

CLUBS ON CAMPUS

By ROSA PROIETTO

For many newcomers to York, involvement in campus clubs helps to alleviate the impersonal feelings often associated with university life. There are many diverse clubs to be found on campus and include academic, cultural, social and religiously oriented organizations.

CULTURAL

York Chinese Students Association

The York Chinese Students' Association (YCSA) is a non-profit association established in 1973 to improve the welfare of, and encourage communication between, Chinese students.

According to association secretary Clara Lee, "Many York students have misunderstood that we are an association for Chinese students only. We cannot deny the fact that the majority of the participants in our events are Chinese students, but we would like to clarify the point that the purpose of our events are by no means to serve the Chinese students alone."

The YCSA has scheduled a variety of activities to take place throughout the academic year, including a 'course-selection' advising service for new students, 'China Week' later in the year (this will involve an exhibition of cultural artifacts, handcrafted sales, shows and dances) and other activities such as dancercise classes and martial arts shows.

The first copy of the YCSA newspaper appeared at the beginning of this academic year, and three different publications are planned for the remainder of the year. Also, a monthly newsletter is provided for the members to keep them informed of upcoming events. During March, YCSA will participate in 'Orient Bowl Tournaments' to be held at York and the University of Waterloo. Other social events, such as movies, video shows, dances and parties are staged throughout the year.

If you are interested in finding out more about YCSA, contact Clara Lee at 663-0482.

York University Hispanic Students Association

The York University Hispanic Students' Association (YUHASA) was originated in 1983 by a group of Spanish speaking friends. The YUHASA's objectives are to promote and maintain Hispanic language and culture, to maintain stronger ties with the Hispanic community, and to promote understanding of the Hispanic community in Canada.

The association participated in the Multicultural Week sponsored by CYSF. A 'Cultural Night,' scheduled for January, will include videos, Latin-American and Spanish singers, poets and painters. The association also plans to sponsor a short-story contest.

Monica Camacho, YUHASA president, believes events such as the cultural night "exemplify the diversity, socially and politically, of the Hispanic community. Cultural night will give students a cultural cross-section of the various Hispanic countries, such as Chile, Peru and Argentina."

Camacho said, "We want to develop an awareness of those who speak the same language but have many different cultural views. The interchange of ideas is definitely very positive."

All students are welcomed and membership is \$5.00. Contact Monica Camacho through CYSF for more information.



York University Italian-Canadian Association

The York University Italian-Canadian Association (YUICA) is a student operated organization formed to promote Italian culture and heritage in a Canadian setting. The association will undertake a series of projects this year, including cultural events such as a film festival, charity events and an 'Italian Day.'

Presently, YUICA is trying to organize a literary contest in collaboration with the Italian Department at York. All submissions must be written in Italian.

According to YUICA President Graziano DeBenardinis, "The association attempts to provide a vehicle through which its members or anyone else may view or participate in the Italian experience." The association prepares a monthly newsletter which "attempts to inform and create more awareness among the York Community."

YUICA is funded by private sponsors, university grants and a membership fee of \$5.00. All York students are invited to join and become involved. Contact Graziano DeBenardinis in Portable 2 or through CYSF for more information.



Jewish Student Federation

The Jewish Student Federation (JSF) is a campus organization which provides a forum for social, cultural, educational, religious and political programming both on and off campus. The organization was originated approximately 12 years ago by a group of Jewish students who felt the need "to provide a setting for identification with other Jewish students."

The organization functions to "ensure Jewish identity" and strives to "maintain a level of commitment to their members."

Although educational and political concerns are discussed, the promotion of religious ideals remains an important aspect of the group. According to chairman Carey Miller, "Jewish religious features permeate all activities organized within the organization. For example, we only allow kosher foods."

The JSF is preparing various projects and events which will take place throughout the academic year, and the federation also offers "learning opportunities through afternoon non-credit courses, such as Beginner's Hebrew, Basic Judaism, etc."

Politically, the JSF members are involved in activities dealing with subjects like anti-Semitism, Holocaust Remembrance and Human Rights. The Steering Committee is "the JSF's political voice on campus." Students are encouraged to become involved in any of the committees. Essentially, the JSF can be viewed as an "umbrella organization" covering a number of politically or religiously oriented sub-committees.

