

Show for homeless raises homegrown talent at York

By KEVIN PASQUINO

York's Burton Auditorium served as the meeting ground for over 100 talented performers in last Saturday's (May 24) Atkinson Talent Show. People gathered both for entertainment and to assist the needy of Toronto.

With all proceeds from the event being donated to Stop 103, a downtown Toronto foodbank, the talent show raised over \$1,800 and received media attention in the *Toronto Star* and on CITY-TV.

Last January Atkinson community members Mike Zichowski and Winston Charles were inspired by a series of news articles in the *Toronto Star* on the city's homeless and hungry. Together they began to search for a means of not only raising money for the homeless but also raising social awareness of their plight.

Zichowski visited Stop 103 and was amazed to find how many of Toronto's poor and homeless depended on the facility for food. Even more surprising for him was the meager funding the food bank had at

its disposal. "If they had food for only 75 people and 76 showed up, that last person would go hungry," Zichowski explained.

Approaching Atkinson College Student Association (ACSA), Zichowski and Charles presented their ideas for a talent show. ACSA agreed to donate money for prizes and auditorium rental fees, while CITY-TV, Rogers Cable and Paramount Pictures offered publicity and prizes.

With a total of 26 acts, the show's final product was a potpourri of events ranging from comedy, dance and music to a fashion show. The enthusiasm of the performers was apparent; the show ran for more than four hours.

The grand prize winner in the talent show was the York Tones, a steel band based at York. A member of the group explained that they will use the \$500 in prize money to buy new equipment and uniforms. They are also hoping that the publicity they earn from the show will help them to find a new practice area at York, since their old practice space

in Founders College is no longer available to them.

Speaking after the show, master of ceremonies and co-producer Winston Charles voiced his overall satisfaction with regard to the show's finished product. Explaining that the show was a first attempt at this sort of charitable gathering, Charles was pleased with the money raised.

Zichowski also expressed contentment with the show. He was particularly pleased with the way people came together and acted as a team for the worthy cause. The judges, technicians and the performers all pitched in both on stage and behind the scenes to help make the event run smoothly.



HOT JAZZ DANCE TROUPE: A game of peek-a-boo with the audience

GARY BLAKELEY

Weekend thefts: Petty cash, pop & beer stolen

By PAULETTE PEIROL

Since the beginning of April, York Safety and Security Services has been investigating a deluge of weekend break-ins and thefts on campus. Last weekend (from May 24-26), five related break-ins were reported in the Ross Building, Behavioral Sciences Building, the Scott Religious Centre, the Crowe's Nest Pub, and at Osgoode Hall.

"I have no doubt that a number of them are connected," Bob Stevens of York Safety and Security Services said, "particularly those involving petty cash." Of the five break-ins last weekend, three included thefts; two, the Ross Building and the Scott Religious Centre, involved stolen money and one, the Crowe's Nest Pub, reported that two cases of beer were stolen. "It's definitely a group of amateurs," Stevens said, "and the extensive damage (from the break-ins) is far in excess of the money taken." Stevens estimates that the damage costs range from \$50 to \$200, depending on the type of break-in.

In the Crowe's Nest Pub incident which took place about 40 minutes after closing time on Saturday, May 24, a sliding door in the pub was pried open and the padlock on the

beer cooler was severed with bolt cutters. There were no witnesses, and the robbery was not reported until Sunday afternoon. While only \$50 worth of beer was stolen, damages are estimated to be about \$150.

In the Scott Religious Centre, on Saturday, May 24, perpetrators smashed through a double-plated safety glass window pane, then broke into an office. The office was ransacked, but only \$25 of petty cash was found missing. Damage costs meanwhile are estimated to be at least \$200.

In the Ross Building last Saturday (May 24), an office was broken into by removing the ceiling panels and entering through the crawl space. "The perpetrator was obviously small in stature," Stevens said. It seems that not only s/he small, but also thirsty: empty cans of ginger ale and root beer were found at the scene of the crime. While \$30 was stolen, expensive office equipment "was disregarded entirely," Stevens remarked.

Stevens noted that 40-60 percent of the break-ins have occurred on weekends. "There is no doubt in my mind that the perpetrators come from outside the university," Stevens said.



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