

Despite staff shortage, T. A. loses tutorial

By BRENDA WEEKS

Last week a third year sociology class and its tutorial leader, Sid Karlinsky, stormed the office of Dean of Arts Sid Eisen to protest a ruling that Karlinsky was ineligible to teach the tutorial.

Due to the unusually large enrolment of 250 students in the course on Crime and Delinquency the department discovered that there were not enough teaching assistants to cover all the necessary tutorials.

Bryan Green, Chairman of the Sociology Department, told Excalibur last Monday that "it was hoped that Karlinsky would have been able to take three tutorials instead of the usual two, since he

was more experienced, and the difference could be covered by extra pay. However, because his wages are not permitted to exceed \$2,400, that idea was out of the question." Eisen and Green have since recruited extra staff to fill the position.

There have been similar problems this year at York because of unexpectedly large enrolments in some courses in the Faculty of Arts.

Last Monday, Eisen, said "funding was not the problem. What we are lacking is the availability of qualified teaching assistants in some of our arts courses. But we do have the funds."

Eisen pointed out the im-

plications of over-sized tutorials and the threat of T.A.'s working beyond the ten-hour ceiling. "The provincial government has limited the number of hours of a graduate student to ten teaching hours a week," he said. "This includes time spent in a classroom, preparing for a class, and time spent seeing students."

"These small tutorials are feasible for the ten hour limit, but not when there are up to 25 or 30 students. Too many students make for too much work."

Eisen further explained that graduate students go to university mainly to obtain their degree so their studies are their primary concern. If not, then the province wouldn't finance them.

Eisen said his main concern is that each course has an adequate number of tutorials, "but we are meeting with great difficulty in finding enough graduate students with expertise in certain subjects."

This has been the case in the political sciences and history departments as well. Even if the teaching assistant is willing to work overtime due to the shortage, it is not permissible in view of the limit established by the province.

Hal Tryhorn, an active member of the Political Science Student Union, has said that the union has observed signs of insufficient funds despite what the administration says, but it has not yet organized sufficiently to take action on the situation. "It is a rather poor situation though," Tryhorn said, "when the Political Science Department offers over 60 courses, while maintaining a staff of only 15 TAs."

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"Despite the increased complexity of the programme, some 49,000 of the applications received have already been assessed and returned to the institutions," the report states.

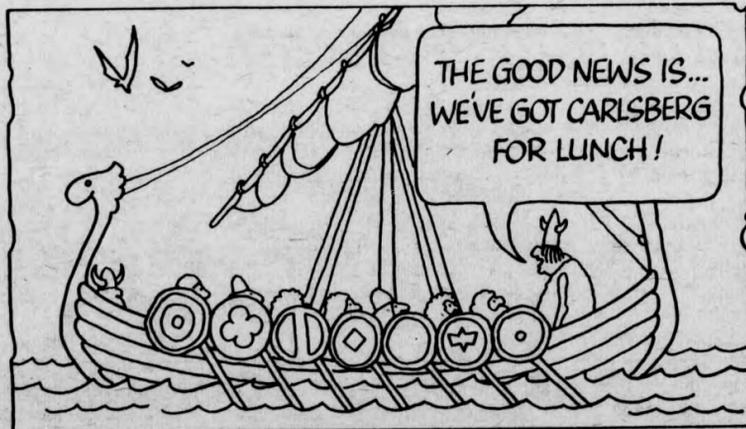


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