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Who's that weird guy with the camera? I dunno, but pretend you're asleep and maybe he'll get lost.

Cutbacks harm dance department

Greg Saville

The waves of cutback fever afflicting almost every department at York have rippled through the highly touted Department of Dance.

Obvious to most students was the \$2.50 admission charged for the first time at the annual Dance Concert two weeks ago (last year a "donation" was requested). But what most can't see is the hidden toll suffered in the dance department, one of the most prestigious in the country.

"I suffer personally because I'm overworked and underpaid, but the students also suffer," says one frustrated dance faculty member who won't return to York next year.

The issue does not seem to be merely the admission cost at the dance concert. That's only the tip of the iceberg.

"I don't really think \$2.50 is overcharging students when you realize costs have gone up and we must cover our expenses," explains dance department chairman, Yves Coisineau. "However, budget cuts have left fewer funds to give this department the fluctuation it needs. For instance we have no full-time appointments and we must have them," he laments.

Coisineau says there are faculty members who "are tired of being sapped for their value for eight months," and then are told to find other work for the rest of the year. "I have one faculty member here," he says, "who is waiting for acceptance to another job elsewhere next year for higher pay. York is at the bottom of the scale as far as pay is concerned."

Another dance instructor not returning next year is Norrey Drummond. She has taught here for five years.

"There are 180 students in the dance department and I've taught them all, I know them all and I care about them all," she said in an interview with *Excalibur* Tuesday. "I see their future being hindered because we don't have the kind of faculty they need for them to do the kind of studying they have to."

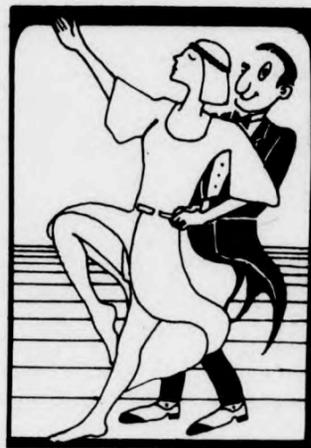
She is possibly one of the finest instructors in the dance department, according to some. She is also one of the faculty Coisineau has been unable to hire full-time.

"We have more sessional people to full-time people than we ought to have," and she adds in frustration, "this department could go down the tubes if something isn't done very quickly."

Coisineau equates the estimated 30 per cent in his budget over the last three years with "limited fluctuation...no longer being able to wring like a pendulum, more like standing still."

"It's as if all the fat has been cut off in the department," he remarks, "and right now we're very lean."

One second year dance student claimed the only reason there hasn't been an exodus of students from the department was because there were no other comparable dance faculties in Canada. "I would like to go to the United States to study," said the student who wished to remain anonymous, "but tuition is far too expensive there."



The student had earlier considered leaving York this year but decided against it despite what was called "a department with very low morale".

So far enrolment in the dance department has not suffered and, says Coisineau, because of higher quality students applying, the faculty is actually "more demanding" in the applications that are accepted each year.

Coisineau also says collaboration with other departments helps reduce costs for productions, such as the assistance of the theatre department during the dance concert. A slight condolence to a few students is that he doesn't expect the cost of the annual dance concert to rise next year.

Pub policy saga continues

Barb Mainguy

In another meeting of the York Food and Beverage Committee last Thursday, the question again arose concerning what to do about the proposed increase in surcharges on the food and liquor costs in campus pubs.

At the meeting, a controversial proposal to increase the surcharge by 5 per cent next year

was dropped. But while a new proposal to spread the increase over a five year period was submitted, discussion was fervent and objection vehement causing the decision once again to be delayed.

Tom Legge, member of the committee, says he is leery of the new proposal, arguing that the pubs should not have to offset the food services debt, and that even spaced out over five years, the increase would be too much for the pubs to absorb. Brad Varey, manager of the Open End, says that any increase in surcharges is unnecessary and evidence that Norman Crandles (head of the Food and Beverages Department) is expecting the pubs to "pay like first class citizens while we are treated like second class citizens."

Varey complains that while the caterers pay a 7 per cent tax on their gross sales, an amount which the pubs are not expected to meet, the caterers receive benefits for that tax. "They get all light, all heat, all maintenance and all equipment paid for by the university." The pubs' light and heat costs are covered, but they are expected to meet equipment costs themselves.

Norman Crandles sees the proposed increases in quite a different light. Acting, he says, "in the interests of the university," Crandles feels that the pubs come nowhere close to

pulling their own weight on campus.

"The business being done by the pubs is well in excess of one million dollars," says Crandles. "If pubs are operating at a deficit, see *Nonsense* page 3

Grads' hours cut

Michael Monastyrskij

Six graduate students are spending less of their time as teaching assistants after having filed a grievance with the Division of Social Science.

Both the Ministry of Colleges and Universities and the collective agreement between the GAA and the administration stipulate that graduate students are to be granted a maximum of 270 hours of work each year (10 hrs. a week average). The university administration has asked the six teaching assistants to reduce their hours so that their work load will average 10 hours a week.

In a March 25 letter to *Excalibur* the executive of the Graduate Assistants' Association stated that the teaching assistants filed the grievance in November when "they realized that their assigned work load was well over the ten hours a week average for which they are paid."

The letter went on to say that by choosing to reduce the TA's

hours instead of paying them for extra work "the Administration has forced the students to bear the consequences of a situation they have not created."

Kaye MacDonald, the Employee Relations Officer who administers the GAA agreement for the university, feels that there was no choice. She stated that if the administration were to pay the graduate students for the extra work it would contravene government legislation.

She argued that it might jeopardize their status as full time students "because it is recognition that we've exceeded the 270 hour limit."

The GAA does not accept this argument.

MacDonald added that this problem occurred because "discussions between the course director and the teaching assistant with regard to duties and responsibilities were not thorough enough at the time of hiring."

Harassment committee formed

Neil Wiberg

Following an alleged rape and complaints of sexual harassment on campus, University President H. Ian Macdonald has announced the formation of a Presidential Advisory Committee on Sexual Harassment. The committee will be chaired by Humanities Professor Ann Shteir, Advisor to the President on the Status of Women at York.

The committee will prepare recommendations for both formal and informal mechanisms for dealing with sexual harassment of students and employees at York. A preliminary report is expected by June 30.

Shteir told *Excalibur* that she expects the first meeting to be held by the end of the first week of May.