History union given student seats

Two weeks ago, history department chairman Lewis Hertzman took the executive of the Union of History Students to lunch. They had spaghetti and "it was lousy", commented union chairman Linda Forrest. Hertzman had a sandwich. "I think it was ham," somebody said. Anyway, it must have agreed with him, because the history students now have seats on five departmental committees.

They are:

• Curriculum and Examinations

• History 400 (thesis)

Library

Schools Liaison

Bookstore

Students have been refused seats on the Promotion and Tenure committee. Hertzman explained that only full professors sit on the committee and therefore students could not be expected to have any say even when assistant professors are kept out of proceedings.

Hertzman suggested that the union form a subcommittee to devise course critiques which may or may not be used by the Promotions committee to evaluate teaching ability.

Nor will students be given seats on the four-member senior "cabinet" committee which advises the chairman and has never met formally, only by telephone.

Union chairman Linda Forrest expressed satisfaction with the outcome of the meeting with Hertzman. She said the executive did not plan to hold elections for seats. "We have a list of people who volunteered at the last meeting to sit on committees and we have consulted them about what positions they would like.'

"The year is half-over and there really isn't time for elections" Miss Forrest said. However, she indicated this could change if there were a serious objection at the next general meeting of history students, to be held Thursday Nov. 28.

The executive has been told that students will be allowed to sit on five committees, but have not been told exactly how many seats they have on each one.

They have been given to understand that there is no voting whatsoever in the committees. Discussions continue until some kind of an agreement by concensus is reached.

Miss Forrest said the union plans to seat at least two students on each committee.

Excalibur was unable to obtain a comment from Professor Hertzman who continues to remain aloof from the press. His administrative assistant said "he prefers that you talk to the students.

History lecturer Richard Schneider, who sits on the Curriculum and Examinations committee, said "students have a very valuable contribution to make" to that committee, but refused to play what he termed

'the numbers game''.
When asked about student parity on departmental committees, Schneider felt the question of numbers was irrelevant, saying he refused to think "in such artificial categories as 'student' and 'faculty'.

The union executive, meanwhile, is concerned about the problem of communication and finances. Mailing out 600 letters every time a decision is made or a meeting announced costs

After the last meeting they tried to inform students of the new course union's existence by placing a pile of printed letters in each professor's mailbox for him to hand out to his class.

The faculty for the most part failed to comply. To date, few students have received the letter, and many are entirely unaware of the new course union.

The history union has asked YSC for funds to combat the communications problem. Larry Englander, Academic Affairs Commissioner, told the history executive he was personally in favor of aiding the course union, but would have to consult with the council.

The next history union meeting will be Thursday, Nov. 28, at 4 p.m. in lecture hall C.

ignored

A history professor from the University of Hanoi has been rejected as a guest speaker at York by the chairman of the department of history, Lewis Hertzman.

Linda Forrest, chairman of the Union of History Students said a member of the York sociology department told her he had contacted Hertzman regarding the arrival of the Hanoi professor in Canada next week. He will be attending a conference in Montreal.

Miss Forrest said Hertzman was asked whether the department would be interested in hearing the visiting professor if he could be persuaded to come to Toronto. Hertzman said no.

Miss Forrest is perturbed because Hertzman answered without consulting the students or the executive which represents them.

The rejection of the offer has also deprived at least 30 students in second year Chinese history course of the chance to hear a contemporary Eastern scholar's interpretation of the war in Viet Nam.

Hertzman's action is a slap in the face for the history union which he himself helped create, ostensibly for "better communication"

Linda Forrest is wondering aloud whether the flow of information will continue to be only one way, and whether a real dialogue between the students and the department chairman can ever be achieved.

Hertzman refused to talk to the press. His administrative assistant told Excalibur that "Professor Hertzman feels his comments are not important at this time, and says you should really talk to the students."

Said one history student, "Maybe that's what he should have done."



Crest for intercollegiate teams of York University was submitted by Clay Elliot, first year student in Founders. This symbol will identify all York teams in future events.

York is entering a Queen and a float in the College Bowl Parade this Friday. The College Bowl game is the final Canadian Intercollegiate game of the year, and the winner is the top team in Canada, winner of the Vanier Cup.

Barb Marshall, a Founders History major and a striking female by any standards most attractive, was chosen as our Queen, and is thus eligible to become Queen of the College

She will participate in a ticker-tape parade Thursday, followed by a banquet at City Hall that evening. Then on Friday, she will be guest at a luncheon at the Ports of Call, following which she will take part in the parade.

York's float will be decorated Friday at 2:00 p.m. in front of the Tait McKenzie building. Everybody is needed to help

The parade itself starts later that day at 6:30 and will move from City Hall to Varsity Stadium, where the game starts

Queens will take on Waterloo-Lutheran in the battle of the year, following which there will be a street-dance on Devonshire Place, just outside the Stadium.

Tickets for the game can be got from the Tait Mac office, and cost \$1.50 each. The event is sponsored and organized by York's Men's Athletic Council.

For the sake of learning

lege has submitted a plan to revitalize the controversial Modes 171 course and at the same time give the college system a muchneeded shot in the arm.

Brayton Polka, Vanier senior tutor and an associate professor in the history department, wants Modes to remain as part of the general education program at York, but to be taught within the college by the college fellows, assisted by graduate students.

He feels Modes should be taught not as a logic or philosophy course as it is at present, but as a study in the problem of rationality or even communication.

Each fellow would lead a group of say, 10 students, who would also be his advisers, and they would work out together how they wanted to proceed, Polka suggests.

Polka recommended that essay-writing be a key part of the year's work, and that a pass-fail system should operate, "the assumption being that students have come to university for the sake of learning."

Polka suggests that the university provide about \$40,000 to each college to finance its teaching of

He feels one advantage of his proposal will be a recognition of the central role of the colleges in

The senior tutor of Vanier Col- the undergraduate life of the university by providing them with a specific academic function.

companies

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with their texts. My question is, why aren't more people taking a more active role in finding out why they haven't got their books, or payment for unsold texts? Why hasn't SSU sent out flyers to the students in question who have given their texts, giving them a few legitimate reasons why payment is a month overdue.

If this is the way a YSC-sanctioned establishment is going to operate then I think that all students who have patronized SSU should demand immediate action. If nothing results, then legal action should be called in, and a full-scale investigation made.

Not only this, but responsible students should warn Grade 13 students from their old schools not to deal with SSU next year.

Get off your asses - get the lead out and take action - the time to do it is now! Don't sit back and be taken advantage of!

