

Psych department overruled on marks

By DAVID CHUD

A recommendation by the York psychology department that a particular fourth year student be allowed to take all six of his classes on an ungraded basis has been overruled by the Faculty of Arts Committee on Applications and Memorials.

Howard Halpern, a general honour students in psychology claims:

"On Monday October 26 the Committee on Applications and Memorials of the Faculty of Arts in effect reversed a decision of one psychology student, each of his six professors and the Department of Psychology."

The committee's move has apparently sparked a debate over departmental sovereignty. The department has already sent a letter of protest.

After receiving the support of each of his six professors and the psychology departments (through the undergraduate studies committee) Halpern petitioned the Committee on Applications and Memorials on October 4.

On October 26, Halpern received a letter of refusal from the committee.

Halpern had argued that in two previous ungraded courses his relationship with his professors was extremely good and the environment for learning was better than in graded courses.

The psychology department's undergraduate studies committee dealt with the issue at its meeting Monday night.

A motion by Prof. David Baken to send a letter of protest to the Committee on Applications and Memorials was accepted and will be drafted by Prof. Koenig.

The protest note will ask for written reasons for the refusal of Halpern's petition and recommends that the cast be reconsidered.

So far the only official word which has been received from applications and memorials was

contained in the refusal that Halpern received October 26.

The letter informed Halpern that his petition had been refused and said in part "that it could not make a decision on a petition involving a university-wide issue which is currently under review and discussion in this and other faculties."

The decision of members of the psychology department to protest the decision is seen by some as the beginning of a general push for more autonomy within the departments.

The Council of the York Student Federation has asked student ombudsman Ken Hundert to investigate the situation. Hundert will meet with assistant dean of arts H.C. Sigman of the applications and memorials committee Monday.

Halpern put forward five arguments for ungraded courses in his case.

First, Halpern argued, that except for one class he would be working on his own. The professor in his regularly structured course has agreed to Halpern's proposal.

Halpern feels because he is known personally to most of his

professors and because of his past academic record he can be trusted to do his work.

He argues as well that because a detailed description of ungraded courses work must be submitted he wouldn't be able to get away with duplicating his work in more than one course as is done in many graded courses.

Halpern feels that ungraded courses are more honest in that instead of letter grades which are ambiguous and may be interpreted one way by the professor and entirely differently by the student.

"The ungraded system provides a method whereby sufficient information may be given if I am to be evaluated at all, I want to be evaluated accurately," he said.

He also feels that the kind of respect between teacher and student that makes for real learning must come from an atmosphere with as much freedom as possible.

Halpern has talked to an official at the University of Waterloo where he plans to do graduate work next year. The official approved his proposed method of study at York.



A common sight around the Central Square is people sitting on the floor, eating on the floor, and in this case, sleeping on the floor. Someone must be taking York's planners at their word — that Central Square was for congregating, rapping, being. 'Unfortunately' there are few facilities.

Lewis distrusts Trudeau

Teach-in condemns War Measures

By WENDY DENNIS

About 250 students attended a forum on Quebec and the War Measures Act Monday and clapped enthusiastically for the three speakers who vehemently denounced the government's invocation of the War Measures Act.

David Lewis, Deputy leader of the NDP, condemned the invocation of the War Measures Act as a "deliberate attempt by the Liberal government to frighten the Canadian people."

Condemning the acts of the FLQ as "inhuman and sinister", Lewis pointed out that in history repression always follows in the wake of "that kind of terrorism." Answering those who have condemned his party for "playing politics" by denouncing Trudeau's move to impose the War Measure Act, Lewis replied, "If our purpose was to play politics we'd have done like the Tories and changed our tune."

Lewis pointed out that even with the sweeping powers granted the

government under the War Measures Act, the police dragnet has failed to turn up the kidnapers.

"If I've got to suffer the damn thing, I'd like it to have been successful — but none of this has happened," he said.

Lewis also took a cynical view of Trudeau's promise not to misuse the powers granted his government under the War Measures Act.

"I suppose Mr. Trudeau doesn't intend to do that but, I don't know. He's done so many strange things lately, I can't tell what he intends to do," he said.

