

Polish refugees receive aid from York Ukrainians

Michael Monastyrskyj

As Polish refugees continue to flood into Austria, the York Ukrainian Students' Association has joined a national fund raising drive to help an estimated three hundred Ukrainians that have fled Poland.

Operating through Susk, an umbrella organization for

Ukrainian student clubs throughout Canada, the York club will be providing the October campaign with needed volunteers. The highlight of the drive, whose proceeds are going to the Canadian Ukrainian Immigrant Aid Society, is a nation-wide canvassing of Ukrainian churchgoers.

Nestor Mykytyn is a member of

the York Ukrainian students' Association and Susk's vice-president in charge of human rights. He says, "Ukrainian student clubs are raising funds for CUIAS and we're doing it because we have the manpower they lack."

"The problems we are encountering are the result of being a minority. Ukrainians in

Poland are a minority that is active in the political sphere, but we have special needs," he states. "Our language is different and so is our religion." For this reason Mykytyn believes a special agency such as CUIAS, is required to help Polish Ukrainians.

Although the media has not reported much on the existence of a Ukrainian minority in the refugee camps, the defection of forty students this summer received some attention. In mid-August the students, who were returning from a pilgrimage to Rome, stepped off their bus, sang the Ukrainian national anthem and requested political asylum. Danka Kostjuk of CUIAS says, "We're expecting a second bus load."

At this moment eighty people, including Andrzej Dudycz, a member of the Polish state opera, have identified themselves as Ukrainians, but Kostjuk feels, "Many of the Polish refugees are Ukrainians who won't call themselves Ukrainians. It's hard to say how many there are, because we have a trickle of people showing up



Ukrainian club president Tamara Ivanochko.

daily." The immigrant aid society must also help the refugees' families and thus estimates that three hundred people will require support. CUIAS is expecting the first group to arrive in Canada in mid-November.

The majority of Polish Ukrainians come from the northern part of Poland. Their number is disputed, with estimations ranging from 180,000 to 300,000.

Soyinka confused but stimulating

Marcia Johnson

Nigerian writer Wole Soyinka needs a quick geography lesson (or at least one in political science) to find out that Canada is definitely not an American state. Unlike his knowledge of the North American continent, his beliefs are much more concrete. In fact, he has spent time in a Nigerian prison for having expressed them.

On Monday afternoon, Soyinka, whose works include *A Dance of the Forests*, *The Interpreters*, *Kongi's Harvest*, *The Lion and the Jewel* and *Madmen and Spectralists*, spoke in the gallery at Bethune College to an audience of approximately

seventy-five people. Fortunately, the session wasn't restricted to Nigerian poetry enthusiasts. Soyinka is a learned and outspoken man in various areas ranging from African politics to the function of writers in society. After his twenty minute talk and the reading of one of his poems, there was a question period where it was quite easy to feel inadequate if not ignorant. Soyinka's answers were elaborate and informative. Although his theories were very philosophical, after a while his logic became clear.

When asked what he felt was the function of writers in society,

he said that authors in general have to reach a certain level; speak a different language. The function of a writer is no more than that of a good citizen. He added (and emphatically), "We must find other means beyond the printed text to reach society." It seems that until then, it's left to concerned citizens and writers.

Even though his speech was entangled in intellectual and Nigerian phraseology, and even though he continually referred to the audience as American, Soyinka was quite stimulating and his works should be worth reading.

Pre-School for the Hearing Impaired: Does a future exist?

Gary Cohen

"Language is the main thing," says Terry-Lynn Melnyk, a teacher at York's Pre-School for the Hearing Impaired. "It's really vital to get children started as young as possible."

Melnyk is a person who believes in the importance of her work. Whether others feel the same way about her job may become a serious question by the end of this year. According to Gary Bunch of York's Faculty of Education, a program consultant and the man who conceived the pre-school, the future of his brain-child is in jeopardy.

Working with a three-year, \$100,000 Bell Telephone grant, Bunch devoted part of the money to founding the pre-school. (The more substantial balance went towards the starting of a graduate program in Education.) But now the grant is coming to term and Bunch feels that "the future of the program is in doubt."

Dean Andrew Effrat can see no way of providing funding for the school and Bunch can see no indication that the Metro Toronto Separate School Board, which is presently an active partner in the venture, will be willing to pick up the slack. The MTSSB now gives the school \$2,000 in funding a year. They

also supply a second teacher, Gayle Haley, to work with Melnyk, who is a York employee.

