



## Editorial

# Shattered ideals

GAA organizers are jubilant because they now have a strong union—just like the teamsters and steelworkers. That's bad for the rest of the York community.

The organizers hail the settlement as progressive. We do not agree. The real gain for the union is the principle of seniority. This principle implies that the present members of GAA have the first call on all TA's and part-time teaching.

New grad students coming to York do not belong to the GAA—so depriving them of jobs is considered a triumph of union strength.

Seniority means that jobs are not given to those most in need of the support, or to the best students, or even to the most gifted teachers. The first priority pool is reserved for those who have been employed before.

This principle is appropriate in a trade or labour union. It is not an appropriate criterion for hiring university teachers.

Why should some incoming grad students be deprived of the chance to teach during their academic careers so that GAA members may be assured of jobs? A Teaching Assistantship is not just a job but a learning experience for both instructor and student.

The union seems to subscribe to a conspiracy theory—that the administrators have conspired to flood York with new PhD students in order to collect BIU's. The union solution is to deny jobs to new grad students. Their solution has been adopted and we shudder to think what effect it will have on our grad programs.

The lack of support will make York less attractive to promising students. It can only hurt recruitment and that will be disastrous in the long run.

The GAA contends that the administration will be forced to pump more money into TA's and RA's. In a time of cut-backs this is unlikely.

The GAA is willing to sacrifice the long-term interests of the York community in order to secure a short-term advantage for their members.

Some parts of the settlement are progressive. We certainly support the provisions for sick and maternity leave. We are pleased to see the issue of academic freedom dropped.

The GAA has become a strong union by forcing a shortsighted agreement which only benefits its current members.

In doing so the union has abandoned any ideals it may have aspired to. *Excalibur* deplores that act.

## Up, up and away

Like death and taxes, it seems tuition fee increases are inevitable. And maybe students should learn to expect to pay their fair share toward their educations, as the Ministry of Colleges and Universities suggests.

But where does it all end?

What is to become of post-secondary education ten years—even five years—from now if the fees continue to rise?

Than answer at this point is both hypothetical and unclear. What is clear, however, is that the present Ontario government has lost all sense of direction when it comes to policy for universities. Instead of viewing universities and colleges for what they are—thriving organisms of study and research—the ministry seem to prefer treating them as mere numbers on a page to be manipulated at will in order to balance the provincial budget by 1984. The current provincial administration seem destined to hang itself, and the universities too, in its efforts to reach fiscal solvency by that magic year.

They insist on just poo-pooing claims by

the Ontario Federation of Students, among others, that fee increases will result in enrolment declines, necessitating further increases, leading to further declines, and so on. Not so, say the folks at Queen's Park, who claim that a fee rise of up to 17.5 per cent is so small it won't matter. This argument follows the smug line that only comes from languishing in power for too long.

The issue here is not the extra 100-or-so dollars it will cost for students to attend the university. Nor is the issue the claim made (correctly, we believe) by the OFS that these higher tuitions will scare off students with meagre incomes (\$3.3 million increase in OSAP notwithstanding). The real issue has nothing to do with percentages, dollars or enrolment figures; it has instead to do with something that can't be measured in numbers: The value of a quality education. Throughout their history, universities have been centres of research and learning. The heart of any university is its library, which must be constantly renewing its bookshelves and other holdings to keep abreast of

changing times. This is what it's all about, after all—not money. But let's face it—money is required to buy the books, the periodicals and the research facilities needed for a first class university system.

This money inevitably must come from those who attend the university and from the province in which the university is situated. If tuitions must be raised to help raise this money, then they must be raised. But they can't continue to increase at the rate forecast for next year. Eventually, the whole system is going to come tumbling down on the heads of the Ministry of Colleges and Universities, and they will have no one to blame but themselves.

For example, they have given little or no thought to developing programs designed to take the university to the workplace, thereby making it more accessible to more people of all incomes.

This Ministry has grown too long in the tooth to come up with imaginative workable solutions for the '80s. It's time the government did something to guarantee that there will be universities around to protect our future.

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## Did you make the list?

Better check. If your name is on the Voters' List, no problem. If it isn't, and you are eligible to vote, it's up to you to get it on. Here's how.

Firstly, your campus may be having a special enumeration. Check the billboards. If it does — you're in business.

If not, you'll have to get an appointment with a revising officer sometime between January 25 and February 4. This can be arranged by calling your Liberal campaign headquarters or your returning officer.

If you're living away from home, you may vote in your school residence riding, providing you meet certain criteria. If you must vote in your home riding, you can have a relative or an employer act as your representative in having your name entered on the electoral list in that riding. In either case, check with the local Liberal campaign office or the local Returning Officer.

If you intend to vote in your school residence riding, it's up to you to get your own name on the electoral list by making an appointment with an agent of the revising officer as mentioned above.

What if you won't be free to vote on election day? As long as your name is on the voters' list, you could go to an advance poll or to the returning officer during one of the days specified. Still can't make it? Just appoint another elector, whose name appears on the same voters' list as yours, to be your proxy vote and apply for a proxy certificate as soon as possible and no later than 10:00 P.M. on the Friday before the election. A written statement from the registrar at your school stating that you have a valid reason to apply for a proxy certificate must accompany that application.

If you have any further questions, the Ontario New Liberals will be glad to help. We're the Official Youth Wing of the Ontario Liberal Party and the Liberal Party of Canada (Ontario).

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In the riding of York Centre call Bob Kaplan at 630-4949

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