

excalibur

YORK UNIVERSITY'S COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

20 October 1983
Volume 18, Issue 7

York v s. employee

By CHRIS WARREN

A York employee, who believes he was wrongly dismissed from his job in Instructional Aid Resources (DIAR), is going to court to get back \$6,000 he said he lost as a result of a 20-day suspension.

Fred Craft, a media operation technician, maintains that the suspension was "emotional" and came at a critical time. A sessional employee, who works an eight-month term, Craft was suspended last April, just before the end of his 1982-83 term. As a result he was unable to make payments on musical equipment and his car.

He was reinstated this past summer after the York University Staff Association (YUSA), the union representing support staff, stepped in.

Craft, who is black, believes that a racist environment may have led to his being fired without warning. He is indignant that he was the only one in his office without a desk and that a black doll kept in the office had been the subject of racist jokes.

According to Craft, the suspension was ostensibly a result of several days off which he took when unable to find a sitter for his children.

When contacted about the incident, John Briggs, Craft's supervisor, had no comment.

Craft believes that, because he accepted his job back, he may have weakened his chances of winning the suit, even though both the Ministry of Labour and the Human Rights Commission advised him to accept the job.

"I think the point is that York doesn't want to admit this word (racism) exists," said Craft. "I don't have any choice, I've been thrown into it."

Don Mitchell head of York's Personnel Department, also had no comment.

Craft, who is working seven days a week, is hoping for a quick solution, but does not think York will settle out of court. "I really would like for things to get back to normal," he said.

A lawyer, representing the University, is to meet with Human Rights Commission officer Joanne Kaczmarek on October 21.



PHOTO: MARIO SCATTOLONI

IT'S ALL OVER . . . AGAIN.

Defeat. York's Football Yeomen bowed out of the playoff picture for the thirteenth year in a row as they succumbed to McMaster's Mauauders 26-13 last Saturday afternoon. Running back Joe Parisseli hangs his head in disappointment as the game drew to a sorry close.

Atkinson Homecoming a mystical affair

Experts grapple with parapsychology

By ADRIAN IWACIWI
and NIGEL TURNER

A reader of *The National Enquirer* would have wondered what the fuss was about. After all, aren't psychic phenomena as real as milk and honey.

For the doctors and professors who lectured and debated at Osgoode Hall this past weekend, the issue wasn't quite so clear.

The Conference on Parapsychology, which took place in Osgoode's Moot Court last Friday and Saturday, was a part of Atkinson College's Homecoming events. Seven speakers dealt with the subject and together offered a good overview of the debate surrounding the "paranormal," or "psi," which generally includes such supposed phenomena as telepathy (mind-to-mind communication), clairvoyance (extra-sensory awareness of distant events), psychokinesis (mind-over-matter), precognition, poltergeist phenomena, psychic healing, and out-of-body experiences.

The Keynote speaker, researcher-writer-educator D. Scott Rogo, offered a broad historical background to the topic in his discourse on "Parapsychology: The State of the Art." Rogo reviewed some of the important early experimental work done at Duke University in the 1930s (under J.B. Rhine) and followed through to the more recent approaches of the '60s and '70s.

The techniques used by Rhine to prove or disprove the existence of psychic phenomena were quantitative and statistical. For example, by allowing subjects to guess the order of cards (of a specially-designed 25-card deck) to be turned up by the experimenter, Rhine could obtain a numerical result. If the ratio of correct-to-incorrect guesses was far above average, the presence of ESP could be inferred. However, these results proved inconclusive—they seemed to clinically isolate subjects from the kinds of circumstances in which psychic phenomena would be likely to occur.

The new directions psychical research took in the 1950s and '60s recognized that ESP (if it exists) most likely mediates itself through the unconscious mind. At the Maimonides

Medical Center in New York, Montague Ullman experimented with dream telepathy: a "sender" would try to communicate some image, such as an art-print, to a "receiver" located outside of the other's hearing and viewing range. The success rate of these experiments proved significant and encouraging, but were hard to duplicate.

In later research it was found that a relaxed state (brought about by a visual and auditory "ganzfeld"—diffused light and "white noise") helped to facilitate vivid imagery, and consequently, the "psi phenomenon."

Rogo further outlined the progress of psychokinetic research from its early days when the key-bending feats of Uri Geller (among others) were tested, to the modern quantum (atomic) approaches of those like Helmut Schmidt in Seattle. Rogo emphasized the elusiveness of "psi": "It seems that we all possess a certain amount of ESP and psychokinesis—the thing is to find out how to capture it."

that both of these views are true: social instability combined with the explosive

Dr. Ted Mann, a recently retired York Sociology professor, followed Rogo with a talk on "The Sociology of Parapsychology." He made the point, for example, that a heightened public interest in psychic phenomena corresponds with a general social instability—as it did in the mid-1800s (the industrial revolution), in the 1930s (Depression) and again in the 1960s (and afterwards).

