

Asbestos removal begins at Osgoode

By SUSAN SPERLING

Osgoode Hall Law School students have an extra week of vacation this year. The building will be closed down until Monday, January 13 in order to remove asbestos.

In 1982, employees of the Law School discovered the presence of asbestos when workers uncovered it in the air plenum, the ceiling and the actual building structure. Rick Krever, then a student at Osgoode, wrote an article in the *Obiter Dicta* warning about the dangers of asbestos. The mineral is a potent carcinogen and causes a lung disease called asbestosis as well as various forms of cancer.

Shortly after Krever's article was written, the Osgoode Asbestos Committee was formed to lobby for the removal of the asbestos. In 1982, the committee petitioned most of the members of the Osgoode community, including students, staff and faculty, asking the Board of Governors (BOG) to obtain the necessary funding from the Ontario Ministry of Colleges and Universities.

Two years ago, the York Administration conducted a study which revealed various removal options, but the funding was never obtained. "The University always has projects it has to get money for, and it has a 'shopping list' of what to spend on what," Sheila Cann, secretary of the committee told *Excalibur*.

Cann added that the University felt that safety regulations were being met, although these regulations applied to factories, not offices, and the students were not covered in the factory regulations.

Although both Cann and Eric Tucker, chairman of the Osgoode Asbestos Committee, maintain that there was no indication that anyone was breathing the asbestos, there were serious hazards.

Because the asbestos was partially contained in the area above the false ceilings of the building, stringent procedures had to be followed when carrying out maintenance or alteration work. According to Tucker, the building had to be cleared, the air ducts had to be shut off, and the workers had to wear special protective outfits. It was imperative not to disturb the asbestos particles in case fibers released into the air.

Tucker added, "things like water damage would free particles of asbestos," Cann said. Danger also existed in places where the asbestos was crumbling because no one could say how long it would remain.

So far, Osgoode has been fortunate in that none of the fibers have been disturbed, and "at most times, the building is safe," Tucker said.

However, the danger of an elevated incidence of asbestos fibers in the air was too great for the committee to ignore, and they continued lobbying for the removal.

The Ministry of Colleges and Universities approved funding for the first stage of removal in this academic year. The removal must be done in three stages. The first stage is presently underway. It involves the removal of the particles from the mechanical penthouse of Osgoode. The removal will cost \$210,000.00.

The Administration has applied to the provincial government for the funding of the second stage removal, which would cost \$1,500,000.00. Bill Farr, Vice-President of Finance said, "we haven't heard back from the government yet, and that work can't be done until next year at the earliest."

Figures for the third phase of removal are not yet available and Cann predicted that it wouldn't take place until the summer of 1987.

Yeomen place third in Excal v-ball classic

By LORNE MANLY

The Penn State Nittany Lions may not have triumphed in the Orange Bowl this year but they did manage to capture the gold medal at the seventh annual Excalibur Volleyball Classic held this past weekend at York.

The Nittany Lions demolished, in impressive fashion, the Waterloo Warriors in the championship match 15-1, 15-9, 15-3, to win their third Excalibur Classic in four appearances. The York Yeomen finished third in the tournament.

Penn State, who defeated York in the semi-finals, dominated the match, thoroughly outclassing the Warriors in every significant aspect of the game, be it defense at the net, spiking, or passing. Tom Tait, the coach of the Nittany Lions, was very pleased with his team's performance, especially following Waterloo's three games to zero victory over Penn State in the round robin section of the tournament.

