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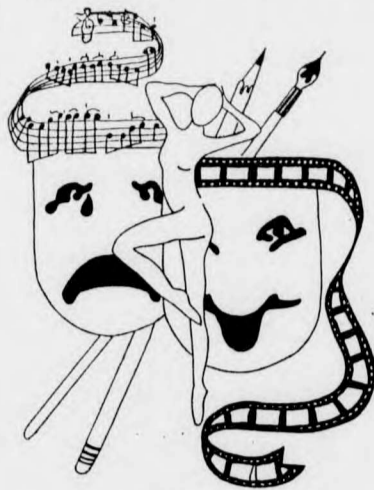
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Arts cont'd

York Cabaret takes off



FRIDAY FEBRUARY 9
WINTERS DINING HALL 8:00 PM

by Sandra Ferguson

"Entertainment" and "variety" are not the first words that come to mind when describing the month of February at York. However, thanks to the efforts of Monica Sweeney, David Goodman, Tim Ferguson (no relation) and other board members of York Cabaret, February 9 will change all that.

The Cabaret started as an idea of nine second-year theatre students and, this year, it has been realized beyond their best expectations.

"We want to have a show that dispels the myth that artists are pale, gloomy and take themselves much too seriously," says Ferguson. "Perhaps even more importantly, we want to do away with the attitude that fine arts students think that a sociology or science student has nothing to offer artistically. It's simply not

true, and the last thing we want to do is exclude other members of the York Community. We want to unite York, not segregate it."

Adds Sweeney, "We are striving for variety, but not only in the acts. We'd love to have students from every faculty making up not only the acts and audience, but the board, production staff and administration."

As for the Cabarets, "These shows are created for the sole purpose to entertain using as many mediums as possible. All proceeds go towards the next show, and we have tried, and succeeded I think, to create the casual atmosphere of a performance in a pub," says Goodman.

"You can laugh, talk, walk around, eat and drink, and come and go. We're trying to avoid the stuffy rules of a traditional theatre," he adds.

This credo has proved itself successful, as those who attended the first Cabaret last December will attest. Under 19s are welcome, and the Absinthe Pub (Winters College) does provide a cash bar for those with proper I.D. There were a variety of acts including dance, films, skits, scenes, poetry reading, music and even storytelling.

In fact, the problem that is plaguing the York Cabaret is not a lack of support, but too much to adapt to its present facilities. Ferguson is not fazed, though.

"Cabaret should be able to adapt to the demand for it," Ferguson says. "Although there will only be one (hopefully two) more shows this year, it's not inconceivable to see it running once or

twice a month, or having the show running over two evenings in the future. That way, people can become more involved by helping out in different capacities on different shows — perhaps performing in one, then doing publicity or production for the next."

Because of an overabundance of acts auditioning for the shows (already Cabaret has moved from the Winters JCR to the Winters Dining Hall to accommodate acts and audience), the board has reluctantly set up an audition committee.

"We try to keep it as neutral as possible," says Goodman. "There are students from all five fine arts departments and an English student among the 10 members, and they represent all academic levels from first years to grads. Also, auditioners are forbidden from performing in the shows."

The audition process is also valuable in that it can screen acts that are conceivably offensive to other members of society. As well, it allows a talent pool to be set up.

"If we have 10 very funny skits auditioning, we simply can't put all ten in one show. That doesn't mean that we won't use the others in the future," says Sweeney.

What is the present board's ultimate goal for Cabaret? Simply put, that it will continue to flourish long after they are gone.

York Cabaret runs February 9 at 8pm in Winters Dining Hall. Tickets are \$2 advance, \$3 at the door available daily from 11am-2pm in the Fine Arts lobby and Central Square. Cash bar.

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