

Halifax's Serious Play ground:

Odin's Eye's Association

by Sheena Masson

After almost two years of operation, the Odin's Eye Cafe is officially an association. About fifty people attended the first general meeting last Wednesday at the Cafe's Grafton Street location next to the Picadilly Tavern.

Odin's Eye Cafe is unique in Halifax in more ways than one. Run on a non-commercial basis, it's major asset is the people who go there. The meeting was a chance to discuss not only the practical operations of the cafe but to express what Odin's Eye is to those involved and what its objectives should be.

The main objective is to develop the Eye (as it is known) as a forum for artistic talent in the community. The Eye has so far hosted dance troupes, children's theatre, vegetarian suppers, folk art shows, poetry readings and of course musicians. The only kind of music you won't hear at the Eye is disco. Weekends often feature a rock or blues band and the tables are cleared back to boogie.

The performers who play at Odin's Eye are there because

they want to be, not necessarily because they are commercially viable to the Eye. Performers receive 1/3 of the door whether it is \$30 or \$300 and the rest is used toward rent and other expenses. The Eye is also unique as a music spot in that no liquor is served. This is not intended to discourage people from drinking but rather to discourage the Eye from becoming a place to drink. Coffee, tea, cider and baked goods are available at cheap prices however and between sets it is possible to consume a brew or two at the nearby Seahorse Tavern.

The Eye is thought of by those associated with it as a "serious playground" and one person called it "a place to ourselves in a confining world." Not that it wishes to become a clique. The cafe would like to host more community activities and one of the questions discussed was how to increase participation.

To date, the cafe has been run by an unsalaried group of people headed by three individuals: Steve Penny, Mike Coyle and Dave Kimber. Lately the responsibility of

running the cafe has been left largely to Kimber who decided to form an association and register the cafe as such. Kimber calls the move a "recognition of a fact" as the cafe was run by a loose association already.

minding the direction of the Eye. The management committee will continue as a separate group to handle day-to-day operations. Kimber will also remain as entertainment co-ordinator.

As the association is registered with the government, all communication will be in the name of the group which takes the onus off individuals. It was stressed at the meeting that participation is the only way for the Eye to become stable. The association also hopes to see some practical improvements such as a new floor and additional furniture.

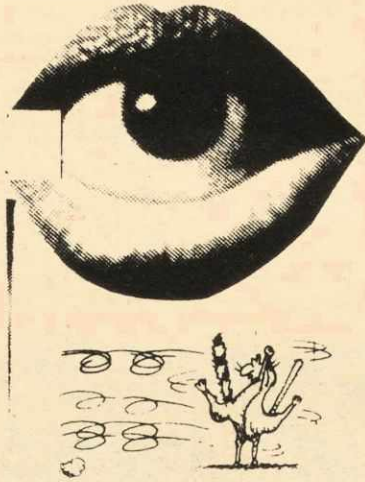
About eighty people so far have become members of the Eye association. Regulars need not be alarmed—anyone can still get in for the evening for the usual admittance fee of \$1.50. Members will pay this amount too but will be able to use the Eye during the week as a club of sorts. The membership idea is mainly to indicate a person's support and interest in the continuation of the cafe. Memberships cost \$10 a year or \$2.50 for three months.

The first Board of Directors

meeting is scheduled for March 14 and will be open to the public. One item to be discussed is honorary memberships for the performers. John Edmunds from a band of the same name, pointed out that musicians are usually on the road and would appreciate such a membership or open invitation to drop in.

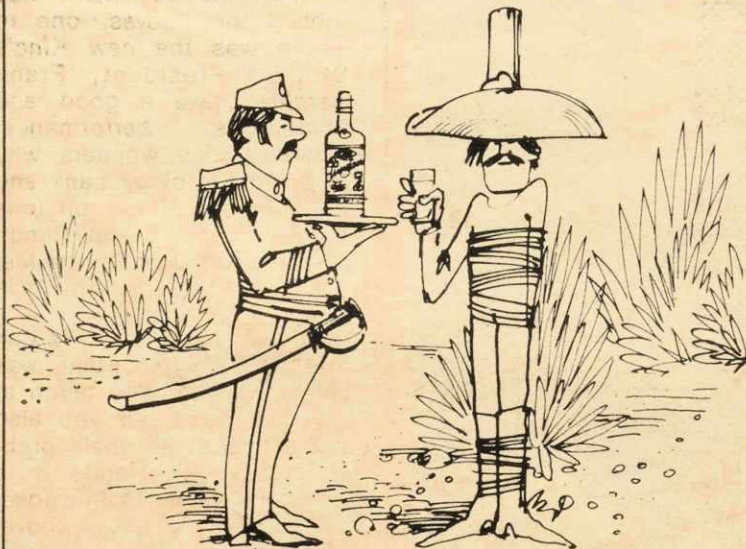
There's usually something going on at the Eye four nights a week. Thursday is open mike night and Saturdays hope to feature a rock 'n roll band. Friday and Sunday evenings expect anything from a folk group to live theatre or dance.

A day of festivities to be known henceforth as the "Rites of Spring" is planned for Sunday, March 18. Those performing will be the Queen Street King's, the Jarvis Benoit Band, the John Edmund's Band, Kelley-Quase, Mike Forbes plus eight others. Come and get initiated. For more information about upcoming activities or memberships, the Eye's number is 423-4587.



The new association will be headed by a 15 member Board of Directors who were nominated at the meeting. They will be responsible for paying the bills, answering to the members, and generally

One Last Shot

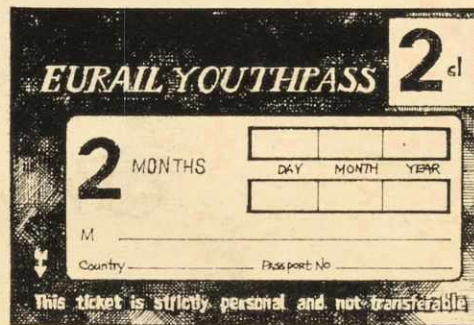


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