

Nader attacks Osgoode

Cites failure to develop public interest in law



Ralph Nader

By ROB ROWLAND

Consumer advocate Ralph Nader attacked York's Osgoode Hall law school Sunday night for failing to lead in developing public interest in law as has its U.S. counterpart, Harvard law school.

"There is an enormous interest in new themes, especially full-time public interest law among the students and professors at Harvard little of which is visible at Osgoode," Nader said.

In an exclusive interview, Nader outlined a program for modernizing and increasing the relevance of Osgoode's position in Canada.

"Osgoode certainly has changed a lot," Nader said. "It's not as bad as it was — but it hasn't changed all that much. It was once legendary throughout North America for its stodginess."

"Some of the younger professors

learn how the law really operates. Second, have the students teach the teachers to keep them up to date on changes and third, all Osgoode students should work on summer projects similar to Nader's Raiders, programs of investigation, public interest advocacy and working with people.

He outlined changes needed immediately. As Canadian laws at present do not permit individuals to sue a corporation, he felt that Osgoode could lend its expertise in pressuring for legislation to change that situation. Nader said in his address that Canadians must change the situation where lawyers look down on contingency cases where the fee depends on the outcome of the case.

"In the Canadian situation," Nader said, "few lawyers can take on the pioneering cases." He concluded his address on Osgoode by calling for more involvement at Osgoode by restructuring to include citizens.

Nader kicked off what he hoped would be York's student campaign by donating copies of his manual on organization to the York library.

Just \$4 from each York student could finance citizen action groups, where students hire their own lawyers, scientists and engineers to do investigations. Seventeen states have already begun such programs at various universities, Nader said.

The science labs at York are well equipped for testing, Nader said, and the social science and sociology courses would be better if people worked in the streets instead of the classroom.

Nader repeated several times his disappointment that Canadian students have failed to equal their American counterparts in effective action to change society although faculty haven't helped either.

Nader said 50 of his Raiders had done more to upset Washington in the last summers since the time the British burned the city in 1812 and

asked "why can't that happen here?" Students should get credit for work they do in citizen advocacy in consumer and environmental issues. "The best way for law students to learn the law is to sue someone."

He also proposed a unique solution to the problem of graduate unemployment. He proposed that the U.S. and Canada follow the example of ancient Athens and use the skills of 10 percent of the graduates as full-time citizens in their occupations of lawyer, scientist, doctor or social scientist.

Nader, who now aims to change U.S. corporate chartering laws said similar action in Canada along with specific provisions for foreign-based companies and a new Combines law would go a long way toward regaining control of the Canadian economy.

At present U.S. corporations have even more control on the Canadian way of life than they do in the U.S. Pollution, corporate control and

safety standards. Auto standards in Canada are two years behind those in the United States.

North America is becoming a corporate-controlled state Nader said. One is Gary, Indiana, ruled by U.S. Steel, and Seattle which is ruled by Boeing. The worst examples are the company towns in the Yukon and North West Territories which a corporate city states controlled entirely by the company.

The corporate state has led to the abuses of the automobile industry which cares little about safety or pollution, the food companies which adulterate their products and may poison their customers, government corruption and the collapse of American society, he said. "Crime in the suites has become worse than crime in the streets," Nader said.

The government is fooling the public on the issues. "Spiro Agnew and Ronald Reagan were the first people in history who successfully turned the downtrodden against the masses," Nader remarked.



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