

Two into one won't go, Chinese president argues

By DENISE BEATTIE

A confrontation over student clubs' rights arose this week as one student association expressed unhappiness with a decision to let a second association share a room with it.

The Chinese Students' Association (CSA), which last year and up until this week had a club room, 110 Vanier, to itself, has now been informed that it must share the room with the Students' International Meditation Society (SIMS). The CSA received this information three months after a meeting with John Becker, Student Affairs Vice-President, during which, maintains Becker, he discussed with the clubs the space requirements of all York clubs, and informed them that there were from 25 to 30 clubs competing for only 19 rooms.

Raymond Tang, president of the CSA, expressed concern over the small size of the room, and over what he considered the basic incompatibility between the CSA and the SIMS. He felt that there are no similarities between the two clubs, and that they would, in effect, be like "bedmates" as a result of the insufficient space — a situation which would magnify the incompatibility.

Although the CSA considers the Chinese students an integral part of the community, Tang believes that one must distinguish between integration and assimilation, and that a mixture of the CSA and the SIMS would have an assimilating effect.

Becker called such worries about incompatibility "nonsense", stated that the CSA should "watch its p's and q's — otherwise people will get

annoyed with them," and said that the group should avoid treating fellow students as "second-class citizens". He stressed particularly that the CSA had been given ample warning that it might have to share its room.

In response to the CSA's feeling that it has some kind of seniority, Becker stated that having a single room last year, far from giving the group seniority, would make it all the more the CSA's turn to have the less desirable accommodations this year.

"If I were to give them an extra good room again this year," he stated, "Excalibur would accuse me of discrimination."

John DiNovo, acting president of the SIMS, agreed with Becker that there is no compatibility problem. "The whole purpose of our movement is to create harmony in diversity," he stated. "We teach a technique which allows any individual, regardless of race, colour or creed, to experience a level of unbounded awareness."

DiNovo feels ambivalent about moving from 110 Vanier, but says he will do so if a more appropriate room is located. However, he feels that Becker allocated the rooms quite appropriately, and is content to share the room with the CSA. He even feels that the CSA and SIMS may be able to enrich each other.

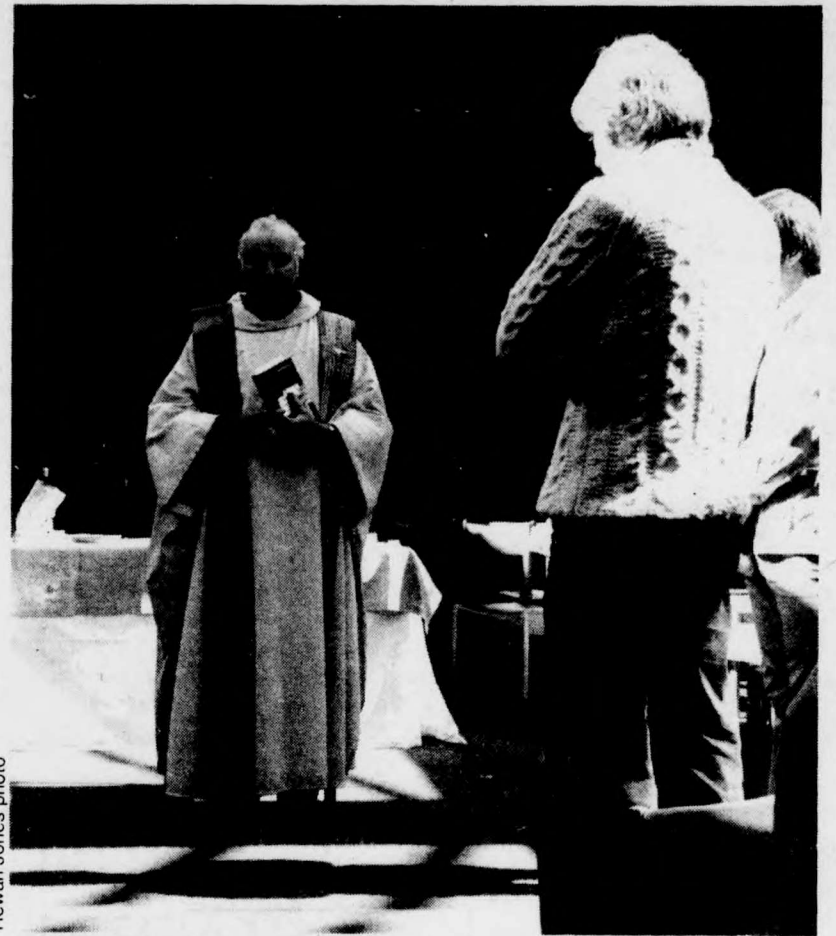
One of Tang's fears is that the SIMS will try to "shove Transcendental Meditation down our throats", although he admits that he does not know much about the club. He agrees that the SIMS has an equal right to the room, but believes that a greater hassle would be involved if the CSA were to move out than if the SIMS were to seek

another room.

Tang commented that the CSA would prefer to have the Chinese Christian Fellowship move in with it. In response to Becker's statement that the group could have expressed this desire three months ago at the meeting and in its application, but did not, Tang contends that the CCF was gambling on getting a solitary room, and therefore, at that time, did not want to move in with the CSA.

The CCF did not get a single room, and is now reconsidering the matter. Tang is unhappy that the decision about who resides in the room now rests with the SIMS rather than being a joint decision for the CSA, SIMS and CCF. Since the SIMS has the option of moving in, it therefore has the decision-making power.

Asked what he would do if the SIMS were to go ahead and move in, he said, "I would personally take their table and move it out into the hall."



Rewan Jones photo

Father Tannam pauses reflectively in the new campus religious centre, as the organist in the background plays "That Old Black Magic".

Doors open at the Counselling Centre

By BONNIE BOWERMAN

Can you really relieve back pain by kicking a pillow resembling your father?

The Counselling and Development Centre, situated in Room 145 of the Behavioural Sciences Building, can help supply the answer. Starting next week, the Centre will offer a wide variety of group programmes, free to any interested member of the York community. And group coordinator Ann Salter is optimistic about this year's enrolment; last year, 255 people took part in the group programmes alone, compared with 147 the year before.

Besides being open to individuals, couples, and families looking for confidential counselling, the Centre offers a different kind of learning experience. If you're interested in Yoga, the Gestalt method, or

Transactional Analysis, the Centre can help. If you want to increase your reading speed and listening comprehension, or overcome bad behavioural habits through a self-change and modification programme, the Centre can help there too.

Groups are held in such areas as weight control, with one section to help those with bad eating habits, and another to deal with the psychological causes of overweight.

The Centre makes a concerted effort to schedule and select programmes to meet changing campus needs. Weekend sessions for those on staff or with a heavy weekly schedule, and careful attention to the individual, are two reasons for its past success.

To enquire about the Centre's programmes, drop by 145 BSB or call Eva Pila at 667-2305.



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