

Psych test ruled unethical by Quebec psychologists

Montreal (CUP) A psychological test has been unethically administered at Champlain College over the past three years according to a representative of the Quebec corporation of psychologists.

Pierre Gendreau said that the test, which was included as part of Champlain's official English testing program, violated the code of ethics of the corporation.

The test was given without the consent of the students involved and without informing them of the right to refuse to write the test.

The psychology test, called the self-concept test, was formulated by the head of the language learning centre Susan Woodroff and a psychology professor Susan Kerwin-Doudreau, as part of a \$45,000 research project grant sponsored by the Quebec Ministry of Education.

Students were asked to choose appropriate adjectives to describe the way they are and the way they would like to be.

Woodroff said the test was formulated in order to discover if a relationship existed between self-perception and performance in English.

"The test was not a personal one but rather a group one. The person's name is not included in the final analysis of the results and this test is in fact one of the least dangerous and intimate tests," she said.

Gendreau emphasized that in a letter written from the administration to students informing them of the English tests, no information

about the psychology tests was included.

"The present code of ethics of the Canadian Society of Psychologists (of which the corporation is a member) is hazy in its rules regarding the administration of psychological testing.

"The corporation has no authority over any non-psychologists, which means anyone can go out tomorrow and get a

psychology test without following the code of ethics as long as that person doesn't call himself a psychologist."

The corporation now has legislation pending before the Quebec national assembly which according to Gendreau "is quite clear in its rules regarding the administration of these tests."

The Champlain psychology tests would violate two sections of the

proposed law. One states a psychologist must tell the participant about the research and

obtain written consent to carry out the tests. The other section says

psychologists must respect the right of a person to refuse to participate in or stop participating in the test.

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