Meanwhile, Melnyk goes about her work with a faithful optimism that is bolstered by her positive occupational experiences. She has taught pre-school for two years, after acquiring special education degrees from the University of Saskatoon and UBC, and has come to realize the importance of programs like the one she is involved with at York.

"the future of the program is in doubt"

Although Bunch and Director Marsha Forrest oversee the program's operation, Melnyk feels she has personal input into the dual home visiting/group pre-school concept. "We go to the child's home and try to meet that child's personal needs. The parents make the decision concerning what type of technique we will use, be it aural-oral or total communication. The teacher tries to make it a decision based on knowledge," Melnyk explains.

The school favours the aural-oral approach which is "based

on the philosophy that almost all children with hearing impairments possess residual hearing. Children are trained to use the hearing they have." Whereas, Melnyk elucidates, total communication is just that; you use signing in conjunction with mouthing or oral communication.

Whatever the methodology, the approach is the same; provide a non-clinical setting in methodology

which children meet in groups as well as being observed and worked with in their own homes on a weekly basis.

"You can see a lot in the home,"

Melnyk confides. "Children behave differently in natural surroundings and language comes easier to them at home." Besides overcoming the despondent effects of strange surroundings, home visits provide a chance to deal directly with the family, an opportunity to teach them how they can further help their child.

Although referrals have been hard to come by the pre-school is presently working with nine children. Reflecting Melnyk's assertion that "the early years are the prime time for language learning" the youngest of the school's pupils is only four months old. But she of course is

too young to attend the group sessions. To participate in the one afternoon and four morning classes provided weekly by the tuition free school the child must be at least two years old.

Classes began this week at the school and future plans include having hearing children come in to learn along with the hearing impaired children. Melnyk feels it is important that this type of mainstreaming take place.

mainstreaming

Of course, if funding doesn't come charging over the horizon shortly, York's pre-school may not have much of a future to plan for.

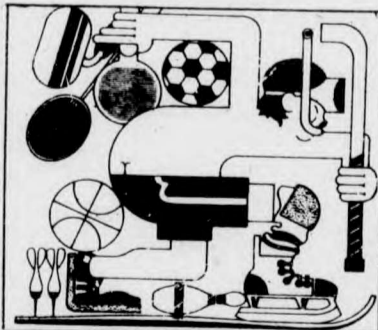
Four wheel cheerleader

Fan Van generates spirit

Mike Guy

The CYSF, the Men's Inter-University Athletic Council and the Women's Inter-University Council have acquired a van for publicity purposes.

"The Fan Van will be used to promote on-campus events," says Greg Gaudet, CYSF President. "It is equipped with loud speakers so that we can make announcements of hockey games, football games or any important happenings.



"Of course, other on-campus organizations may rent the Fan Van for their activities, but mainly it's for CYSF, MIAC, WIAC use."

"These three groups are financing the van. The CYSF paid \$2,000 to furnish the van, while MIAC and WIAC are taking care of the maintenance and gas.

Thirty per cent of the revenue will go to the CYSF; twenty per cent the MIAC; and twenty per cent to the WIAC. The last thirty per cent of the revenue will be left up to the WIAC and the MIAC for

administrative goals.

"Our major objective is to generate school spirit and the Fan Van can do this by attracting media attention," says Greg Gaudet.

Tom Thomas resigns as CYSF business manager

Elliott Lefko

York's Student Council lost more than a business manager when Tom Thomas was forced by a family illness to resign his post last week.

Thomas began work last summer and has since proven to be a very capable manager of CYSF's funds. CYSF President Greg Gaudet says he'll miss the affable and cheerful Thomas.

"I was really sad and disappointed to hear that Tom had to quit," says Gaudet. "It takes a little while to get a full grip on things, and he really was doing a super job."

At the time of his appointment Thomas was quoted as saying, "I want to handle the job with precision and good humour." Thomas made good with his promise, displaying a warm

personality that made him very easy to get along with.

CYSF is at present looking for a replacement. A number of student candidates are being considered before CYSF goes off campus.

Excalibur regrets

The October 2nd issue of Excalibur included a photograph of Joseph Skvorecky, Honorary Chairman of the Writer and Human Rights conference. Excalibur failed to mention that Thomas Victor was the photographer. Excalibur regrets the omission.

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Terry-Lynn Melnyk and Gayle Haley, teachers at York's pre-school.