

Students debate American content in Sociology 343A

By DAVID CHUD
EXCALIBUR and a former student who quit sociology 343A because it did not relate to Canadian problems were invited Tuesday to take part in a discussion of the course.

The discussion held in regular classroom time was called in response to the letter by Vittoria Metelli and the editorial critique of the course content by Bob Roth, both of which appeared in last week's EXCALIBUR.

The class began when a student in the course distributed a questionnaire asking students to comment on the Canadian content of the course and proceeded when course director Ruth Morris thanked EXCALIBUR and Miss Metelli for coming.

(The questionnaire results later

showed that the majority of the class thought their was too much American content and 76 per cent thought their was not enough Canadian content.)

Morris opened discussion by stating, "The general syllabus and outline for this course was available to students before they signed up for the course. If they wanted to take minority groups and wanted to deal with Canadian problems they could have gone into other courses."

Both EXCALIBUR and Metelli had criticized the course because it concentrated on the black problem in the United States to the detriment of problems which were more immediate to Canadian students.

Roth answered that there isn't any real alternative to the student

who wants to discuss Canadian minority problems.

Sociology 343B which Morris suggested as an alternative has only one Canadian book on its required reading list out of a total of six.

Morris' other suggestion as an alternative was Soc. 364.3 Canadian Institutions which is taught by Jeff Piker an American.

"I don't think Jeff himself is completely happy about the way the course was hurriedly set up — apparently as a reaction to student criticism last year of overemphasis on American content within the department," Roth said afterward.

"I think Jeff would agree that the setting up of half year courses on Canada is not a way of adequately dealing with the problem."

Metelli stressed that her criticism was not personally directed at Morris but she was upset that this was the only one of her courses in which there was not immediate discussion of the events in Quebec after the political kidnappings.

Most of the students in the course were at first hostile to Metelli and Roth and some blame themselves for not consulting the course outline more closely.

One student referring to the events in Quebec stated "I don't think it's the Prof's responsibility to pick up on every news story that comes over the radio." Metelli reminded him that this was not just "another news story".

As the class proceeded more students seemed to be in

agreement with the positions put forward by Roth and Metelli. One student commented, "We've been bombarded with American problems since we got here." Another student asked that in dealing with minorities, "Where's a better place to start than right here?"

Several students put forward the notion that the social sciences should be international in their scope and that problems are not national in their nature.

Roth stressed several times that the problem was one of priorities. He said that American problems were valid and important but the lack in our universities is in critical Canadian content.

"Nobody else is going to solve our problems for us," Roth said.

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May set precedent

Faculty will decide today on ungraded psych course

The Council of the Faculty of Arts meets today to discuss a psychology student's request to take all six of his fourth year courses on a pass/fail basis.

Howard Halpern's petition has been denied by the Committee on Applications and Memorials but he

has received strong support from his department.

Halpern had originally received the support of his six professors and the psychology undergraduate studies committee. On Monday the Executive Committee of the psychology department met and decided to write a letter to Ap-

plications and Memorials asking that the petition be dealt with on its own merits.

Applications and Memorials have contended that a decision by them on the matter would set university wide precedents and therefore they want the matter to be dealt with by the faculty council which represents more of the faculty.

Halpern feels the position of Applications and Memorials is contradictory since it is their function to deal with issues in which individuals petition against university regulations and this is necessarily a function which must set precedents.

Ken Hundert, Ombudsman for the Council of the York Student Federation, had an interview Tuesday with Prof. H.C. Sigman of Applications and Memorials and was told that Sigman is hopeful the arts faculty council will send it back to Applications and Memorials to be reviewed.

According to Hundert, Sigman said that the primary reason for not passing the petition in the first place was because it might have repercussions in other departments even though the petition concerned only psychology.

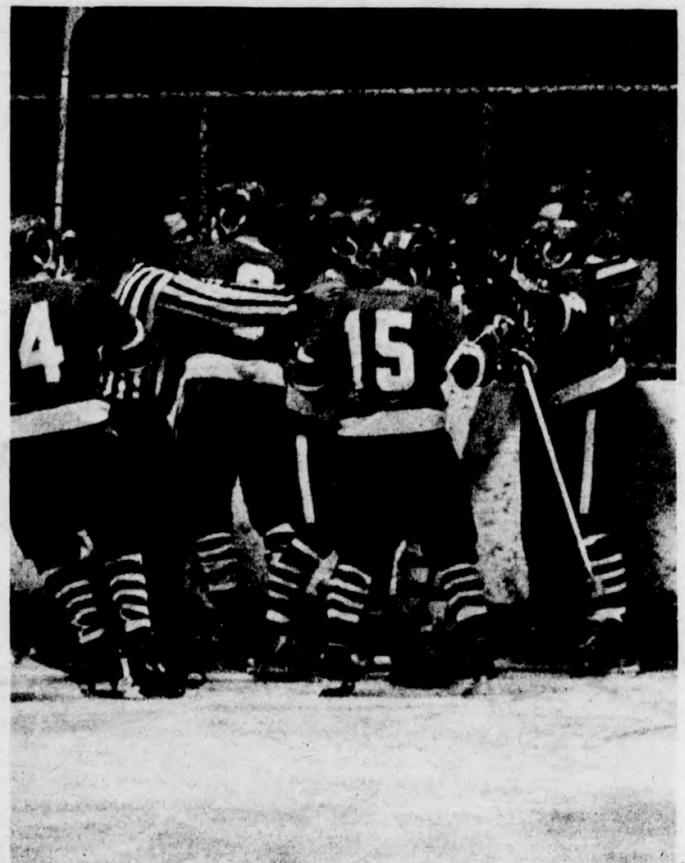
Hundert emphasized that Halpern's was an individual case and should be looked on as such, but Sigman said it unfortunately could not be treated that way because it could become a precedent.

