

Grad assistants' union forms

York association fights for security, wages

By DEBBIE PEKILIS

Better working conditions and a say in decision-making are the two basic objectives of the Graduate Assistants' Association, a union being organized at York by part-time faculty members, and graduate students who work as part-time teaching assistants, research assistants, demonstrators, tutors, and markers.

The GAA was started last year by part-time faculty and teaching assistants at University of Toronto and Victoria College. This year it has another local at York, which is independent of the other two. Since the GAA started here on September 9, it has signed up 225 members.

Mark Golden, a part-time faculty member of Atkinson College, and a member of the GAA's organizing committee, told Excalibur the GAA plans to negotiate with the university for standard employment conditions like better wages and working conditions, and job security. These faculty members want to have a say in decisions on hiring and firing,

tenure, working conditions, and salaries.

The salary of a part-time faculty member is \$2,500 per course, one-half the salary of a junior faculty member, even though both do the same type of work.

"Part-time faculty has had no raise since 1969," said Golden.

Graduate students working part-time as teaching assistants are paid \$2,400 or less by the university for each course they teach. Golden said some graduate students work more

than the expected 10 hours, but are not paid for the extra work.

Part-time faculty and graduate students are legally employees of the university, but do not get the same benefits as other employees, such as OHIP.

"Our working conditions are strictly dictated," Golden said. "We are treated as cheap labour."

The part-time employees have no job security and can be hired at any time and fired for no good reason, he

said.

"If they don't need you the following year, they don't rehire you."

Under Ontario law, all employees are entitled to get vacation pay. Last year, part-time faculty and graduate students working at the University of Toronto and Victoria College won

vacation pay, but York's employees had to wait until this fall. This pay is retroactive to the academic sessions of 1972-73 and 1973-74.

Anyone interested in learning more about the union should contact Mark Golden at his office in 321 Stong, 667-3478.

Student governor seat still open

Despite threats of horse-whippings and trails of candy left on the ninth floor of the Ross building, applications for the position of student member on York's board of governors are not pouring in.

The caucus of student senators requests that applicants submit a resume, including address, telephone number, date of birth and the number of years they've spent at York, with any other relevant information. The applications should be given to M.W. Ransom in Ross S945 by 5 p.m. Monday, or to the CYSF office in Ross N111.

The position is an important one, and Alan Cox (661-9465) and John Spencer (667-6005) can give you further details.

Bobo the Bus gets schedule

To avoid leaving passengers stranded on December 2, the men behind the buses to the subway (affectionately known as the Red Rockets or Bobo the Bus) have circulated copies of a new operating schedule effective as of that date. Pick up yours at the bookstore, at Atkinson College's reception desk, at Information York or at sundry other spots.

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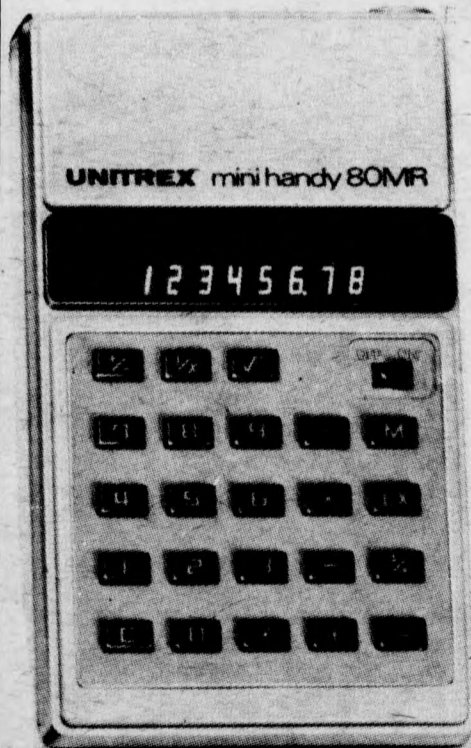
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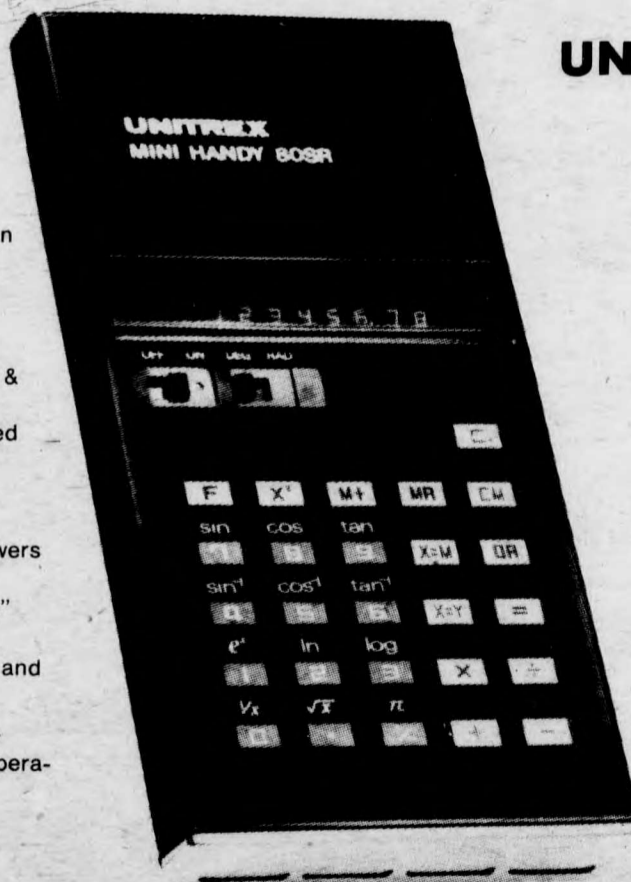
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