

INTERNATIONAL

Caribbean students see success

Mike Guy

The York Caribbean Student Association has encountered multitudinous alterations from its inception, but these deviations have all seemingly been for the best.

Tony Soltau, an executive member of YCSA, explained that what is presently known as the York Caribbean Students Association began as the Black Peoples' Movement in 1972, then progressed to the Third World Student Union in 1975. From the Union, they changed into the Afro-Caribbean Student Association.

The perplexity of whether to be a politically centred group or one which is culturally centred has divided the association. Thus from 1972 to 1979 the club was not as productive as it could have been or wanted to be. After a summer of "rebuilding", the YCSA was ready to weave the 1981/1982 semester into a mold which would best fit its objectives.

The major objective, as described by Soltau, is to work in unison with other York organizations to raise the political consciousness of the Caribbean student and the whole of the York community. Internal political strife prevented the YCSA from fulfilling its goals. To add to its misfortunes, the Association



Tony Soltau, executive member of YCSA, aims to reconstruct the club.

acquired a debt which Assistant Vice-President John Becker said, "They would need 8 to 9 months to repay." Soltau proudly stated that the YCSA is well on its way to completely repaying the debt, and no longer will they be looked upon as "a bunch of students out to rip people off."

The last year was one of credibility building. This newly-found self-confidence manifested itself in the cultural show — which was the biggest and the best — three weeks ago; it has also been expressed in their

increased membership. Because of their growing role at York, the YCSA opened an office in Room 215 Bethune College in which they plan to store periodicals and magazines for everyone's reading pleasure.

On Thursday March 25, the YCSA along with the International Socialism Association will co-sponsor economist Nigel Harris of Costa Rica. His lecture should be interesting since many of his books are used at York.

Ukrainian Club celebrates their ethnocentricity

Mike Guy

February was Ukrainian student month throughout Canada, and unlike their brothers and sisters in the Soviet Union who are faced with cultural oppression, the members of the York Ukrainian Student Association can freely celebrate their ethnocentricity.

For this reason Tamara Ivanochko, President of YUSA, explained that it was with great pleasure that she and "the YUSA gave financial aid to several Ukrainian Soviet defectors who were stranded in Vienna and wanted to emigrate to Canada." Said Ivanochko, "We mailed thousands of letters asking for donations; we also held a fundraising dance, and through both of these works we were able to accumulate \$400." The money, she added, was given to the defectors through Amnesty International.

MAKE YORK AWARE

YUSA's work with Amnesty International was more a part of its political nature, than a part of its aim to make York more aware of the Ukrainian culture. Nestor Mykytyn, Vice-President of the YUSA, assessed the situation saying that, "It is rather difficult to separate culture from politics,

but, as a compromise, what we usually do is have some functions which are political and others which are cultural."

CULTURE AND POLITICS

Such a month was February. There were days, for example, on which they featured Ukrainian ceramic art, native folk songs, and there were also occasions on which they showed political movies such as "Zvenyhora". Admits Mykytyn, "there is a fine line between politics and propaganda."

LACK OF CONVICTION

Ivanochko, who is strongly against the American melting pot, feels that "The whole idea of Multiculturalism is the 'politics of culture'." She thinks that to some extent people use their culture, whether they know it or not, to express their political views. She adds that the federal government has not implemented it properly, "because they lack conviction, and they have this 'Well, that's one ethnic group that we have subsidized; now there are a thousand more to go' attitude." But if conviction is all that is required for the survival of an organization, the YUSA will be in existence well after the Ross Building has decayed.

The tradition grows.



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