

## Multicultural Festival full of food and fun

By BONNIE MITTEN and SUJATA BERRY

On Friday night, an enthusiastic crowd, of over 500 waited in eager anticipation for the Third Annual Multicultural Festival to commence in Burton Auditorium. Their patience was not in vain, for even though the event began on rather shaky ground it gained confidence as it progressed. The two-hour show consisted of traditional folk dances, a violin solo, and a rather controversial skit.

An infectious energy permeated the audience throughout the Ukrainian dancer's performance, which in turn generated screaming interjections and finally culminated in a round of genuine applause. The aerobic piece was very polished, a quality that was missing in a lot of the other presentations.

The two Iranian dancers, Vida Parsi and Shahrzad Dadnam expressed more than just their cultural heritage: their dance was a celebration of womanhood. Their movements were flowing, lyrical and energetic, characterized by sensual motions of the hands, feet and hips. Communication between the dancer's movements synchronized the dances which were improvisations of traditional Iranian styles of dancing.

In some cases, interpretations of the dance pieces were unclear. Fortunately the Philipino and Indian

presentations were accompanied by a monologue that explained the dances' symbolism and its significance with respect to the indigenous cultures.

The Philipino dance, titled "Philipine Air", was in effect an expression of the various influences that have shaped the Philipine culture to its present state. The Malayan, Spanish and American influences were represented through the action of planting rice, the use of an umbrella, and the foxtrot respectively. All of this provided a brief history of the Philipine culture.

Similarly, Janet Naipaul performed an Indian dance with an explanation that set the scenario of the dance in the festival of Holi which involves the spraying of coloured water on others. In this particular dance the woman is pleading with her lover not to spray her with the water, reprimanding him till he begins to leave (at which point she beckons him back).

The Malayan and Singaporean group presented a 14th century coronation of a king. This segment was plagued with technical difficulties coupled with the questionable authenticity of the music (James Bond?). While the presentation seemed to be visually pleasing the approach taken was reminiscent of a fashion show. Given that it was an amateur performance, the audience response was understandably forgiv-

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BARAK AMIRFEIZ

**NOBODY'S BABY:** Liberal MP Sheila Copps was at York's bookstore last Friday autographing copies of her memoirs that include the exploits of the infamous Rat Pack.

## CUEW compensated for delayed pay cheques

By STEVE ISENBERG

About 800 members of the Canadian Union of Educational Workers (CUEW) received late pay cheques for September, creating credit problems and aggravation for those affected.

After payments were delayed for up to two weeks, the CUEW circulated posters asking the Administration to compensate employees. The Administration subsequently agreed and will issue a nuisance fee of \$25, repay bank and other charges, and issue a "to whom it may concern" letter to creditors and landlords.

In an attempt to receive their pay, members of the union went directly to payroll with their complaints. According to Pauline Callen, executive officer in the Faculty of Graduate Studies, the problem wasn't with payroll, but rather problems within the new Employee Records Information Centre (ERIC) caused payments to be late.

Larry Lyons, chairman of the CUEW, attributed the tardiness not only to ERIC, but also to the introduction of new employee-information forms. The forms were filled out by the departments and returned to ERIC, but "many people had great difficulties in filling them out," Callen said.

Contributing to the problem was the mass influx of forms from the departments to ERIC, which could not process the information on time. ERIC uses the same computer resources as student registration and September is a busy time.

In a letter addressed to Larry Lyons from Paula O'Reilly, legal and employee relations officer. O'Reilly states that she "shall ensure that the CUEW is consulted when revisions to the ERIC forms are being considered."

"In addition," she continued, "it is my intention to send to the faculties, for distribution to the department/hiring units, a memorandum reminding them of the importance of making appointments and having contracts signed as early as possible."

## Decrease in Chinese Students' Association grant sours relationship with CYSF Council attempts to cut club's funding

By GEORGE MATHEWSON

A motion to suspend half of the Chinese Students Association (CSA) funding grant from the Council of the York Student Federation (CYSF) was narrowly defeated at Tuesday's council meeting.

This motion, moved by CYSF President Gerard Blink, resulted from a dispute between the CSA and CYSF over the group's funding for 1986-87. The CSA requested \$4600 but was granted \$2,000, \$200 less than the grant the year before.

The Executive of the CSA believe they have been treated unfairly. John Tse, the President of the CSA, said the amount of funding should reflect the fact that this club, with 400 paid members, is the largest on campus. He noted that smaller groups receive higher per member grants. "What is the criteria for fund(ing) allocations," he asked. "Their answer is arbitrary."

According to Blink, CSA funding was cut for a number of reasons. "We couldn't afford to raise club funding (due to a 10 percent decrease in CYSF's budget)," Blink said, "and some clubs that just started last year and proved themselves, deserved

more money, so we had to make cuts where needed. For example, "the Federation of Indian Students (were cut) by \$500, the Creative Arts Board—\$1,000 and the Student Peer Support Centre—\$500."

As well as a "failure to interact with the community and involve (the community) in their activities" weighed heavily in CYSF's decision to cut the CSA's grant, Blink said.

Tse, who had earlier warned that any reduction in the club's grant might result in a CSA boycott of CYSF-sponsored events. Last week the CSA circulated posters decrying "these unreasonable cuts in funding" and announced its decision to withdraw from the multicultural festival. According to Blink, the CSA did not fulfill their commitment to set up a display last Thursday for the festival.

"This was the last straw," said Blink. "They are avoiding and ignoring the normal channels to protest this (through the appealing process)."

Worried about the precedent the CSA's actions might set, Blink decided, along with the CYSF executive, to introduce the motion to suspend \$1,000 of CSA's funding at

Tuesday night's meeting. The vote ended in a tie, which according to CYSF rules means that the motion was defeated.

The motion took Tse and the CSA executive by surprise and left them angered. "He (Blink) denied our political right to expression." Tak Chan, the CSA secretary agreed. "It's undemocratic to try and penalize us \$1,000 for protesting."

In a bid to get back on speaking terms, the two sides met yesterday afternoon and agreed to begin negotiations on CSA's funding grant.

In other business:

- The Environmental Studies Students Association (ESSA) has decided to pull out of CYSF. In a referendum held October 28 and 29, 98 percent of those that voted favoured the move. A motion was passed to discuss terms of the separation. Peter Fraser, President of ESSA, told *Excalibur* they will negotiate with the Graduate Student's Association (GSA) for affiliation.

- Blink reported "everything is going smoothly" with the preparatory phase of the proposed Student Centre. Intense negotiations will begin in a few weeks.

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**UP OSGOODE:** Are Club Oz members a part of York? *Perspective* columnist Rob Castle (an Osgoode student) argues why Osgoode owes its development to York's support, and benefits from York's multi-disciplinary programs. . . . . Page 7

### FEATURES

**BLAST OFF:** Travelling amateur astronomer Jim Bernath brings space down to earth in York's bearpits this week. *Excal* reporter Zena McBride probed Bernath about his views on NASA, space tourism, shuttle bugs, and monkeys. . . . . Page 8

### SPORTS

**ARTIFICIAL TURF AT YORK?** *Excalibur* Sports editor James Hoggett offers a lowdown on how Canadian *Omniturf* would help York's athletes escape our country's worst climatic conditions. Yet so far at York, only Marina Van der Merwe, the women's field hockey coach, has supported Hoggett's suggestion. . . . . Page 13