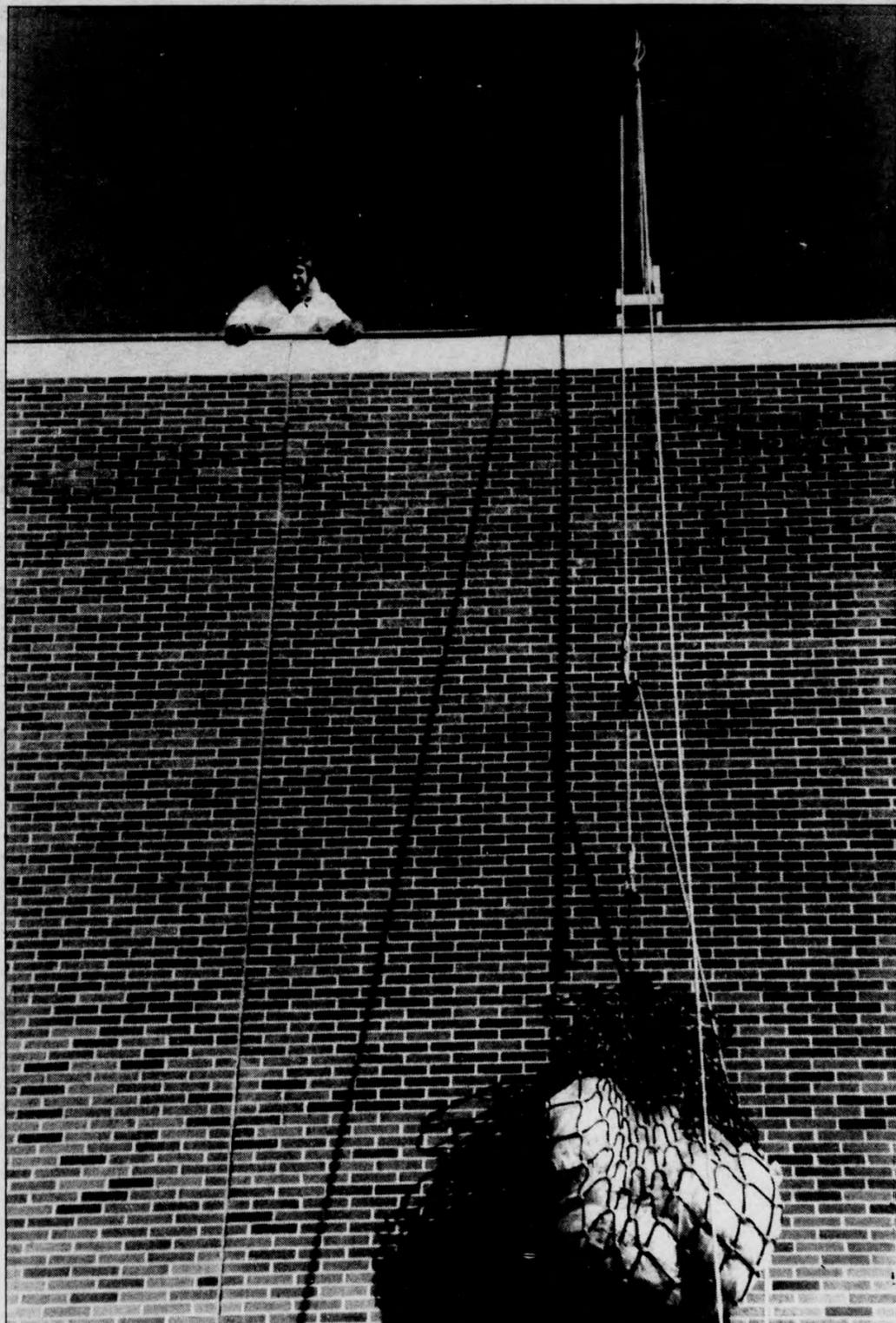
The turning point for the Nittany Lions in the tournament, according to Tait, occurred in the second game of their semi-final match against York. Penn State had won the first game but the Yeomen were beginning to take control, as they concentrated on negating the effectiveness

of 6'10" Chris Chase, the tallest player in the tournament, by keeping the ball away from him. But Keith Yarros, the power side attacker and primary passer for the Nittany Lions, stepped into the breach, blocking shots that chase normally would, and thwarted York's tactics. Penn State did not look back from that moment on and just coasted their way through the rest of the tournament.

The Yeomen, who had the misfortune to face Penn State just as they turned everything around, met the Regina Cougars to decide the bronze medal. York had little trouble in disposing of the Cougars 15-10, 15-10, 15-6.

Yeomen coach Hernan Humana felt his squad "could have done better" in the tournament than it did but that was no cause for concern. "We put more emphasis on the season than on an exhibition tournament like this," Humana said, "but it would have been nice to win especially when we organized it. We played much better in our last game though (against Regina). The last group of six players really worked well and we may go with them

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ANCHORS AWEIGH! Bales of asbestos are lowered from Osgoode during this week's first stage of removal.

York security personnel recover stolen sculpture from parking lot F

By KEVIN O'NEILL

A sculpture stolen from the Ross Building on December 1 or 2 was found in a school parking lot one week later.

William McElcheran's "The Race," purchased by the University in 1968 for \$2,600 and now valued at over \$20,000, was discovered by university security personnel in parking lot F at 9:35 on the morning of December 8.

Art Gallery of York University (AGYU) Curator-Director Elizabeth McLuhan said there was very little damage done to the returned sculpture. "Repairs are needed but it is mainly structural damage," she said, adding that though she is relieved the sculpture has been returned, the theft does not "bode well for the future . . . in terms of attitude and mentality on campus."

McLuhan also said the gallery will be less free with public displays in the future.

Eric Pond, Assistant Director of

Special Services at Security and Safety said "it appeared it (the sculpture) was on campus the whole time." He also thinks the publicity the theft received in *Excalibur* and the *Toronto Star* may have scared the thieves. "People got leery of getting caught with it after it's value became known," he said.

Pond said the Metropolitan Toronto Police were contacted but have closed the book on the case after being satisfied with the return of the sculpture.

McLuhan said there is no assurance it won't happen again. "Art always represents security problems," she said, adding that thefts such as this "affects ongoing programs and displays."

Pond said his department has discussed "the wiseness of putting something like that outside the art gallery" but that no other action has been taken with regards to security on campus.

The theft of the sculpture was the

second major art-related theft on campus since September. On September 8, 32 prints of the French artist Gerrard Sendry were stolen from the Samuel J. Zacks gallery located in Stong College.

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