"I've watched him discarding the garments of social progress he once wore and I'm not so sure he won't now discard the garments of civil liberties he once wore," he added.

Lewis also pointed out existing sections of the Criminal Code which could easily have been used by the government to deal with the FLQ.

"Trudeau brought the War Measures Act down to protect the political Liberal government of Quebec, the Drapeau government of Montreal and the general conditions Trudeau insisted on having in Quebec," he said.

Lewis also chastised the CBC for failing to air a programme on Lenin last week because they thought it would be too controversial.

"When the police confiscate a book because they see the word Cubism and think it has something to do with Cuba, something is wrong," he added.

Jacques Yvan-Morin, professor of Law at University of Montreal, and spokesman for the Parti Quebecois, called for an end to the strife which has existed between French and English Canada for so long.

"Instead of concentrating both our nationalisms against the true menace — that colossus to the south — we fight each other," he said.

He spoke of Quebec as an "underdeveloped country" whose people have been using their "brute physical force" to develop their land for the "people outside".

"So don't be surprised if they begin to sound dissatisfied," he added.

The situation in Quebec is one, not of "absolute poverty", but "relative poverty which is explosive in the world today," Mr. Morin said.

He called the FLQ manifesto a "social indictment of Quebec society that must be read."

Pointing out that unemployment in Quebec is now at 9% and promises to rise to 15% this winter, he asked the audience accusingly: "How many of you knew that?"

"The invocation of the War Measures Act will create an unending spiral in Canada: more repression, more violence, more dynamite, more law and order," he said.

Jim Laxer, lecturer in history at Queen's University, condemned Trudeau's action as well.

"Prime Minister Trudeau wants to make the people of Canada fit the constitution. I think the constitution should be made to fit the people of Canada," he said.

He called the government's action a move "to create a phony unity which is, in effect, English Canada carrying out the conquest of Quebec once more."

However, he doubted that the people of Canada will accept this "phony unity" much longer.

"People are beginning to catch on to this flag-waving and singing of the national anthem instead of facing real problems," he said.

Day Care rocks for funds

York Day Care Centre is having a fund raising rock festival next Thursday. It will cover McLaughlin common room and dining hall as well as the Winters dining room.

Four groups of various types and three folk-singers will be featured.

The groups will perform in the dining halls, while the common room will host the folk performances. Admission cost is \$1.50.

The festival is being held to generate funds for the centre.

"At present the fees are minimal, in accordance with the philosophy of the centre, with a resultant lack of capital for such things as art and medical supplies, motor development toys and in some cases even basic foodstuffs," explained Stewart Simpson, a day care member.

A secondary objective, Simpson says, is the introduction of four new groups and three folk singers to York.

The performing aspects of the "Thing", as the festival is being dubbed, will be co-ordinated by Peaceful Experiments in Art and Rythmn (PEAR), a new Canadian agency promoting new Canadian groups only.

"The Day Care Centre fills partially an urgent need in the York Community. The accent is on 'partially,'" Simpson said.

"For example, it requires of applicants that they spend a minimum of a half day at the centre caring for their own and other children."

"Obviously the staff (secretaries, etc.) of York are excluded from this co-operative aspect of the centre in that they are required to work a full week.

"Also excluded is the student with an extremely heavy schedule."

Simpson emphasizes the need for increased facilities for the centre and suggests that a subsidized centre with a capital operating budget from the university might be an alternative to a purely co-operative effort.

"In the meantime," Simpson said, "the administration shows no inclination to act to fulfill its community responsibilities. The present York Day Care Centre then, because of this negligence, is left with the responsibility to fill-in as much as possible.

To fulfill this function, he says the centre needs more student volunteers as well as money.

Simpson is urging members of the York community to turn out to the festival.

He feels a poor turnout would be interpreted by university administrators as a sign of lack of community support and hence hurt the centre in its negotiations for increased space for next year.

The money to be derived from the 'Thing' will point to a better future for day care facilities at York. Support for the centre has been slow in developing. Sandy Stewart, Ann Darcy and Joan Roth started the ball rolling. Concerned parents added momentum and helped to knock over the proverbial administrative obstacles.

"It's time the student body, faculty and staff added to that momentum."