

U of T psychology in uproar

by Karen Hill

TORONTO (CUP) — An ad in the November 16 issue of a University of Toronto student newspaper has been blamed for a disruption of a first-year psychology course.

The full-page Molson Canadian ad had a "reading compre-

hension" quiz. Readers scored points for performing the test correctly, and could "(s)core ten points if you scream the words out at the top of your lungs during a psychology lecture."

Professor Katherine Covell said someone distributed copies of the Varsity to her first-year psychology course with the ad highligh-

ted, urging people to call out at 12:25 p.m.

The class of 1600 students was halted for several minutes, she said.

"It took me a couple of minutes to figure out what was happening," said Covell. "I'm not used to people suddenly shouting out bizarre things.

"People shouted out as a direct result of the advertisement in the Varsity."

First-year student Trevor Grabber said three or four students disrupted the class by shouting out parts of the ad, but stopped after Covell laid down the law.

"She said, 'One more comment

like that and I'm out of here, and you'll have a hard time answering questions on the test,'" Grabber said.

Covell said she was angered by the outburst because she has been making a conscious effort to keep the lectures orderly.

"The first day, everyone was doing the wave," but incidents like that have subsided, Grabber said, adding he understands why Covell is upset.

"It's pretty bad if it disrupts (the class) for everyone," he said. "I think if someone makes the occasional joke, it's okay."

Sexuality questioned at U of T

by Hilary Bain

TORONTO (CUP) — University of Toronto faculty and students are combatting homophobia on campus.

Political science professor David Rayside is creating a group of students and faculty to informally discuss the problems of homophobia at U of T.

"I'd like to get people from a variety of areas including straights and gays. The working group could explore homophobia and develop strategies to deal with that," said Rayside.

"Homophobia is partly based on ignorance and fear. Also, people who are unsure of their own sexual identity feel threatened and become homophobic," said philosophy professor Jack Stevenson.

Rayside said the faculty of engineering and St. Michael's college are two "obvious" places where homophobia exists.

The Mike, the student paper at St. Michael's College, is an example, Rayside said. The paper's staff removed the clause from their letters policy that stated they would not print letters that were homophobic.

They said such letters were already covered under the clause "inciting hate", and that singling out homophobia was redundant.

Cossette Caporrella, president of the engineering student society, said the faculty of engineering shouldn't be singled out as homophobic.

Rayside said the problem of homophobia is widespread throughout campus.

"It is believed that if you talk about it, you're gay yourself, and that is why the problem has remained invisible."

Stevenson said the administration's neutral role towards homophobia is unacceptable. "The university is remiss to be neutral, because to be neutral encourages these activities."

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