

Lin attacks 'gang of four'

by John D'Orsay

Paul Lin lectured on **New Leadership and Paths of Development in China** last Thursday evening. He attempted to provide his audience with an analytical framework more suitable for interpreting events in China than the moderate radical typology employed by Western news media.

These terms are an attempt to force China to conform to Western standards. He proposes that any analysis of Chinese politics should use terms which reflect the relation of policies to its development strategy as expressed in Mao's slogan, **Grasp revolution, promote production**. Those who exclusively emphasize developing productive forces on the grounds that the revolution has already gone far enough are classed as on the right. The "ultra left" promote revolution while ignoring the development of production. While those on a correct course see that revolutionary changes in the relations of production and forms of property ownership are necessary to achieve advances in production.

From this perspective one can see the lessons of the Great Leap Forward, the Cultural Revolution and the Campaign linking Lin Piao and Confucius as experiments in educating the people of China in identifying errors and misdirections in development policies. Thus the stakes in the struggles which brought Hua Kuo-feng to the

leadership of the Chinese Communist Party and the significance on the campaigns against Chiang Ching's "Gang of Four" to the people of China lies in their effects on the direction of future development.

Lin stressed that the recent turmoil at the top of the party hierarchy can not be dismissed as mere infighting in an isolated clique. He interpreted the actions of Chiang Ching's "Gang of Four" as a conspiracy, in which, through control of the communications media, "ultra left" slogans were employed so that the existing authority would be undermined at key points. The aim was to create a crisis in a coup d'etat.

Lin felt that their use of character assassination tactics to isolate rivals and the emptiness of their "ultra left" rhetoric indicates that Chiang Ching's "Gang of Four" would have instituted a representative totalitarian dictatorship. This again differs from that of our prominent journalists who feel that the People's Republic of China is currently a monolithic totalitarian dictatorship. Lin's understanding is a result of his familiarity with the processes and institutions of government and life in China. This is a product of his being born in British Columbia and being educated in Canada and the United States.

Returning to China with his family after liberation in 1949, he lived, worked, and studied in the



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People's Republic of China. In 1964 he came to direct McGill University's Asian Studies Programme. Several further visits to China have provided him with opportunities to interview people in positions ranging from peasants to party officials. His seven hour interview with Chou En-lai was a landmark that has placed him in the forefront of Canadian China scholars.

Lin returned from his most recent visit to China barely a month ago so his interviews had many fresh impressions of the attitudes of common Chinese. They reported that they were confused and anxious between Chou En Lai's death in January of 1976 and the arrest of Chiang Ching and her co-conspirators in October. Now

they had a basis for trusting Hua Kuo-Teng, and understood Chiang Ching's tactics. This January they freely mourned Chou En Lai on the first anniversary of his death, an

expression of appreciation for his contribution which Chiang Ching prevented at the time of his funeral. Teng Hsiao Ping's ouster as Premier is now being investigated to discover whether he was a victim of

character assassination or had committed the errors Chiang Ching claimed. China's new leaders have many tests ahead of them but to understand events in China it is important that they are evaluated on the basis of their success at keeping China on a socialist path of development.

Mount leads protest

"We have to go out and march and show the public exactly what we think!" said Joann Davis, the new external Vice-President of Mount Saint Vincent University to a crowd of one hundred and fifty students during a meeting at the Mount yesterday.

The meeting was called in reaction to the latest information regarding student tuition hikes. Pamphlets were handed out with information regarding the Maritime

Provinces Higher Education Council's report which asks for more money than the Provincial Government is prepared to give.

It was agreed that an information campaign with letters to local MLAs and parents letters explaining the situation should be carried out. Students also unanimously supported Davis's statement calling for a more forceful display of action.



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