

Central Square jumping with activity

York clubs show themselves to students

York University has always struck the casual visitor as a labyrinth of corridors, leading God knows where and having no particular structural logic.

It may surprise visitors, however, that many of the people who make York their home away from home, feel exactly the same way after one, two, three, even

four years of exposure to the place.

First, there is the Ross building; its size made to intimidate, its complexity to confuse. The very nature and size of the Ross building complex negates the colleges' claim to independence and the open spaces between colleges serve to segment the community.

It's a confused and confusing place all at once. No wonder there persists a rumour that the designs for the campus were somehow fished out of a trash can in a California architectural office; the plans were rejected by an American college.

Students can come to York year after year and never do anything but take classes, occasionally grab a bite to eat, and catch the Red Rocket back home. They have seen nothing to keep them on campus.

THE CLUBS

York Catholic Community, York Yoga Club, York Christian Fellowship, Jews for Jesus, York Biological Society, York International Student Centre, Caral, Ukranian Student Association, Political Science Undergraduate Student Union, Revolutionary Marxists, Young Socialists, Integrity Group, Outdoors Club, Harbinger, Christian Science Organization, United Left Coalition, Young Liberals, Hellenic Students Association, Media Collective, Alliance of Non-Zionist Jews, Socialist League, Chinese Christian Fellowship, Jewish Student Federation, York Homophile Association, New Democratic Party, Italian Canadians Club, Council for Exceptional Children, York Chorus, Squash Club, Women's Newsletter, Progressive Conservatives.

GET INVOLVED

The first annual clubs days event, which got under way Tuesday, was aimed towards changing all that — its objective was to get the students involved in the university.

Put together from the offices of CYSF, the Clubs Days gave York's over thirty officially recognized clubs a glorious opportunity to display their wares, and recruit new members, but most of all, give the students of York a chance to find out what they could do in the long, dull, tedious days of winter.

It was a York happening.

Instead of walking through Central Square as if the seat of their pants were on fire, hundreds stayed to browse at literature and



Clubs Days made hundreds of students stop, listen, and take a look at what other York students were up to in their spare time. The two-day event, sponsored by CYSF, may turn out to be a yearly happening, if its originators have any say in the matter.

sometimes to even converse with the strange people behind the desks and find out what belonging to a York club was all about.

The bearpit area was filled with light and sometimes delightful attractions, including a professional mime artist who had been contracted by the student council to perform his specialty.

A girl from the Integrity group sang "Can you see yourself reflected in the seasons? Do you understand the need to carry on?" as the images coming from a slide projector changed behind her.

PERFORMERS

The newly formed York chorus showed everyone that one needn't be able to sing to join a chorus and perform in front of people, and Alex Molema of the Yoga club proved to everyone with eyes that indeed there are no bones in the human body. At least when it is in the relaxed state.

Also putting in an appearance was folk guitarist Mark Stone and Excalibur's very own columnist, Dr. Nabil Labib, with a few squash tips for the jocks in the crowd unable to read his column.

TABLES

The clubs arranged themselves around the L-shaped window bordering the outdoor courtyard in prominent view of anyone strolling through Central Square. Every type of club imaginable was represented.

Only in the United Nations is such a divergency of opinion and approaches ever participated in the same forum, harbouring the same hopes, and achieving similar successes.

Even Bill Davis conservatives, who had last month circulated a leaflet saying "The ULS supports the NDP and here are a few more reasons to vote Conservative" seemed to not mind the presence of the ULS, now ULC. When asked for their views on education, one party member said that students should pay more for their education.

"Students should get out there in the summer and get a job and work, and use their hands," she said. That's one reason Bill Davis wasn't too popular in the last election.

She also mentioned that the party had enlisted 12 new members in the first day.

CATHOLIC PRIEST

One of the least expected appearances at the club tables was put in by Father Gerard Tannam, who has the distinction of being York's first full-time Roman Catholic priest.

"There are people who can go to this university for years without knowing there's a Catholic com-

munity on campus," said Father Tannam, explaining his participation in the clubs day. He talked at length about the difficulties of attracting a commuter population to Sunday-evening services at a university stuck somewhere between Lake Ontario and Barrie.

But possibly the bravest and most receptive of the clubs' representatives were two students sitting behind a book-filled table under a sign which read "York Homophile Association" (recently re-named the Gay Alliance at York, or GAY for short).

although the club is open to female homosexuals as well.

Lou Garber of the Jewish Student Federation, one of York's oldest and largest clubs, said he found the overall club day event to be a great success.

"I'm amazed and impressed at the number of people who came to our table and were interested in our club."

Garber estimated that as many as 70 students stopped by in the first three hours, out of which, he signed up 30 for membership in the JSF.

CYSF SPONSORED

Clubs days is one of the few feature events sponsored by the CYSF which has lived up to the advance billing.

Recent attempts by the Council to organise forums on Minamata mercury poisoning and Portugal, met with failure when the scheduled speakers failed to show.

But possibly Clubs Days will begin a new and successful trend which will see the CYSF through their upcoming events.

CYSF members Jack Newton and Greg Martin, who played a large part in seeing that the show moved along smoothly, said they hoped this will become a yearly event.

Certainly the many York clubs on this campus could do with the exposure, and just as certainly, many new and some uninformed old students will appreciate the opportunity to discover just what is happening in the far-north campus.

Photos by
Gary Cook and
C.T. Squassero

Explaining that they had not freed themselves of all the anxieties related to publicly declaring their homosexuality as they were doing then they said fear, in large part, prevented many homosexuals at York and in society in general from declaring their sex preference.

They also said that many homosexuals are driven to suicide because they cannot come to grips with their situation.

Referring to a Kinsey study on homosexuality which revealed that approximately 10 per cent of the people in society were homosexual, they estimated that there were probably upwards of 2,000 homosexuals at York.

Their club has 30 members, almost all of which are males,



Mime artist Tim Settimi performed in front a large crowd as part of the Clubs Days happening.



A member of the Hellenic Student Association shows an interested passer-by some of the artifacts of ancient Greece.