

**Administration is warned**

**York's GAA prepares for contract negotiations**

By HOMILY

"We just want you to know that if it has to come to a strike we'll support you all the way," said one militant graduate student at last Thursday's general meeting of the Graduate Assistants' Association. His comment was received warmly by the bargaining unit although, as one member was quick to point out, it was hoped such action would be unnecessary. The meeting, the first of what will now be regular monthly

general meetings, of the GAA was held in order to obtain the ratification of the membership for the general demands the union will present to the administration in upcoming contract talks.

The salary demands ratified include a retroactive cost of living allowance (COLA) amounting to approximately \$360 as well as an increase in yearly pay for teaching assistants, increasing their salaries to \$4,400.

This sum would begin to give

York teaching assistants general parity with assistants at McMaster and Queen's, both of whose assistants earn between \$4,000 and \$5,000 per year. It was pointed out by Dave Moulton, an executive member, that \$4,400 is approximately one-third of the salary paid a lecturer whose work load is similar.

The GAA will also press for improved job conditions and job security. A major concern was that a minimum number of

positions for graduate students based on this year's total be maintained and subsequently increased in order to match increases in enrollment, thereby keeping student-teacher ratios in tutorials in line. The GAA also hopes to obtain the basic benefits guaranteed to all other working people at the university.

**COALITION FAVOURED**

Concern was expressed by GAA members over the possible effects cutbacks might have on both their position at York and their potential for obtaining their demands. For these reasons, they strongly favored joining in coalition with, among others YUFA and the CYSF, in carrying a joint fight against the cutbacks.

Widespread support was expressed supporting both the January 21 demonstration and

continued militant actions taken in opposition to the Henderson report. As well, strong support was given in endorsing the demands of YUFA that are soon to come up in negotiation of a new contract.

**NOTICE GIVEN**

The GAA's own turn at bargaining should be coming up soon for they have already given notice of intent to the administration. In the last two years, York graduate students have seen a steady deterioration in their salaries. First, the loss of the old salary-grant system dropped teaching assistants' salaries from \$4,000 to the current level of \$2,400. And last year, GAA members lost their vacation pay benefits.

**LIMITED BARGAINING**

At present, the GAA bargains only for teaching assistants, but it hopes to gain the right to represent graduate assistants as well.

The membership will continue to meet on the second Thursday of every month in Curtis Lecture Hall A.

**OSAP is up**

An increase of \$11.45 million in the 1976-77 budget of the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) was announced last Friday by Dr. Harry C. Parrott, Minister of colleges and universities. Grants to students who can demonstrate need will total \$61 million, up from \$49.55 million in the current year.

The purpose of the Ontario Student Assistance Program is to provide loans and grants to post-secondary students in Ontario who have insufficient resources to pay for their education.

Students' educational costs and financial resources are carefully assessed to calculate the amount of money they may receive through OSAP. In 1976-77, assistance up to \$1,000 will be provided as a Canada Student Loan which must be repaid. Students needing additional assistance will usually receive it in the form of a provincial grant which in most cases does not require repayment.

The ministry is preparing a descriptive booklet, Ontario Student Assistance Program, 1976-77, which will be distributed in March to high schools and post-secondary educational institutions throughout the province.

**Coming Events**

The Women's Centre will be selling tickets for Germaine Greer's lecture on "Feminism and Fertility" at Convocation Hall, U. of T. January 26 at eight p.m. Tickets are \$3 each.

The Science Students Association is sponsoring a dance on Friday, January 23 at 8:30 p.m. The dance will be held in the Founders Dining Hall; admission is 75 cents with SSA activity card.

Peter Gamejo, socialist candidate for the U.S. presidency, will be speaking at York on Tuesday at noon in Curtis Lecture Hall K.

John Saul, a social science professor, will be lecturing on "Liberation or Neo-colonialism" for Angola next Wednesday at noon in Stedman F.



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