

# Osgoode says no to OFS

By BJR Silberman

In a referendum held last week, Osgoode students voted against applying for trial membership in the Ontario Federation of Students. Almost 45 per cent of Osgoode students voted in the referendum which resulted in 240 against the motion and 162 for it.

Murray Miskin, president of the Legal and Literary Society at Osgoode, stated the reason why the trial membership in OFS was voted down was because, "there was a strong feeling from many students in Osgoode that membership in OFS would reduce Osgoode's independent status and ability to speak for itself." He added, "Some students questioned the policies and tactics of OFS."

He also stated, "most students didn't seem very interested in the whole subject and I think the main reason that it didn't carry was because students didn't bother to fully consider the issues involved."

Miskin cited that a majority of the students who voted in the referendum were in their first year at Osgoode. He said they voted because, "the election of the first year representative was taking place at the same time." OFS Information Officer, Allan Golombek, said that many of the first year students who voted knew very little about OFS' activities and that may have been one of the major reasons why the referendum was voted down.

Throughout the campaign period a great deal of canvassing took

place in favour of Osgoode applying to OFS for trial membership. In one piece of literature that was distributed, 14 benefits of being a member of OFS were listed. They included everything from the "eligibility to participate in a low cost Health Insurance Plan providing free prescription drugs and other benefits," to "regular input to the Ontario Cabinet, Cabinet ministers, opposition caucuses and individual MPP's through OFS' well established working relationship." Very little campaigning against the motion occurred.

Miskin stated, "I was disappointed by the result of the referendum but I will continue to work in support of the student concerns which OFS deals with because I think they are of great importance to Osgoode students and all other Ontario students."

Most of the Legal and Literary Society executive members were disappointed by the referendum results. Last spring they voted six to one in favour of trial membership. The application to join OFS was never filled out though. Before this occurred, a petition was circulated against it and 10 per cent of the students in Osgoode signed it. The executive was forced to reverse its decision to join OFS and to hold a referendum on the subject in the fall. They agreed "to be bound by the wishes of the majority of students voting" on the matter.

Had Osgoode students voted to join OFS, the trial membership would have begun almost immediately and would have expired at the OFS general meeting held next June. Membership fees would have been 20 cents per student, a special introductory rate offered by OFS to new members who have never belonged before. The regular membership fee is \$1.50 per student per year.

Golombek stated that even though Osgoode students had decided not to apply for trial membership in OFS, he was glad that the Legal and Literary Society had put the vote to the students. He added, "We would be very glad to welcome any Osgoode participation during campaigns or conferences."

## York Faculty of Fine Arts opens its door for festival

By Laura Brown

Monday November 13 marks the first day of the week long Fine Arts Fall Festival. This student organized festival will give students from the various departments of the Fine Arts Faculty a chance to display their talents to the rest of the university community.

The idea for a festival was initiated by Council of York Student Federation's president, David Chodikoff, and the organization then fell into the hands of the festival 'executive'-Vanier representative, Tim Dayfoot, Undergraduate Visual Arts student council president, Mike Smith, and Jim Belyea and Dale Rechner.

Since last May the executive has been planning to bring the relatively isolated Fine Arts Department right into the halls of Central Square. A centralized display of the wares of the dance, music, film, theatre and visual arts departments could prove to be an enlightening experience for those students who have never ventured into the Fine Arts Building.

The summer holidays and the three week strike in September delayed many organization plans. As Excalibur goes to press, all the events have not been finalized. However, some dedicated groups have come forward with promises of special exhibitions and productions. Some highlights of the festival include the student film presentations which can be viewed every day from 2-3 pm in Curtis Lecture Hall 'C', and the Visual Arts displays in the Scott Library foyer.

A special feature of the festival is the dance workshop on Friday November 17 in the Dance Studios in the Fine Arts Building. All works presented will be choreographed and performed by students of the dance department.

And each day in the bearpit there will be various theatre and music productions.

