

Furor over hiring of Americans

York prof charges U of T discrimination

By Paul Stuart

Atkinson College sociology professor Paul Grayson has charged that the University of Toronto's sociology department is discriminating against Canadian nationalists in its hiring practices. Department chairman Irving Zeitlin has responded by terming the charges 'slander' and gratuitous lies.

The controversy came to a head over the summer when the U of T department was censured at the annual meeting of the Canadian Sociology and Anthropology Association. The censure motion was moved by Grayson because the department did not hire any Canadian teachers this year.

Last year Zeitlin had promised to hire more Canadians (The U of T sociology department is presently 36 per cent Canadian). Grayson lays the blame squarely on Zeitlin's shoulders. Although hiring is done democratically, and the hiring committee included students, Grayson claims, "Zeitlin is responsible; he can't pass the buck."

"Just because you have parity on a committee it doesn't mean you have equality," he said. "On a committee like that, faculty has the psychological edge. Those students may have been worried about their careers". All students on the com-

mittee have subsequently resigned.

Grayson claims there were ideological reasons for the problems: "Zeitlin wrote a book about imperialism last year and Canada wasn't even mentioned in it. There is no room in his brand of Maxism for anyone to challenge the cultural hegemony of the U.S. It is cultural imperialism of the left."

Grayson also said, "Canadian candidates had equal if not better qualifications. This stuff about there being no competent Canadians is no longer true. Zeitlin is using his position at U of T to help Americans who are caught by the shortage of positions in the States."

Zeitlin, contacted last Friday, said "Grayson is going around spreading these charges out of vin-

dictiveness. "He dismissed Grayson's cultural imperialism' charge, saying "I don't think anyone has accused me of that. I don't know what I can say to defend myself convincingly." He insisted that the hiring was done fairly and that the students who took part could not deny their roles in the decisions reached.

U of T Professor Shirley Small, who recently published an article in the Star on the controversy, said "There is no one person to blame".

"I think those of us in favour of Canadianization made some mistakes. For instance instead of concentrating on hiring Canadians, we got sidetracked on things like whether or not we liked a single applicant's presentation".

Small did not agree with Grayson's

cultural imperialism phrase. "I think that shows how strongly Paul feels but I don't think it illuminates anything. I do think you could make a case for sloppy leadership in the department".

Small did not feel that Zeitlin's "heart is in the Canadian nationalism issue. He gives formal recognition to it".

"I suppose that most of the people who were hired had known the chairman previously. Zeitlin has said that he wants to make Toronto the equal of Harvard, but I don't think this matters to people concerned with Canadianization. We have learned a lesson. We realize that it won't happen by itself, that we will have to work for it".

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