

# University News Beat

by Department of Information and Publications

Emergency Services  
Centre — 3333

*Course begins on January 28*

## Parapsychology and frontiers of the mind

by ROB BARLOW

Sixty years ago the poet Rilke wrote: "Only through one of the greatest and innermost renovations it has ever gone through will the world be able to save and maintain itself."

While the world seems as if it is on the brink of disaster (a feeling which is hardly new), it also seems as if some kind of transformation is beginning to take place.

Something's happening to our world, something which we're only vaguely aware of, but which is seeping into the backs of our minds.

While poets and visionaries have always realized that there's more to the world "than meets the eye", more and more people are expressing an interest in parapsychology: the field of science which deals with things like telepathy and altered states of consciousness.

On January 28 York's Centre for Continuing Education is offering a course entitled "Parapsychology and Frontiers of the Mind". It is a ten week course, to be held on



Tuesday evenings. This is the third time the course has been offered by the Centre, and it has always been one of the Centre's most popular courses.

The course is given by Dr. Howard Eisenberg. He says its purpose is to give an overview of the field: everything from a history of psychic research to discussions into altered states of consciousness.

Apart from being a believer in the field, Dr. Eisenberg is also a qualified researcher, and treats the

subject seriously. Having obtained both an M.Sc. and M.D. from McGill University, he is a member of the American Society for Psychical Research, the Association for Humanistic Psychology and the Canadian Medical Association.

He is bothered by the fact that the psychology departments at many universities resist such studies. He is hoping that York will soon offer a course in parapsychology for credit, and cites that many universities (for instance Cambridge) have already done so.

Many top scientists have expressed an interest in the field, including many Nobel laureates. Jung was a believer. It almost seems as if the more a scientist deals with sub-atomic and supergalactic dimensions, the less sceptical he becomes.

The laws of physics are as strange and mysterious as the possibilities of psychic phenomena. The speed of light is no longer the indisputable law it once was, and any high school physics student can

tell you that the solid world is nothing more than moving particles. Einstein identified mass with energy; and Sir James Jeans, a noted cosmologist, even went so far as to suggest that the ultimate material of the universe may be "mind stuff".

Recent studies have indicated that there may be "holes" in the fabric of space which would allow inter-galactic travel by by-passing the immense distances of space. The alleged vacuum of space is filled with x-rays, radio waves and all kinds of energy fields.

Dr. Eisenberg points out that we still don't know how mind and matter inter-act in the brain. No one can "explain" consciousness.

His course deals with such matters as precognition, telepathy, psychokinesis (mind over matter, psychic healing), auras and force fields, and clairvoyance. He will also talk about such things as meditation, mysticism, bio-feedback, hypnosis, drug-induced hallucinations and expanded awareness.

He says that we all experience psychic phenomena, but that most of us either ignore or suppress them. The most obvious examples are coincidences which seem more than just coincidental and premonitions. He says that a breakthrough will come when we find out how to control such occurrences at will. He admits that most people feel uncomfortable about the field, mainly because it is a subject which goes against our preconceived notions of what the world is all about.

Dr. Eisenberg has a private psychotherapy practice in Toronto. He believes that many people who have been labelled as schizophrenic are people with extra-sensory abilities. He abhors the treatment of such people with drugs, which artificially alter and can damage the mind.

When you consider that life itself is mysterious and miraculous it becomes difficult to keep a closed mind. As the old saying goes, in this universe perhaps "anything is possible".

The fee for the whole course for students is \$27.00, or \$3.50 per seminar (for others, the fee is \$40.00 or \$5.00). Some of the individual seminars include: "Parapsychology as a Scientific Discipline"; "The Physical Body as an Open Energy System"; "Quantitative Laboratory Experiments of Extra-Sensory Perception".

For more information, give the Centre a call at 667-2501.

## Students: not just part of scenery

"Think out what you want, then go and get it; succeeding at York involves an element of gentle aggressiveness. Individual initiative is probably the best thing you have going for you at any given time."

