

## Films receive critical acclaim, but little attention from York audiences

By Andrew C. Rowsome

Romanian films are for the most part totally unknown to Canadian audiences. On Tuesday night York students had the rare Canadian audiences. On Tuesday night York students had the rare chance to see why these films have received such enthusiastic critical acclaim. So why was the attendance so small?

These special screenings have been arranged by Eugene Buia and James Beveridge who were also responsible for the highly successful Romanian Film Festival at the Ontario Science Centre. The story of the final arrangements for the screenings would make a film in itself.

Eugene Buia is a cheerful man who, while modest, is obviously proud of his country's filmic achievements. While working in Montreal after emigrating from Romania he received an invitation from the York Film Department to give a special lecture on East European films. He tells with great relish of journeying by train to Toronto, and of shaving and changing in a washroom much to the astonishment of early morning Yorkites.

James Beveridge was so impressed that he invited Buia to stay on as a lecturer; Buia was so impressed with York that he decided to stay on a 'special student'. As he explains it: "What better way could there be to learn about Canada than to become a student? It was a change in life,

from a French to an English milieu. It was very exciting."

It was also very exciting to be working with idols such as James Beveridge and Jay Leyda. He cites a meeting between Beveridge and a visiting Frank Capra as an inspiring moment. "There were incredible vibes between the two. You can tell when two professional people get together."

Beveridge and Buia recognized a Canadian curiosity about the films of Romania and Buia returned to his homeland to make arrangements to bring several films back. He was amazed at what he found: "After 10 years the very young friends I went to school with, with, who had been the assistants carting coffee and doing the dirty jobs, had become big directors and executive producers."

Buia arrived back in Canada bearing the films his friends had made. He would like people to judge the films on their own merits and he refused to build them up; he claims: "I am not being nationalistic but under the political pressure many films became incredible."

If *Through The Ashes Of The Empire*, screened Tuesday, is any indication Romanian films will soon carve a respectable niche in the world film market. A precise description is difficult as the film combines elements of epic odyssey action, deft humour and a truly touching sense of innocence

and wonder.

Although comparisons are, for the most part, futile, it could perhaps be described as Wertmuller's *Seven Beauties* without the cynicism and degradation or a Fassbinder film without the fridity. A sense of hope is what makes the film unusually inspiring.

The next Romanian film screening is of *The Stone Wedding* and takes place in Curtis Lecture Hall "L" at 7 p.m. next Tuesday. Admission is free.

## Council votes down referendum proposal

By BJR Silberman

CYSF voted down a proposal to hold a referendum on whether York should pull out of the National Union of Students (NUS) last Tuesday.

The council felt that the referendum would be transpiring at too short notice if it were held within the next month.

Newly acclaimed CYSF President Keith Smockum stated "I think we can't rush it through. We have to have a large percentage of student body turnout to make an intelligent decision."

Smockum along with several other council members felt that the referendum could be handled better if it were conducted in October.

"Our position on NUS will be reconsidered during the summer months and a decision on our continued membership will be made before the fall," Smockum said.

Vice President of Social Affairs George Karayannides and felt that the referendum should be conducted in March because NUS would have "their hands full" in organizing their May conference and wouldn't be able to organize an effective campaign.

Said Karayannides; "By doing it now...they won't be able to brainwash the student population."

Current CYSF President, David W. Chodikoff said "NUS does a dirty campaign and tries to smudge the reputation of the student council."

Chodikoff felt that CYSF's "membership in NUS isn't justified any longer." He cited NUS membership fees and conference costs indicating that they comprise twenty percent of the CYSF budget.

Chodikoff recommended a turn to the Worldwide University Students of Canada (WUSC) association stating that it deals with important elements such as international affairs and "NUS doesn't accomplish a great deal."

He said he would like to hold the referendum in the next month because "with only thirty days they (NUS) won't have much time to prepare."

"They'll have as much time as we do," he added.

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