The finale of the celebration is a special disco on Friday night. The dance will be held in the Vanier Junior Common Room, and it's open to everyone.

This Fall Festival is not as elaborate as the numerous exhibitions and productions which were scheduled for last year's Arts of March. "This festival is a trial," Smith said, "and if all the participants feel it's a valuable and worthwhile experience, then perhaps there'll be another one in the spring."

Apart from sharing the talents of the gifted students in the Fine Arts Faculty, this festival will also make students aware of the cutbacks problems in the university.

"A cutbacks week is tentatively scheduled for next week," Dayfoot

pointed out, "but rather than seeing it as a conflict, we hope that the people who come out to the festival will realize the effects the cutbacks will have on the Fine Arts Faculty."



Although the festival is just a few days away there is still much work to be done. There is a general meeting today at 1 pm in the Fine Arts Faculty Lounge for all people who are interested in getting involved with the last minute organization of the festival.

Tomorrow, a selection committee will choose which visual arts works will go on display. Submissions will be accepted from 9 am - 4 pm in the Faculty Lounge. For further information on the exhibit regulations, contact Mike Smith at the CYSF office.

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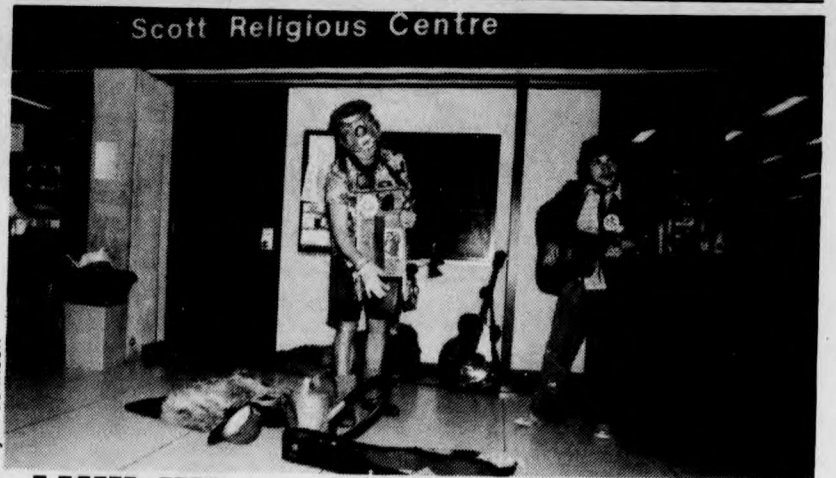
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## Hillbillies preach salvation

By Hugh Westrup

Passers-by in front of the Scott Religious Centre were delivered a tub-thumping performance of gospel music and inspirational messages of sure-fire salvation by Reverend Ken and Washboard Hank late Tuesday afternoon.

The impromptu sermon attracted a large congregation of listeners whose spirits soared skyward to the accompaniment of old favourites like "Who spit tobacco on Tessie's wedding gown" and "I can't tame wild women but I'll make tame women wild."

Between numbers, Reverend Ken exhorted the audience to "drop me a donation and your ticket to heaven will be stamped and you'll soar through the pearly gates for a date with Marilyn Monroe."

The reverend, Washboard Hank and their dog, Doctor Wheatstraw, whose roots are in bible belt country around Peterborough, have been travelling the streets of North America for the past two years. They describe their music as "hillbilly-clown-gospel gumbo."

Formerly known as the Elmer Gantry choir, the duo has made several visits to Canadian universities. They were pleased with their reception at York but not so with the University of British Columbia which they called a "rotting monument to educational imperialism."

An invitation to a UBC frat house revealed "a collection of nerds like you've never seen."

Other misadventures on the road include being picketed by "religious militants" during the Calgary Stampede and the threat of arrest by London police.

The reverend, a "religious anarchist" and unreformed tippler ("How can we lead a spiritual life if we don't let the spirits enter our bodies?"), exited the building as quickly as he appeared and was rumoured to be on the way to a spaghetti eating contest in Hamilton.

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