Manus, 1974

The above quotation from Manus is the philosophy behind York's motto, coined in 1960, Tentanda Via - the way must be tried.

In January, 1973, a core group of half a dozen people went to the trouble of figuring out who at York could be identified as being employed in student services in any way.

The group then issued an invitation to all those concerned to get together at what turned out to be a two-day conference. About fifty people representing virtually all areas of student services discussed what ails, frustrates and confuses both students and staff when dealing with the university.

This included representatives from the Counselling and Development Centre, Student Placement, Health Services, Safety and Security, the Registrar's Office, Student Awards, Student Programmes, and the various college and residence offices.

This conference was the first major get-together of what became the Student Services Community: a voluntary group of members of the York community who care about improving both the quality of student services and the quality of their own working lives on campus.

### IMPROVING THE FLO

A co-ordinating committee was formed to act as a clearing house and focal point for all student-related services. Three areas for study were outlined:

1) Departmental Relations. This group's primary concern was to gather a coherent package of information which would be useful to all the colleges. It was felt that people in geographically separate units doing essentially similar jobs should know more about what each other

was doing.

2) Information. Although valid information-disseminating spots such as CYSF and College Masters Offices, had been around for some time, it was obvious that there was a need to identify and co-ordinate all these points and to set up a system to improve information flow and sharing.

The Counselling and Development Centre had already established an Information Desk, which was becoming a storehouse for vital information; but it was realized that there was a need for a more central repository.

A full-time and centrally located source of general information became a reality in the summer of 1973 when the Information York booth was set up permanently. It was the first major project of the Student Services Community, initiated without official funding and manned by volunteers.

3) Staff Development and Orientation. The lack of staff orientation, training and development is one issue which can be seen as critical for the entire community. As one staff member put it, "if it weren't for the students there'd be no need for us to be here."

### STUDENTS AND STAFF

An education program is a definite need for student services staff: to learn how to be part of the education process, to see problems and concerns from students' points of view, to de-emphasize the "administrator syndrome", and to try to improve communication and professionalism.

The Student Services Community held its first seminar in May of 1973. It was a "Demonstration Workshop on Communication Processes in Organizations", with leadership provided by in-house people like Elizabeth Smith of York's Centre for Continuing Education and Professor Ron Burke of the Faculty of Administrative Studies.

The objective of the workshop, apart from meeting other people from student services, was to identify, confront and try to solve some

of the problems of communicating and surviving in a large institutional organization. Reasons why students and staff sometimes fail to communicate with one other were talked about and an initial effort was made to understand some of the things that "get in the way" of the student-staff relationship.

### STAFF ORIENTATION

A staff development program is currently being studied by some of the members of the SSC. In the meantime, one of the most important undertakings has been the introduction of "orientation sessions" for new staff.

Today, January 16, marks the date of the third such session (beginning at 12:15 in the Faculty Lounge, S872 Ross). Having collected all available

information, compared it to other university induction processes, created a video tape, designed a format and arranged for speakers, SSC has developed an orientation program which helps to give new staff members an introduction to York and the unique problems and benefits of the university atmosphere.

Last August the SSC published a handbook which is now given to every new staff member.

York is talked about as a community, and is often compared to a small town. Working here can sometimes be frustrating and confusing, but it also can be exciting and rewarding.

The Student Services Community will soon be holding a general meeting for all members of York including students and faculty.



## Laura Dean dance company at York tonight

Modern dancer Laura Dean is bringing her Company to Burton tonight for an exclusive Toronto performance.

Dean's choreography is similar to contemporary work in the plastic arts, which makes use of archetypal forms — circles,

spheres, and processes of numbering — in an attempt to rediscover essences or sources. The result is a hypnotic meditative dance which drums its ordered way into the mind.

The third event in this year's Performing Arts Series, Laura

Dean and Dance Company will be followed on Monday, February 24 by Vancouver's Anna Wyman Dance Theatre.

Student tickets are \$3.50 (\$7.00 for general public) and can be purchased at the box office in Burton. Curtain is at 8:30 p.m.