



We all know med students lead a hard life, but this one has just gone ape. He says his computer lessons in pharmacology are more fun than a barrel of monkeys, though. We caught this gorilla working on the Computer-Assisted Instruction program in Med Sciences Wednesday morning.

photo Brad Keith

Civil rights trial finished

by Lucinda Chodan

The trial of the Charter 77 Czechoslovakian dissidents was "a parody of justice" said civil rights lawyer Gordon Wright at a press conference yesterday.

But the unfavorable reaction of the West and the presence of neutral observers in Prague kept sentences from being much worse, he said.

Wright briefed the press after returning Tuesday from the trial of the dissidents in Prague. He was one of only three lawyers issued visas to visit Czechoslovakia during the trial.

The dissidents, accused of subversion, were sentenced to two to five years in prison.

"It's a vicious sentence for doing nothing, but the relatives were happy...they had expected much worse," Wright said. "There was no doubt in the minds of most of the people I spoke to in Czechoslovakia...that the volume of protest in the west had an effect on the sentences." Although he was not allowed to attend the trial, Wright learned of court proceedings through relatives of the defendants.

Only relatives were allowed in the courtroom during the trial, but, according to their reports, said Wright, "Kafka

lives."

Analyzing the trial would be like "doing a legal analysis of a rugby scrum", said Wright.

For example, a relative of one of the defendants took notes during the trial. The judge informed her that she could not take notes without his permission. When she asked for permission, it was refused. When she questioned his ruling, she was arrested.

Wright, who attended the trial at the conquest of the Committee in Defense of Soviet and East European Political Prisoners, (CDSEPP) said while he did not feel any threat to his safety, "I did constantly feel that there was a threat made to my liberty."

He said he was followed by secret police on occasion, and said the Belgian lawyer present for the trial was "detained" for several hours. Her papers were confiscated by the Czech secret police.

CDSEPP spokesman Bohdan Krawchenko said Wright demonstrated "courage far beyond our expectations" in attempting to attend the trial.

"Both the people inside Czechoslovakia and their supporters were very grateful...for the presence of Gordon Wright."

L'Etat...

the Gateway

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1979

...c'est moi.

Peter Lougheed

Minor controversy at Council

by Alison Thomson

Students' council agreed to grant \$300 to co-sponsor a hockey team in the Garneau and Windsor Park area in conjunction with the HUB merchants at their regular meeting last night.

Vp external Tema Frank explained the motion, saying it is up to the university to support the community leagues, since a lot of students live in those areas, and there are no businesses in the areas.

She also said it would be excellent public relations, since she said students are held in rather low estimation by the residents of the surrounding areas.

Referring to this publicity, she said the hockey team has "nifty little crests" with Students' Union (SU) written on them.

David Sproule from Law disagreed, saying the SU could better spend the money on the boat people campaign. He added that he saw no need to advertise the students' union, and that students would improve their

image much more by turning down their stereos at night, cleaning up their yards, and volunteering as individuals in the community.

The motion carried, ten in favour, eight against.

Council then spent twenty minutes in closed session, at the request of science proxy Brian Mason, who said he had some concerns to express about one of the DIE board members to be ratified. He said he did not want to damage that person's reputation by doing so publicly.

The members presented for ratification were Jay Spark, Howard Hoggins, Larry Wilde, Keith Paynter, and Roy Smith. Alternate members were David McWhinnie, Mark Kowalsky, and Jan Damgaard.

A councillor, at the request of council, checked CJSR news director Nolan Astley's tape recorder to see if it had been left on before proceeding.

The applicants were later approved as the original motion had presented them.

In question period, Arts

proxy Dennis Theobald asked a lengthy series of questions of vp academic Chanchal Bhattacharya about his investigations of the Arts Students Association (ASA).

In response to persistent questioning, Bhattacharya said a committee had been set up to investigate the budget and operations of the ASA. The committee is composed of half arts students and half faculty association presidents. It was not established by motion in council because it is a subcommittee of the Academic Affairs Board.

Theobald asked if Bhattacharya thought faculty

associations were the only groups who should represent students of faculties. Bhattacharya responded "not necessarily," that it depends on the quality of the organization.

Finally, Theobald asked if Bhattacharya had approached any departmental clubs about taking over some of the ASA's functions. Bhattacharya replied that he had, and cited the Political Science Undergraduate Association as one such group.

Brian Mason asked Theobald if he was aware that under the Universities Act, the SU has jurisdiction and authority over all student groups.

"That's certainly wonderful," said Theobald.

Council passed a motion to send a telegram to the Minister of Advanced Education and Manpower to express the view that the new federal provincial task force on student aid should contain student representatives, student awards officers, and that it should generally represent the Canadian public.

After some debate on whether it is possible or "silly" to table a motion to receive a document, council tabled such a motion referring to a Federation of Alberta Students paper on student aid.

Arts association under fire

by Keith Krane

An investigation is underway into the budget and activities of the Arts Students' Association (ASA).

The investigation is being carried out by a committee of the Academic Affairs Board, the body responsible for the granting of money to faculty associations.

"They looked at our budget and just didn't approve it," said Alvin Ropchan, president of the ASA. "We didn't get any explanation for their action."

The ASA asked for \$2250 for this year, the maximum amount allowable under present granting formulas. This amount is also the largest grant given by the Students' Union to any group.

"We're concerned with how our money is spent, and whether or not the ASA is as effective as

it should be," said Chanchal Bhattacharya, Students' Union (SU) vp academic and chairman of the investigating committee.

"The problem is partially with the budget, but primarily with the operations of the ASA itself," he said.

But the ASA says they are unhappy with the way they have been treated. Their budget was first presented to the Academic Affairs Board in late August, and the investigating committee was set up in mid-September. The committee did not begin to work until late in October however.

"It's a Catch-22," said Ropchan. "We can't do much without our money, yet we can't get our money till we do something."

Bhattacharya admits the committee has been slow.

"We screwed up," he said.

"We didn't get rolling as quickly as we should have."

Bhattacharya also said he thinks the matter is important enough to justify a delay in the granting of money.

"Faculty associations have

Continued on page 2



Alvin Ropchan

Research funded

by Larry Compagna

The Medical Research Council (MRS) has granted \$2.4 million to a biochemical research project of Nobel prize calibre, U of A president Myer Horowitz said at a press conference yesterday.

Horowitz and MRC president Dr. Rene Simard signed an agreement at the press conference which allotted \$318 thousand for equipment and \$686 thousand per annum to a U

of A research group over the next three years.

The contract covers a five-year period from July 1, 1979 to June 30, 1984. It also makes provisions for unspecified additional funding during the last two years.

Research group co-chairman Dr. L.P. Smillie explained the basic purpose of the research was to further understanding of basic protein

Continued on page 2