Day care centre festival tickets not selling well

Ticket sales for the York Day Care benefit are lagging severely. Despite the large number of posters, it appears the turnout may be small.

Day Care 'Thing' organizers are counting on a large sale at the door, but are worried that lack of support for the Day Care 'Thing' will put the Day Care Centre into even more shaky financial circumstances.

In this eventuality, the possibility of a larger Day Care Centre for next year is very unlikely. The term of occupancy of the lobby of Grad Residence three is for one year only.



Hockey is back as York lost a heartbreaker to U of T on Tuesday. Story page 13.

War Act replacement

New legislation will hurt Quebec rights

The new act introduced in parliament Nov. 2 by justice minister John Turner to replace the Emergency War Measures Act does little to restore "democracy" in Quebec.

Public Order (Temporary Measures) Act, 1970 is the name of Turner's proposal, which he says will expire April 30, 1971.

The Act outlaws the Front de Liberation du Quebec although the government's terms of membership have changed slightly. Under the WMA, a person was a member of the FLQ if he attended one of their meetings.

Under the new Public Order Act, a member would constitute anyone who had attended "a number" of meetings.

The length of detention has also been slightly altered. Under the War Measures Act, a person could be held for seven days without being charged. Turner's proposal shortens this to three days.

The maximum period a person could be detained would be 7 days instead of the 21 specified in the WMA.

The new act also allows all persons arrested to contact counsel without delay.

It states that the people will retain most of their rights as outlined in the 1960 Bill of Rights,

except that they forgo the right to bail, and they do not have to be charged immediately.

The Public Order Act does not reduce the extraordinary powers the police have in Quebec. The police still have the right to make searches without warrants and confiscate any material they believe might be illegal or questionable.

Student leaders support protest against War Act

WINNIPEG (CUP) — Twenty-eight Canadian university student union presidents voiced their support last weekend for a nationwide day of protest over the implementation of the War Measures Act and subsequent legislation.

In a caucus held in Winnipeg in advance of the annual conference of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC), union presidents tabled a resolution disapproving of the federal government's actions and demanding that recent events in Quebec not be used as an excuse to improve further restrictive legislation. The day of protest is tentatively scheduled for Nov. 13

Excalibur changes operating methods

By BOB ROTH

EXCALIBUR is completely revamping its method of operation — starting this week.

The recent resignation of the full-time managing editor has meant that increased power and responsibility are being distributed among staff members.

With the creation of two full-time editorial positions last year came the distinction between full-time staff and volunteer staff. What developed was a situation where the full-time staff carried most of the responsibility and, consequently, made most of the decisions regarding the nature of the newspaper.

The volunteer staff, naturally, wanted to participate more in the decision-making process and since EXCALIBUR is a student newspaper, it seemed reasonable that the decision-making power should reside in the hands of students.

The staff last week decided that increased decision-making power would mean increased participation on their part and increased responsibility.

Consequently, it was decided that the various jobs that have to be done would be divided up among the staff. This week the newspaper is being put out entirely by the staff with little involvement on the part of the editor. Some staffers took on the responsibility of assigning the news, others coordinated entertainment and others did layout.

The role of editor will consist of co-ordinating the various sections of the newspaper, as well as acting as a general resource person — teaching news editing, reporting techniques, etc.

Important decisions will be made by an editorial board, yet to be formed, whose decisions from week to week can be challenged by other staffers at the weekly meetings.

It is possible that the next few weeks will see a less "professional" looking EXCALIBUR hitting the campus on Thursday.

It will probably take time for the staff to adjust to the increased responsibility they now have. News reporters, for instance, will find themselves thrown into newly created news editors positions.

For the next few weeks, however, participation will be the emphasis. Once people work into their new positions and technical problems are worked out, EXCALIBUR will be operating more smoothly than ever.

We are also making a drive for new staff, especially news reporters to cover more campus events, layout people and feature writers.

Since everyone else is learning new jobs this is the best time for students interested in the paper to get involved. We'll all be learning together.