

Erroneous paperbacks not based on fact**Author exposes wanton slander of witchcraft**

By ANNA VAITIEKUNAS

"Paperback novelists like Margaret Murray and Montagu Summers (author of *I Was A Witch*) are responsible for the erroneous impressions we get of witchcraft," Dr. Rossell Hope Robbins told a York audience last Friday.

"The literary works of these writers are invalid accounts of

witchery, because they are based purely on assumption and not on fact," he added. "Even the story of Joan of Arc has been unsubstantiated."

Robbins, author of the *Encyclopedia of Witchcraft and Demonology*, and a professor of theology at the University of New York State, has been studying

witchcraft for the past 30 years.

"My approach," he said, "is strictly from the historical point of view. My main area of investigation is the social treatment of witches between the 14th and 16th centuries in Britain and Europe."

The main thrust of his work has been to disprove fallacies and expose the true circumstances "that ex-

ploited many innocent people during that time."

As an example, Robbins used the story of Joan of Arc, who was captured and imprisoned by the British in May, 1430.

"The night before she was burnt, her clothes were taken away. She was given a pair of men's trousers instead. During the night, she put them on to go to the latrine.

"The minute she stepped outside her cell door, she was convicted of being a heretic." (During the 15th century in Britain, the Christian law dictated that if a woman wore men's

clothes, it was a sign of heretical tendencies.)

Misinterpretation of the trial records of witches, Robbins claimed, has been the main cause for modern historical fallacies surrounding witchcraft.

"Especially the 'confessed without torture' trials," he elaborated. "The accused was, in fact, tortured — hung from the ceiling by his hands until the shoulders were dislocated.

"If the accused insisted that he was innocent, he would be tortured further, and eventually burnt at the stake. To escape the painful death, the accused often said he was a witch for a shorter, painless death at the gallows.

"One hundred thousand people were hung as witches in Germany and France; how many actually were witches is another question."

Robbins is currently working on a new book, to be published next year, in which he will deal specifically with witch trials and punishments.

Simple meditation, like a falling ball, leads straight to pure consciousness

By GREG MARTIN

Transcendental Meditation, the science which allows people to transcend their problems by entering into the fourth state of consciousness, tells its followers that they can feel much better, experience more energy and joy, and free up their creative source simply by meditating for 15 minutes, twice a day.

Sound unreal? Three T.M. speakers testified on Friday to 80

people at York that the T.M. experience is now scientifically tested and proven to be of sound base.

Their scientific research manual is full of charts which record marked improvements in I.Q. scores and mental health tests, increased athletic performance, and greater attention spans. None of the T.M. principles are new; they've been passed down from teacher to pupil for thousands of years.

"Over 300 students on campus regularly practice this art of meditation," said Ashley Deans, president of the Students' International Meditators Society (SIMS) at York.

Explaining T.M.'s effects on social behavior, he said, "Self actualization relates to how we see ourselves. We must be stable within to truly interact because we are the most controllable and important part in any human relationship."

T.M. is easy, and naturally so, said speaker Ian Roberts. "Nature always falls under the law of least ac-

tion.

"For instance, when you drop a ball, it doesn't spiral and glide to the ground; it just drops in the straightest and quickest fashion possible. This effortless action in the things we do relates to pure consciousness which can be achieved by meditation."

An intense four-day T.M. course was offered to the students at the end of the lecture so that they could learn the techniques of T.M. The sessions climax when the students are given their own mantra (which should be repeated daily) by their teachers at the last lesson.

The only requirement for the course is that students give six to 12 fresh cut flowers, two or three sweet fruits, one new white handkerchief, and \$60 to their instructor. These items represent an age-old ritual passed down from teacher to student.

Another course will be offered in two weeks by the Toronto SIMS teachers.

Ukrainians meet

An important meeting of York's Ukrainian Students Association of York will be held today at 4 p.m. in Room 124, Central Square (beside the bank). The upcoming Phil Berrigan speaking engagement will be discussed and all are welcome to attend.

Communal living, communications topics of 'lifestyle days' symposium

A three-day symposium offering expert guest lecturers on the subjects of communal living, alternative education, and communications will be held at York from Wednesday, February 12, to Friday, February 14.

Minor topics encompassing nutrition, human relationships, farming and gardening, health and well-

being, and sound matrix will be covered.

Alternative Lifestyle Days, sponsored by McLaughlin College, will represent the first extended symposium of its kind to be presented at York, and probably the first of its kind in Ontario. Members of the York community will be admitted free of charge.

Chiropractor talks of stress

Gary Adams, a doctor of chiropractic from Whitby, will speak today at 1 p.m. in S174 Ross. Using Hans Selye's book on Stress, Adams will talk about practical and constructive ways to handle mental and emotional stress.

Everyone is invited to attend the event, sponsored by the Ontology club.

**OPEN LETTER TO JEWISH STUDENTS**

Israel lives!? Israel is struggling in both an external and internal sense with life. In the external sense, Israel is struggling for the right to live as a Jewish State. In the internal sense, Israel is struggling to give all her people the best possible life. She cannot do both alone. While the external situation may be out of her hands and our hands, the internal situation is not.

Student Mobilization for Israel was formed last November for exactly the purpose of giving what we could to Israel. Those working on the newsletter and political education strive to raise moral support and educate Jews and non-Jews alike about Israel. Those working with volunteers develop programs to encourage and prepare Jewish students our age who choose to strengthen Israel by going over during and immediately after wars.

The fourth group, the SMI Campaign, is what I am writing about in particular today. Our goal is to collect \$18.00, CHAI, LIFE, from every Jewish student in Toronto; to exceed in collecting over \$100,000.00

EVERY DOLLAR WE GIVE SAYS, "I care." It is one way of showing and one way of fighting.

EVERY DOLLAR WE GIVE SAYS, "The Jewish People, our values, our history, our culture, our religion and now, our country, matter."

EVERY DOLLAR WE GIVE makes possible more education, medical services, housing, the building of development towns, cultural and social institutions, comfort to the old, poor, disabled and to the immigrant.

We are told we expect too much from the student community. We think not. We must accept the responsibility of following through on our demands for the right of Israel and the Jewish people to live!

Please GIVE and KEEP THE PROMISE

Thank You

Sincerely,

Marilyn Levitan

Marilyn Levitan,
Chairperson

Many of you will be receiving an information and donation kit in the mail this week. If you get one, please return it with your donation. If you do not get one, please come into the JSF office, S101, Ross, and pick one up.

AM YISRAEL CHAI

STUDENT MOBILIZATION FOR ISRAEL CAMPAIGN