

Diverse band thrills tiny crowd

arts

by Marc Warsh

Friday night, Greg Hoskins and the Stick People hit the stage at the bunker-like Student Centre Restaurant Club. As usual, few people show up.

The York student body doesn't deserve to have such an act playing on campus.

But those who were there received a real treat.

Greg Hoskins and the Stick People's debut album, *Moon Come Up*, has received well-deserved attention. This is not your run of the mill, commercialized music.

Instrumentally, the music is a combination of jazz, blues, and folk-rock.

concert

Gregory Hoskins and the Stick People
Student Centre Restaurant Club
Friday, September 27

The lyrics are the product of Greg Hoskins, a 27-year-old who has spent the majority of his life in Queensville, Ont. The songs are about lost love, the big city and the struggle of the disabled. They are laced with heart-felt poetry and emotion.

One notable song is "Marathon Man," which is about a mentally disabled boy who wants to run like a marathon runner. The boy has to stop running as a result of electro-shock therapy.



Gregory Hoskins and a pair of Stick People. Hoskins blend of jazz, blues and folk-rock, and a lyrical concern for the disadvantaged, made for an enjoyable show.

In an interview, Hoskins said his music is influenced by such events in the lives of his own friends with disabilities.

"The isolation that these particular people feel is far beyond anything most people in our society can even conceptualize."

Because of his knowledge of the feelings, lives and struggles of the disabled, Hoskins' music touches a chord that makes you listen with your heart.

The performance was fabulous. Backup vocalist Lynn Simmons has a bell-like voice which performed beautiful harmonies with Hoskins and the band's other excellent singers.

The band features smoking saxophone and clarinet. The drummer, who just happens to have a rasta/metal background, added a lot of power Hoskins' melodious guitar.

With six musicians, the band's power lies mainly in its ability to hold up the soft, meaningful sounds powerfully.

With musicians of different musical backgrounds, their sound is extremely diverse. There is nothing on

the Toronto scene that is as original.

Hoskins said his group dislikes bars. They find that audiences who do not know their work will listen more to the alcohol than to the music. In the

future they hope to leave the bar scene.

Students present at the concert couldn't keep their eyes off the band, and I caught a few with their eyes closed, just enjoying the music.

arts

Another look at love

by Marcus Parmegiani

La Locandiera, written by Carlo Goldoni, is a play about the relationships between men and women. Although his plays haven't been popular in Italy since the early 30s, some of the points he makes about love and relationships ring true even today.

The final performance of *La Locandiera*, presented by the York University Italian Association, took place on Sunday September 29, at Don Bosco High School in Etobicoke.

A nineteenth century Venetian comedy, *La Locandiera* portrays the idiosyncrasies of an innkeeper and three men trying to win her love.

The first act was slow and dry, partially because of the writing, partially because of the actors initial nervousness, which caused some of them

to struggle with their Italian. By the second act, though, the actors and actresses loosened up, and the punch lines kept the audience laughing until the end.

None of the actors is a Fine Arts major, but they were all enthusiastic and energetic. Only one actor is an Italian major, but they all spoke Italian clearly with little signs of regional dialects; impressive, considering the Italian department was not involved in the production.

Only one of the students in the production, Gisella Alfano, the Assistant Director, is a Fine Arts student.

theatre

La Locandiera
directed by Antonio Di Giovanni
starring Vittorio Pasquali and Roy Bonadonna
produced by YUIT Theatre Company

She is a Theatre Production major who will direct the next YUIA production, which should take place in the third week of November.

Laura Marotta, President of the YUIA, who played the innkeeper, said, "The purpose of the productions is to promote our cultural side and make the club more visible." It is a legitimate goal considering that 13,000 Students of Italian descent attended York last year while the club's membership is well under 1000.

Director Antonio Di Giovanni said, "It went really well. We accomplished what we wanted to do." The audience seemed to agree as they met the cast with fervent applause at the end of the play.



A boy feeds his sister in one of the many poignant scenes from Kathryn Taverna and Alan Adelson's film *Lodz Ghetto*. For a review, see page 18.

Canadian small town life and a fiddle

by Diane Peters

Most bands want to play major venues: the Concert Hall...Massey Hall...Exhibition Stadium. Toronto-based band Grievous Angels think a big-time venue is a hick town in Saskatchewan or a mine in northern Ontario.

The band is working for steady success, playing only a few gigs a month and keeping other interests. "The faster you rise, the faster you fall," explains guitarist and principal songwriter Chuck Angus, "it's the law of physics."

The Angels' recent show at the Student Centre Restaurant Club was a fun, energetic performance, but it lacked the musically memorable style of their recent album.

One of the reasons is the absence of female lead Michelle Rumball. In her place was Laine Hoogstraten, playing only her third show with the Angels.

According to Angus, when

concert

Grievous Angels
Student Centre Restaurant Club
Wednesday, September 25

Rumball left, he had to write a new batch of songs for himself to sing lead on. Hoogstraten's all-too recent addition to the band left her dancing onstage, singing back-up and only the occasional solo.

These solos provided some of the better moments in the show. Her pure, well-controlled voice brought out the lyrical, simple songs, showing the Angels at their best.

Relaxed onstage and obviously enjoying themselves, the band played a lively show with some high energy moments.

Unfortunately, the performance sometimes lapsed into dullness. The band's musical indulgence created a few stilted moments. Angus' low voice made for a blandness alleviated only when Hoogstraten took over.

Starting as a busking band at the

St. Lawrence Market in 1986, the Angels have played all over the country, made some records and, to their surprise, got on the country charts. Angus claims they started as a punk band.

The band has developed a distinct country sound spiced with the varied sounds of such instruments as the harmonica, fiddle and accordion.

Lyrical, Angus creates stories of Canadian small town life, that are "composite sketches" of people he has met across the country. Distinct in his style are unabashed references to Canadian provinces and towns.

Still polishing new material, working Hoogstraten into the band and getting ready to record a new album, the Angels are a band in transition, sure to be very different in future shows. They will play in town again soon; catch them and see if you like their new sound.

If not, look around for a copy of *One Job Town*, and pick one up for me while you're at it.

