

Approach avoids specifics

Students denounce poli-sci theory

By BOB ROTH

Fifty students converged on a meeting of the Canadian Political Science Association at York, July 5, to denounce the methodology of contemporary behavioural political science.

Members of the York, Glendon College, Toronto and McMaster Student Movements distracted an audience of 200 political scientists listening to guest speaker David Easton, when they marched into the Vanier College dining hall carrying balloons, flowers and signs denouncing systems analysis

theory.

Easton's systems analysis theory centres around the examination of a political system by learning how it functions and how it handles various external and internal stresses.

A leaflet distributed by the students charged that Easton's theoretical approach to political science "reduces politics to an abstract system of inputs and outputs" and refuses to talk about specifics such as U.S. imperialism and the oppressive nature of capitalism.

Easton's "quest for a scientific politics reflects the need among American bourgeois political scientists for high-level rationalizations of their work," the leaflet said.

"Classical liberalism no longer suffices as a defence of capitalism. In the age of state monopoly capitalism, new centres of power and new manifestations of power (ie, imperialism) require justification."

Easton defended his approach as "not reactionary" and "not counter-revolutionary." Following his speech he debated with the students, who had remained quiet throughout his talk.

University of Toronto graduate

student Andy Wernick, told Easton that his method of analysis had "no concept of totality."

By isolating social problems and examining them separately, Easton's theory "rules out analysis which relates these together," Wernick said.

Wernick also denounced "the general professional mentality" of behaviouralists. The belief "that somehow social scientists are neutral" is used to defend "their own lack of commitment," he said.

A professor argued that the people who make use of the information compiled by political scientists are not the people interested in solving social problems but rather the people in power who use that information to control and manipulate people.

Easton, a Canadian who has studied and taught for the most part in the United States, has returned to Queen's University in Kingston, Ont. for a salary of over \$52,000.

Staff meeting today
2:00
EXCALIBUR Office
030A Steacie
Science Library

"Joan...this is kind of personal but do you use Tampax tampons?"

"Wouldn't use anything else... they're convenient, easier to use, comfortable, and they don't show..."

"I guess that's why you can wear all those fantastic clothes all the time. Wish I could."

"If that means you don't use Tampax tampons, you ought to give them a try. But don't just take my word for it... ask Ann and Jane and well, millions of girls all over the U.S. would tell you the same thing."

"That many, huh?"

"Probably more."



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Tennis champ Frannie Stone does and so is EXCALIBUR as we think of all the work that goes into putting out York's campus-wide weekly student newspaper. Next issue we jump to our 24-page base.

We need reporters — lots; a couple of photographers — preferably with their own 35 mm cameras and with some experience in a darkroom; a body or three to handle the sports side at York; people to write in the culture/arts pages.

Freshmen especially are welcome.

Until we move to our new office in the Central Square, you'll find us in the basement of Steacie Science Library (where all the books aren't). There are signs pointing to the office downstairs at each library entrance.

See you today at 2 p.m.

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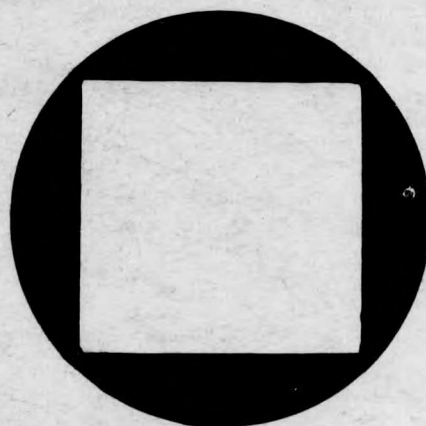
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