

**Task force report on research**

# Professors to account for their sabbaticals

By AGNES KRUCHIO

Professors will have to reveal how they spend their sabbatical leaves, should the president's commission act on a series of recommendations by a task force on research at York.

The task force would make mandatory each professor submitting to his/her department an updated curriculum vitae,

published works, grants received, and in the cases of long drawn-out research projects, an annual progress report.

**ACCOUNTABILITY**

"The task force recognizes," states the report, "that just as a professor is accountable for the satisfactory performance of his teaching duties, so there must be similar accountability for research

activity."

"Recipients of research fellowships, release time, leaves of absence and sabbatical leaves should be accountable to their units and to the administration for the effective utilization of money, space and time," the report says.

**SINE QUA NON**

Research and scholarship are the sine qua non of a university, states

the report. "Only universities provide the unique combination of responsibility for the advancement of knowledge in sciences and the arts with the transmission of this knowledge to mature (sic) students."

Teachers who are "competent and active researchers," should have a reduction in undergraduate teaching duties. Graduate teaching and supervision should be considered in setting teaching loads.

"Personal consultation, supervision of thesis work, participation and grading of comprehensive examinations, participation on students' committees and thesis exams would all count to decrease a good researcher's teaching load."

**TEACHING DEPENDS**

But elsewhere, the report states that "commitment to research and performance of research does indeed lead to better teaching."

While at present the teaching of first year students is by faculty, the task force, chaired by sociology professor Anthony Richmond, questions whether or not "this is the most effective allocation of faculty resources." It suggests that "the reorganization of first year teaching at York could free resources for more research." Where this is not possible, "additional faculty must be hired" to reduce individual teaching

requirements.

**MORE FUNDS NEEDED**


York is one of eight of 15 Ontario universities in 'miscellaneous' non-governmental income that could be used to fund research, amounting to \$298,000. York should make more effort to raise added funds for research. While the University of Toronto has ample research resources, such as the Connaught Fund, with an estimated capital of \$20 million York has no funds for partial financing of equipment necessary for research. This, the task force says, has a devastating effect on research done here, since many grant-giving agencies favour applications from universities that can prove they can supply as much as 40 per cent of equipment costs.

Research needs money, states the report, because "much research in technical areas depends on highly complex equipment, highly complex data processing systems, either of which may need full-time assistants to maintain . . . many of whom are supported by grant money. The loss of such an assistant because of loss of grant money, even if only temporarily, can have a devastating effect on the particular research programme."

To further encourage research at York, the task force recommends that "greater weight than at present should be given research productivity in assessing promotion and tenure. A "special system of merit pay" be established by the university to reward "outstanding contribution to academic scholarship," the task force suggests.

**RESEARCH PROFESSORSHIP**

Graduate students should be given support comparable to other Ontario and Canadian universities, the task force recommends. "Financial assistance for graduate students at York University should be substantially increased by allocating non-provincial funds on a scholarship basis, in order to make us competitive with other Canadian universities for the best qualified students." The task force also recommends that a rank of research professorship be set up, carrying a reduced teaching load.



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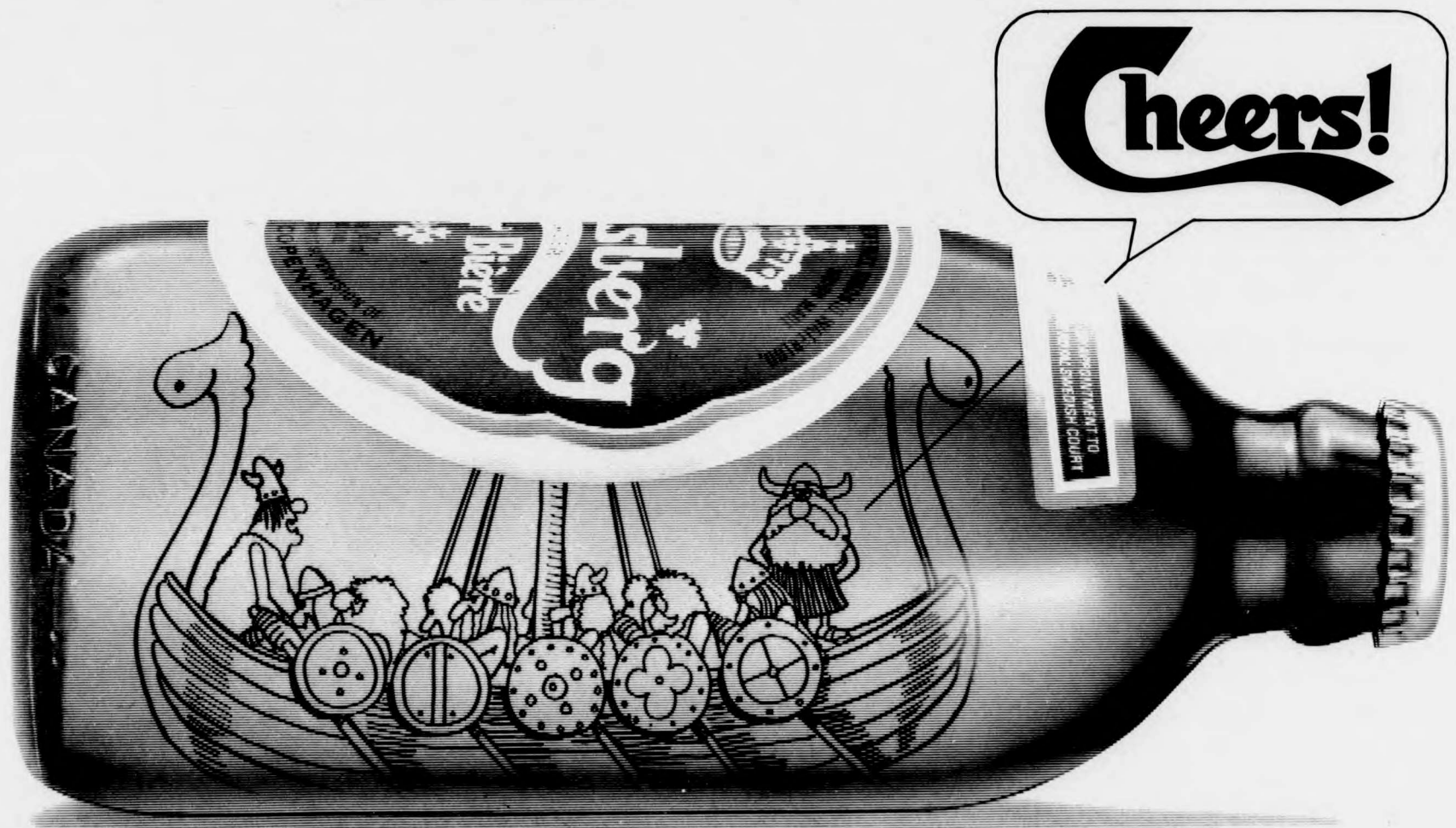
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