "Amnesty for political prisoners; political liberties and rights; autonomy for the national regions of the minorities. This, he believed, could not be delivered by the present regime and this meant, "if change could not come, the masses will become

frustrated, and violence may come."

Ribo said that the struggle was for democratic rights which would be obtained through democratic means. If he joined a government in Spain, based on democracy, he would oppose occupations by workers of factories, like in Portugal. The revolution was losing there because of this, he claimed.

"If you agree to play the

democratic game you have to live by the rules."

The conference was not without problems though some speakers, tentatively booked, had to bow out because they were unable to leave Spain. Observers at a number of sessions also noted that only a handful of students were present at the conference and it seemed that the conference was not able to reach to far beyond the academia,

to make it a truly broad educational experience. Bethune College Council allocated \$2,000 to the conference, however, apparently no definite role was played by students in the direction and goals of the conference. This was perhaps reflected in the fact that nothing beyond petition signing and letters of protest were proposed to unite with the struggle in Spain.

## "Orchestrated attack on poor"

# 500 gather to protest cutbacks

By GARY KINSMAN

Over 500 people gathered at the University of Toronto's Convocation Hall last Thursday to protest the Ontario government's cutbacks in funding to the social services.

Speakers from a broad spectrum of the social sector were present to criticise the government's programmes and gather support for a demonstration at Queen's Park planned for April 3.

### ATTACK

John Williams, spokesperson for the Coalition Against Cutbacks who organized the rally, claimed that, "the cutbacks in social expenditure are part of a carefully orchestrated attack on poor and working people."

David Archer of the Ontario Federation of labour was present to voice union support for the fight against cutbacks and said that it would be the working class who would be hurt by any social cuts.

Chris Harries of the Ontario Federation of Students called for a "strong movement against the cutbacks, able to unite ordinary working people, students, and other members of the community."

### HOSPITAL WORKERS

Also present was CUPE representative Tom Edwards speaking on behalf of hospital workers in Ontario who face immediate unemployment due to the

closing of many of the provinces medical facilities.

Citing the recent closing of Doctor's Hospital in Toronto, he stated that this type of decision demonstrated the lack of any criteria for the closing and charged that the decision to close it was because its "high proportion of ethnic groups would allow them (the government) to get away with it".

**EXCALIBUR**  
staff meeting

↓

today 2 p.m.

room 111

Central Square

**YIN COURT**  
FAMOUS CHINESE FOOD  
Business Luncheon 12:00 - 3:00 p.m.  
Monday to Friday  
10% DISCOUNT  
ON PICK-UP FOOD ORDERS OF \$4.50 OR MORE OR FREE DELIVERY AFTER 5 P.M.  
OPEN Saturday 4 p.m. till 1 a.m. Sunday 4 p.m. till 11 p.m.  
TELEPHONE: 635-9282  
1033 STEELES AVENUE WEST  
(1 block west of Bathurst; Willowdale)

**BRACK'S LTD.**  
**ELECTRONICS**

**ROTEL** AM/FM STEREO RECEIVER  
**RX-152**



**SPECIAL \$179<sup>95</sup>**  
REG: \$199  
10 watts per channel, min. RMS all channels driven into 8 ohms.  
Two matched RSC two-way base speaker systems, plus Pioneer PL12-D-2 turntable with 80C magnetic cartridge

**BRACK'S BEST VALUE**  
COMPLETE **\$395<sup>00</sup>**

Substantial savings on some of the following brand names

- Dual
- Harman/Kardon
- CITATION
- JBL
- Rotel
- Pioneer
- Connoisseur
- Sony
- Toshiba
- Zenith
- Ortofon
- Celestion
- Design Acoustics
- E.V./Revox
- Crown/Acron
- RSC
- B & D2
- ESS
- ADC
- Yamaha

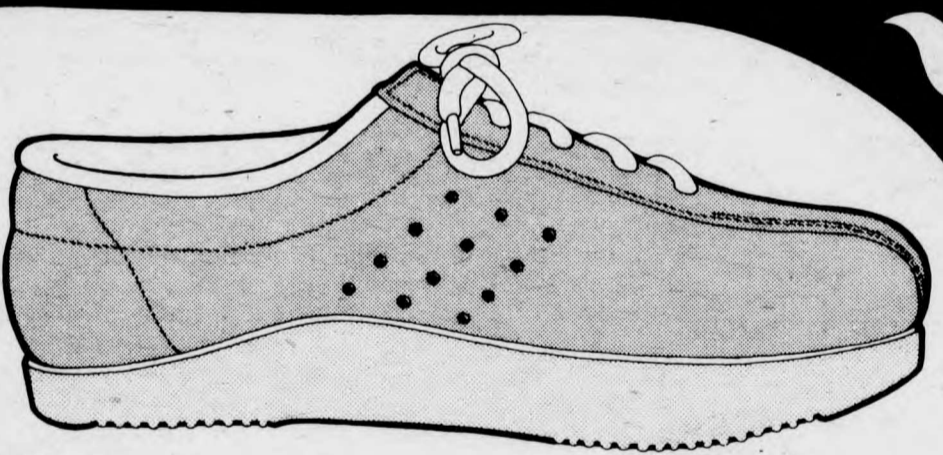
We offer you two large comparator rooms with over 100 speakers on display. You also get extended warranties on some brand name components for up to 5 years - parts and labour. We use sound tech. distortion analyser in our service department, which is one of the finest in Canada. You get absolutely free of charge performance test of your amplifier - Thursday 5 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. - Saturday 9:15 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**WE CARRY ALL TYPES OF TAPES AND ACCESSORIES AND PRESENTLY THERE IS A 30% DISCOUNT ON MAXELL TAPES**

**BRACK'S ELECTRONICS LTD.**  
212 King St. W. Entrance 86 Simcoe St.  
1 Street west of University  
366-9761  
Hours Daily 9-6 p.m. - Thursday & Friday till 9 p.m.

**GET \$3 FACE VALUE TOWARDS PURCHASE OF ANY ITEM IN OUR STORE WITH THIS AD LIMIT ONE AD PER PERSON**

We are not associated with any other retail store.



**This summer, sport a Root.**

Run, walk or just lie around this summer in a Sport Root. Superbly crafted in great Canadian leathers, both inside and out. Available in cedar, coco, saddle or suede for men and women. Isn't it time you tried a Root, Sport?

For a free copy of the Book of Roots, write us.

**Roots Natural Footwear**  
1052 Yonge St.  
(Opposite the Rosedale Subway)  
967-5461

**Roots**