

challenge normality

audiences. And horror films are our collective nightmares," he explained at a spine-chilling screening of *Sisters* (a feminist horror film) last Thursday night, as part of the Atkinson Faculty Lecture Series.

He offered a basic formula for the horror film: normality is threatened by the Monster.

"The definition of normality in horror films is in general boringly constant: the heterosexual monogamous couple, the family, and the social institutions (police, church, armed forces) that support and defend them.

The Monster is, of course, much more protean, changing from period to period as society's basic fears clothe themselves in fashionable or immediately accessible garments - rather as dreams use material from recent memory to express conflicts

or desires that may go back to childhood."

"At present in the American cinema, there has been a very depressing return to oppression," he frowns, "especially shown in *Rocky* as well as *Heaven Can Wait*, *Star Wars* and *Close Encounters*.

Sadly he claims that for every two steps culture progresses, it takes one step back.

He admires the work of Larry Cohen and Brian De Palma. While lecturing in New York last summer, he was fortunate enough to attend the premiere of *It's Alive II*, which he praised as, "One of the finest new films coming out this year and a landmark in the development of horror film."

Robin Wood was born in England in 1931. He attended the University of Cambridge and graduated with a

degree in English literature. Fascinated with film since childhood, he became interested in writing about film in 1960.

Beneath the surface of Robin Wood, is there an artist seeking to make 'the great film'?

"I have never made any films. I see myself as a writer and a teacher, not a film maker."

Professor Wood taught both film and English literature in England before coming to Canada in 1969 to teach at Queen's University. In 1972, he returned to England to establish a Programme of Film Studies at the University of Warwick in Coventry.

Commenting on York's film program, he feels "Film study courses should offer a much more rigorous examination of film theory than they do at present.

York Torch round-up

By Kim Llewellyn

As the new year rolls around it's neck and neck in the race for the York Torch. Stong, with 4874.5 points, narrowly leads McLaughlin's 4705 and Osgoode's 4683.5.

Participation and competitiveness is growing by "leaps and bounds" in inter-college sports each year, according to inter-college coordinator Arvo Tiidus.

Although the emphasis is on participation, there is a strong competitive drive in some of the sports.

"It all depends on what sport," says Tiidus. "In men's hockey there are a lot of former Junior A players. The level of competition in basketball isn't bad either. But other sports, like inner tube water polo, where most people have not played in an organized fashion, the calibre is not as high."

Although enthusiasm for cross-campus competition has hit a peak year, the history of the York Torch has been plagued by monopolization. From 1966, when inter-college sports at York first got off the ground, until 1971 Glendon was the sole winner of the Torch.

Stong took over from 1972 until this year.

As the term came to a close it was looking like Stong might be edged out for the lead. Stong took the coed section of the competition, with McLaughlin second and Osgoode third. However, McLaughlin beat out Stong in the women's division, with Osgoode placing third.

In the men's division, Osgoode placed first, Stong second and McLaughlin third.

Nevertheless, in the final tally, Stong squeezed past its rivals once more.

"A lot of people would like to see the downfall of Stong this year," says Tiidus. "It's difficult to wrestle away a championship from someone else, but once you have it inertia seems to take over."

Tiidus attributes Stong's

York Torch mid-year standings

Women's Division		Coed Division	
McLaughlin	2280	Stong	3054.5
Stong	2230	McLaughlin	3050
Osgoode	2157.5	Osgoode	2800
Calumet	1700	Calumet	2725
Founders	1277	Alumni	2321.5
Bethune	1055	Founders	2168
Alumni	1043	Bethune	1775
Vanier	775	Vanier	1137.5
Winters	512.5	Winters	987.5
		Grads	612.5
		M.B.A.	387.5
Men's Division		York Torch	
Osgoode	2925	Stong	4874.5
Stong	2615	McLaughlin	4705
McLaughlin	2515	Osgoode	4683.5
Calumet	2315	Calumet	3766
Founders	1912.5	Founders	3490.5
Vanier	1415	Alumni	2907.5
Alumni	1210	Vanier	2277.5
Glendon	667.5	Bethune	2065
Grads	600	Winters	1590
Winters	570	Grads	1221.5
Bethune	400	Glendon	667.5
M.B.A.	165	M.B.A.	532.5
		Atkinson	0

repeatedly good showing to the strong participation encouraged by their student liaison officer, Steve Dranitsaris.

"Stong doesn't always win but it comes overall first because of participation," he says. "Swimming is a good example. In the recent swim meet Stong didn't win any section but came overall first because of participation."

Stong's strategy will remain the same in its bid for the '78-'79 Torch. Participation and consistency is the key, says Stong athletic rep, Al Morrow.

"I'd like to see Stong win it again," he added. "But the competition from the other colleges is tough. The calibre has improved. There is more participation than I ever remember."

Second in line for the torch is McLaughlin, on whom many pin their hopes. It is to "Big Mac" they turn to bring down Stong, the giant of inter-college sports.

This year McLaughlin has eight inter-college reps, more than any other participating college.

"Organization is our strength," says Gary Coles, one of these reps. "With eight reps that

means each one only has to handle three sports. We want to see if we can give Stong a really good run for the money."

Third place Osgoode is also pressing its competition hard.

According to Tiidus there are several reasons Osgoode has been near the top this year. One is its tradition: a few years ago when Osgoode was separate from York its sports teams played at the varsity level.

In addition, says Tiidus, there are often athletes in Osgoode who have used up their five year varsity playing eligibility and turn to inter-college sports as an alternative outlet for their athletic energies.

Nora Gillespie, one of the four athletic reps for Osgoode, thinks Osgoode has a good chance of upsetting Stong this year.

"The big change is that the women's teams are a lot better," she said. "People are starting to take the women seriously. Also, the competitions we haven't played yet are the sports we are the strongest in—basketball and hockey."

With 22 competitions left to play, we can expect bloody fight to the finish. "It all depends on who's in their pushing," says Tiidus.

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