

UPEI Centre for Writing Finds a New Centre

By Julie VEINOT

The UPEI Centre for Writing has a new home.

And, fittingly enough, it is located in the same building as the Robertson Library.

The centre used to be located in Dalton Hall's basement, but now it has moved above ground to the delight of centre facilitator Linda Meggs, who has worked there since it opened four years ago. "You couldn't tell when the sun was shining, [or] when it was raining - it was pretty bad," she says of their former digs.

Though renovations to their new quarters were to be finished in September, it wasn't until January that they were able to move in to the fresh expanse of white that includes a coffeemaker, fridge and microwave. There are also two computer rooms. The walls might be empty now, but they soon hope to have couches and bookcases filled with resource books.

One of the things Meggs wants to stress is that the writing centre is not just there for English students, or even students

at all. Staff, along with students of all disciplines, come into the centre with a piece of writing that just needs an extra pair of eyes. Sometimes it can mean tightening up a thesis, or it can also mean help on an application for graduate school. Though people sometimes think the centre is only for those with difficulties, nothing could be further from the truth. It is there for anyone looking to make a better mark.

"It tends to be the people on the top of the spectrum," she says. "They want to hand everything in as good as it can be."

Meggs says she dislikes seeing posters proclaiming students are selling their English handbooks; hers sits right on her new desk.

Right now there are five tutors who come into the centre to help coach students. The centre is looking for more. Meggs says you do not have to be an expert to be a tutor: it can be a help to have a tutor who must look up information - it is learning experience for both the tutor

and the writer. Meggs says she dislikes seeing posters proclaiming students are selling their English handbooks; hers sits right on her new desk.

Meggs is happy to be in the same building as the library because, she says, researching at the library and writing at the centre go hand-in-hand.

In the future, she hopes the centre will extend its hours so more staff and students can take advantage of it. Now the centre is open from 1p.m. to 7p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays, 10a.m. to

3p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, as well as Fridays 11a.m. to 4p.m. Meggs also wants to bring back their Sunday openings.

The centre will be holding a grand opening Feb. 10 from 3 to 4:30pm in their new facilities. To find them, go to the Robertson Library Building and head down the hallway around the former café. Hungry students and staff will be able to see what the centre is about, as well as eat some food on the side.

For more information, contact lmeggs@upe.ca.

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What's Going On

By Brodie MacRAE

Are you bored with your crummy University student existence and screaming to do something different, something outside of the campus? Or are you just trying to impress the opposite sex by pretending that you have a wide range of interests and are "cultured?" Either way, here is a sampling of interesting events happening around town in the next couple of weeks. Go nuts.

Looking for a place to eat your lunch, watch a free movie AND drink free coffee? Every Tuesday at Noon during February and March in the Lecture Theatre of the Confederation Centre of the Arts, the Friends of Confederation Centre are presenting Noon Hour Films from 12 noon to 1 pm. Hooray! February's theme is "The Urban Tourist." Viewers can visit one of the great cities of the world each week, without ever having to leave the comfort of the Confederation Centre. Perfect for students who will never be able visit these places for real on account of overwhelming student debt. For more information call 628-6141.

Are you trying to impress the opposite sex by pretending that you have a wide range of interests and are "cultured?"

How long has it been since you've seen some really good African drumming music? Well, you're in luck. Asafa Productions presents Israel's Lost Tribes in concert at the MacKenzie Theatre on February 15 from 8 to 11 pm. Get ready for an evening of West African music. There will be numerous traditional instruments, such as the djembe (hand-drum), the balafon (marimba), the donno (talking drums) and more. Plus, the opening will feature an African dancer, Francis Tombe and songs from UPEI student Ruth Mathiang's recently released CD *My Cry, Peace*. Tickets are available from Tribes Art and Decor, 192 Kent Street in Charlottetown (626-3794), Back Alley Discs off Kent Street (566-3472) and at the Confederation Centre box office (1-800-565-0278).

Barachois is appearing with the PEI symphony orchestra for the first time! On Sunday, February 9 PEISO is presenting the popular Acadian group in their annual Pops Superspecial concert.

Barachois is a well-known name on the East coast, having received three nominations and one award (Francophone Recording of the Year) at the 1997 ECMAs, plus three nominations for the upcoming 2003 ECMAs. Their music is a melange of traditional Acadian tunes that Albert Arsenault, Helene Arsenault-Bergeron, Louise Arsenault and Chuck Arsenault, the four members of Barachois have learned from their Acadian communities.

Are you bored with your crummy University student existence and screaming to do something different, something outside of campus?

The PEISO conductor, James Mark, will be creating some new orchestral arrangements for Barachois. Plus, the symphony will be presenting Edvard Grieg's Peer Gynt Suite No. 1, Franz

Liszt's Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2 and a new work, Overture -Fanfare 2000, composed by the symphony's principal horn, James G. Code.

The baton goes down at 2:30 in the Confederation Centre of the Arts on February 9.

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