According to Mann, about three out of four people today believe in the reality of psychic phenomena, in contrast to the one-in-ten among scientists. A possible explanation for this, as claims Isaac Asimov, is that people today are more gullible and irrational. Another is that the positivist scientific worldview that was once held so tightly, has now been shattered (by science itself, by Heisenberg's uncertainty principle, or Godel's incompleteness theorem, for example). Mann suggested

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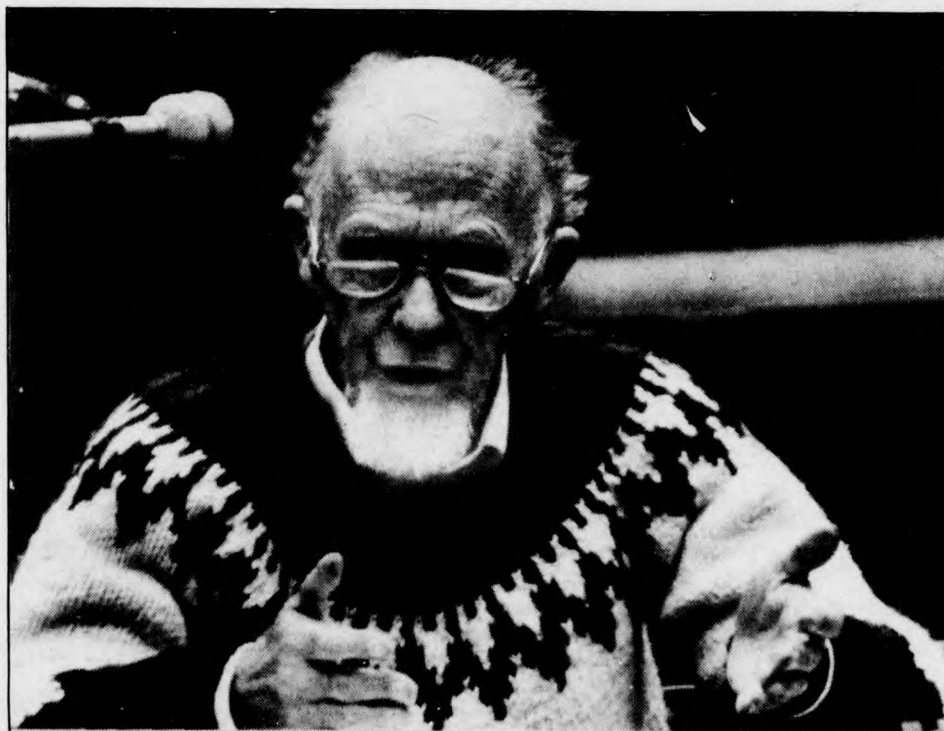


PHOTO: ANGELOS HAPANDITIS

At Atkinson's Parapsychology Conference held last weekend at Osgoode Hall, retired York Sociologist Dr. Ted Mann, correlated the growing interest in Parapsychology with the increase in social instability.

Bank scam

By LAURA LUSH

Identification papers belonging to some York University Chinese visa students were used as part of an "organized plan" to defraud the Toronto-Dominion Bank of \$62,000 according to a report in CBC's *News-hour* last week.

The CBC report stated that 43 visa students from Hong Kong had their ID papers stolen or lost, and were used by a Chinese crime gang in defrauding the bank over a four-month period.

However, Staff Sgt. Gary Ast, of the Metro Toronto Police Fraud Squad, said there was only a single incident, one that was related to an individual gang. And an October 6 *Toronto Star* article reported that students "admitted selling papers."

Staff Sgt. Ast said the visa papers were used to open accounts at some TD banks. Green Machine Cards were then obtained by the culprits, allowing them to withdraw cash from the automatic teller machines.

He said phony cheques were then deposited, building accounts up to \$1,500 and then withdrawing funds before the cheques could be discovered.

What was described as a "single but very effective scam" by the *Toronto Star* involved the defrauder's timely knowledge of the vulnerability of the automatic machines, according to the CBC report.

Cash was withdrawn because they "knew when the main central computer was down—at that point the automatic tellers have no memory and can't tell if there's sufficient funds in the account," stated the report.

A TD security chief, who wished to remain nameless, said would-be fraud artists will have a tougher time getting money out of the machines. "Certain security measures have been implemented to plug the loophole in the automatic teller systems," he said.

Ast said police are looking for two or three young men in connection with the incident.

No charges have yet been laid and police are still investigating.