A monthly publication, *Images*, is issued by the Jewish Students' Union-B'nai Brith Hillel Foundation at U of T and the JSF of York, providing coverage of issues and events concerning the Jewish student and the young adult in the community.

The JSF boasts a total membership of 1,500 students, making it one of the largest on the York campus. As executive director Rayzel Robinson said, "We have space, friendly people and ideas." Anyone interested in obtaining more information can contact Carey Miller or Rayzel Robinson at 667-3647.



York Malaysian Singaporean Students Association

The York Malaysian Singaporean Students' Association (YMSSA), now in its fifth year, acts as a non-political organization aiming to "serve a social and cultural purpose." Its objectives, according to president Eric Eng, are "to foster international understanding between the YMSSA and other organizations both on and off campus, to promote the cultural values of both countries, to act as a means of communication between Singaporean and Malaysian university students in Toronto and in other parts of the world, and finally, to orientate Malaysian and Singaporean students attending York, by helping them to adjust and assimilate into the Canadian society."

YMSSA plans to stage a cultural show which will involve and exhibition of artifacts reflecting Malaysian and Singaporean cultures, and social events such as dance, movies, and sports are also planned. Eng stressed that the YMSSA is "aiming for interac-



tion between associations, so whenever we have a party we extend invitations to all the clubs at York."

The association participates in annual MSSA games between U of T's MSSA and the York's MSSA. Present, the YMSSA is hoping to organize inter-association squash tournaments at York.

The Malaysian Singaporean Students' Association Award has been offered to "members who are qualified" for the past few years. A B+ standing is the only pre-requisite in order to qualify for the monetary award.

Anyone interested in more information, or simply reading a newspaper from back home, can drop by the YMSSA office at Rm. 138 Founders College.

Nigerian Student Association

The Nigerian Student Association (NSA) is a Toronto student organization "devoid of ethnic and political affiliation." The NSA was formed only last year, but the NSA at the University of Toronto was first organized about 15 years ago.

Nigerian students at York formed the association as a "response to the present political situation in Nigeria." According to NSA representative Rene Ezemenari, the "Nigerian government stated that the National Student Unions in Nigeria were no longer seen as recognizable. We felt this was unjust and so we got together and wrote to the Nigerian High Commission and the Ministry of Education in Nigeria, so as to express our concerns."

The NSA's main goal is to "provide a forum for the exchange of ideas among Nigerian students on issues of concern to Nigerians and Nigeria. As well, the NSA would like to act as a 'middleman' between the students and the Nigerian High Commission, and students and Canadian institutions (i.e. universities, law enforcement agencies, etc.)."

Various social activities are planned to take place during the year. There is a \$10 membership fee and all York students are welcomed to join and participate. Contact Rene Ezemenari through CYSF for more information.



York University Portuguese Association

The York University Portuguese Association (YUPA) is in its third year of operation and already it appears to be one of the busiest clubs on campus, offering members a colorful and interesting agenda of programs and activities.

The association was created to provide an "ambiance" for Portuguese students and to encourage more involvement within the Portuguese community large.

The main project for the association this year is the publication of the *YUPA Voice*, a journal dealing with critical issues within the Portuguese community. Short stories and poetry will also appear in the publication. Pinguelo added, "the *YUPA Voice* is not really directed to the York community per se, but to the Portuguese community. So far we've had a good response."

The association is heavily involved in an Outreach Program. YUPA members are concerned about current government statistics which indicate a high level of high school Portuguese student drop-outs. Many members took it upon themselves to contact schools where a high level of Portuguese students were concentrated, and arranged to give seminars to the students about the value of education. Joe Pinguelo explained that "the idea is to show that we've made it, and to make them realize that the goal is attainable. It's a matter of building their self-confidence. The students really appreciate the fact that the speakers are also students. It's easier for them to relate."

Other activities planned for this year include social events such as a Christmas party, picnics, pub-nights, and an end-of-year bash. YUPA is no doubt an association on the move, and as Joe Pinguelo said, "If you're interested in getting involved in the community... then this is the right place."

If interested in obtaining more information or to have a look at the association's 800-book library, contact Joe Pinguelo at 279-2281 or through CYSF.