

Challenge issued by Hansen

By PATRICK H.F. BAILLIE

Wheelchair marathoner Rick Hansen was honoured at a \$250,000 gala in Toronto Thursday night. The lavish dinner brought together 1,500 guests and a host of politicians, sports celebrities and corporate donors.

Hansen, 29, recently passed the 20,000-mile mark on his 24,901-mile, 33-country marathon. He hopes to raise \$10 million to fund spinal cord research and rehabilitation programs. A large portion of the revenues from the Trust Fund will go towards sports for the disabled.

At the conclusion of the dinner, Hansen presented a challenge to the organizers of Toronto's bid to host the 1996 Summer Olympics.

Citing the disabled athletes in the audience, Hansen said "they deserve to be recognized as athletes. They believe in pursuing excellence, to be the best they can be." He denied their special status claiming "they are athletes, nothing more, nothing less," and suggested to the Olympic Committee, "to say that to the entire world, that they have one disabled event in the 1996 Olympics, to say that these people are athletes."

The British Columbia native has won 19 international wheelchair marathons including the 1983 Boston Marathon and was an all-star in five sports prior to a truck accident which broke his back at age 15.

Demonstration races for the disabled were held at the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles. Hansen competed in the 1500-metre event, but did not win a medal. A demonstration event is required before an event can attain full status in the Olympics.

The dinner guest list included Hon. John Black Aird, former lieutenant-governor of Ontario; Ian Scott, Attorney-General; Dr. Robert Jackson, past president of the international disabled games; entertainer David Foster and sports figures Ernie Whitt of the Blue Jays, Condedge Holloway of the Argos and

former Toronto Maple Leaf Darryl Sittler.

The City of North York and the City of Scarborough presented cheques to the Man In Motion Trust Fund totalling \$3,000, but the big donations were still to come. George Cohon, President of MacDonald's Restaurants offered a cheque in the amount of \$577,316 as part of his company's involvement in the athlete's world tour. The Sheraton Centre, host of the gala gave Hansen and the Fund's patrons a contribution of \$250,000 raised through the sale of \$200 tickets for the black-tie event. Wedgewood of Canada added \$12,500.

Editor's Note: York will be sponsoring a dance-a-thon for the Rick Hansen Trust Fund Friday November 28. See next week's *Excalibur* for more details.

York looks forward to great conference week

Conference on Hungarian revolt

By ARI BERMAN

It's been three decades since the Hungarian Revolution of October 1956. Yet "the mood of the country is (now) more unsettled than at any time since the revolution," wrote York professor Ioan Davies in the *Toronto Star* last month.

Davies is the primary organizer of "The Challenge of Central Europe," a three day conference at York next week. The conference, being sponsored by York and also U of T's Hungarian Research Institute is marking its 30th anniversary of the Hungarian Revolution and the effects it has had on European history, culture, politics, and economics.

Conference organizers Davies and Agnes Kruchio describe the event's rationale as "Canadians do well to study the situation of the people of Eastern Europe in order to learn to recognize patterns that may be less obvious in their own relations with the United States." They expect the conference to be of special interest to social and political science students, historians, environmentalists, and

York nutrition class lobbies staff and students in food drive

By STEVEN ISENBERG and PAULA TORNECK

In an effort to help feed the hungry in North York, a York professor and the students in his nutrition class are co-ordinating a campus-wide food drive on November 20.

Roger Seaman and the students of PHED 4470.06 Nutrition and Health, in conjunction with the Council of the York Student Federation (CYSF) are initiating the drive in an attempt to support the activities of the North York Food Harvest bank, led by York alumnus Loren Freid.

"There is a need (for food)," Seaman said, and "the difficulty we have in the university is that we are isolated from (recognizing) this need." Seaman said that letters were sent to individual departments across the campus to notify faculty and employees of the food drive. "Students, however, are harder to reach," Seaman said, adding that he asked CYSF to help enlist the aid of the student body.

The York drive is asking for non-perishable food items, preferably those that are high in protein.

On the day of the drive, the stu-

dents of Seaman's nutrition class will pick up all donations and deliver them to the North York Food Harvest bank.

Seaman intends to designate the third Thursday of every month as a food collection day. In the future he hopes to see a sort of organized competition between students and faculty. Plans are also in the works to have themed collection days. As an example, Seaman said that "for Christmas we will concentrate on something Christmasy."

Central European ethnic groups in Canada.

Davies, who produced CBC's radio program "The View from Central Europe" (now airing on Tuesday evenings), said "I want to expose people to fields they don't usually get to address." A network of scholars from Ontario and New York will be participating in the conference, Davies said.

As well, speakers will be arriving from England and Hungary. Noted Hungarian guests will include Bela Kiraly, a former army general who now teaches in New York, and world famous poet George Faludy.

The Hungarian revolution began as a peaceful protest by 3,000 university students on October 23, 1956. Yet later that day, 20,000 had gathered to demand political reforms and the return of leader Imre Nagy. Hungarians threatened to withdraw from the Warsaw Pact, and on November 23, "Russian tanks rolled over Hungary," said York professor John McErlean who will speak at the conference.

The three day agenda includes: "Life after Stalin: the post-totalitarian debate"; "Culture of the Possible"; "De-Stalinization in Hungary"; "Militaryization of Central European Society," personal accounts of the revolution years, and a collection of posters, books, art and

artifacts in the Bethune Art Gallery. Davies will offer a formal introduction and welcome to begin the conference.

Eight York members are participating in the conference. On Monday, Andrew Somogyi, Henryk Flakierski, and Leo Panitch will discuss "The Economics of Socialist Societies," and Davies and Kruchio, and Alejandro Rojas will speak on "Chernobyl, the environment, and the emergence of Civil Society." On Tuesday, John McErlean will chair a discussion on "Rewriting History."

The seminar starts this Sunday (November 16) and continues until Tuesday at Norman Bethune College. Admission is free to York and U of T students and staff with I.D., (and is \$5 per day for all others). The conference also offers the opportunity to eat and talk directly with speakers. Cost is \$6 for lunch, and \$18 for dinner.

Calumet's second peace conference

By PAULA TORNECK

Current peace issues will be addressed in the Senate Chamber this Friday and Saturday as part of the Calumet Peace Committee's continuing symposium on peace.

"This conference will take a different approach to peace than the first one we conducted," said Eric Winter, master of Calumet College.

In 1985 the Calumet Peace Committee sponsored their first major symposium, "Nuclear Winter and Strategic Defence." While the aim of that conference was to attain national coverage, Winters said, this year's conference called "Pathways to Peace" hopes to attract more students. The conference was moved from May to November to encourage student participation.

The Calumet Peace Committee, formed in 1982, consists of all members of the Calumet community. Among the participants in the upcoming conference is the former Canadian Ambassador to the United Nations, Dr. George Ignatieff, who will speak both days of the conference.

"We hope that this kind of activity will continue in Calumet College and that these first two conferences will be the beginnings of a persistent effort on our part that ceases only when it is no longer needed," Winter said.

The conference begins at 9:00 a.m. on Friday and concludes at 4:00 p.m. Saturday. Registration costs three dollars for each day or five dollars for both. Information can be obtained from Calumet College.



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