

NEWS

## Psych support group started

by Jennifer Lim

A psychological support group has started at York.

At the beginning of this term, the counselling and developmental centre (CDC) started a Supported Learning Program headed by professor Harold Minden.

"It is an on-going support group for students with psychological disabilities that may have required previous hospitalization," said Enid Weiner, case manager for the program. This includes students with schizophrenia, manic depression and other psychological deficiencies.

According to Weiner, the program enables students, who might have experienced interruptions in their educational career but still wish to complete their university deg-

rees, to attain help and support on campus.

The individual and group programs offered through the CDC reach out to a population of students that have been neglected in the past. The CDC wants to provide the encouragement that these students need to succeed in their university endeavors.

Weiner emphasized that they do not provide therapy, but rather monitor the student's university life. This includes helping with course selections, getting them with campus life in general.

According to Weiner, most students suffering from a psychological disability feels socially isolated. This program acts as a tool and at the same time identify the needs so that proper assistance can be made available to them.

## Peace movement at York

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compliance with U.S. policy. Therefore, Saddam Hussein whom the U.S. supported during his eight-year war with Iran (\$3 billion of aid) and until earlier this year, was labelled an official dictator when he invaded Kuwait.

"The new Hitler [Saddam] was quite welcome as long as he was playing the role the United States wanted," McNally said.

Bashar Abdul Qader, president of YASA (York Arab Students Association) and a native of Saudi Arabia, stated that YASA condemns any form of occupation in the Middle East, whether in Kuwait or Gaza and the West Bank, and also condemns any U.S. intervention in the region.

Qader said that any disagreements that Arabs have between themselves would be quickly refocused against American soldiers in the case of war.

"Arabs will not fight against Arabs on the side of foreigners," Qader said.

Qader, who has been in telephone contact with people living

in Jordan, the West Bank, Egypt and Saudi Arabia, speculated there is a consensus that the Arab world is willing to lose 20-30 million people in a war to ensure that the U.S. does not dominate the region anymore.

"If there is one enemy that we [Arabs] want to denounce and get out of our business, it's the U.S. government," Qader said, "because they have represented imperialism and the divide-and-conquer attitude in the Middle East."

Although the Bush administration has claimed its intervention is in defence of international law, McNally believes the U.S. is being selective because it has repeatedly ignored calls to enforce these same international laws.

The United States has vetoed over 80 resolutions in the United Nations during the 1980s, including resolutions for sanctions against South Africa, the Israeli occupation of Gaza and the West Bank, and the Americans' own invasion of Panama, McNally said.

According to McNally, because the Bush and Mulroney administrations are unpopular, disliked and disbelieved, it will be easier to reach people with anti-war messages and mobilize them against these politicians.

Carolyn Egan, a former activist from the Anti-Vietnam War Movement, maintained that Canada's military ties with the U.S. have changed. Canada is no longer merely an apologist for the United States; it has become a direct participant in the impending conflict.

"Canada has directly lent its support every step of the way, including being prepared to see an offensive launched against the Iraqi forces," McNally added.

According to Egan, politicians will find it more difficult to persuade people of the necessity for war since the anti-communist rhetoric that fueled the Vietnam war in the 1960s is now lacking. She added that keeping companies profitable is not a convincing argument to go into battle.

"Young Canadians are being asked to put their lives on the line to kill for an oil company," Egan said.

York's anti-war coalition has to date received a broad base of support from various university students, staff and faculty, trade unions, women's groups, club associations and diverse politically-affiliated groups.

There will be an anti-war demonstration in full effect at the U.S. Consulate on Saturday, Nov. 24 at 12:00 noon.

## National day of action

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Native studies program," said Centa.

Marina Deluca, a fourth year political science and english student, mentioned that in one of her courses, "the professor stated that Canada didn't really have a culture or playwrights before 1950."

"He was wiping out the culture of the Metis, the French Canadian, the Acadians and the Inuit in just one breath — his definition of culture was very Eurocentric and American," said Deluca.

Officials from the history and english departments were unavailable for comment.

Gershbnain says some of the students on the coalition were concerned that the slogan "fight institutional racism" would be construed as antagonistic by the administration.

According to Gershbnain, "anyone who feels threatened by our concerns clearly does not recognize the immensity of the problem and is therefore, a part of that problem."

In fact, many members of the

faculty and administration do recognize the problem of institutional racism and have been encouraged by the involvement of the students in the issue.

David Trotman, the former co-ordinator for York's centre for Race and Ethnic Relations, said that although York is progressive in terms of moving away from an Eurocentric-based curricula, "there is still a long way to go."

The first step, says Trotman is to "get the issue on the agenda."

Carole Yawney, co-ordinator of the certificate in race relations program at Atkinson, is particularly encouraged by the interest of the students.

"It is a good sign that it is not coming from the top down," said Yawney.

According to Centa, the National Day of Action Against Racism on Campus "has to be only the beginning of a major program to raise awareness of institutional racism at York."

"Hopefully, from this day on, we can begin to take action to eradicate the racism problem," Centa said.



# RACISM

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