

Drinking In America

A Craig Blair "Tour De Force"

The UPEI Theatre Society is kicking off the year with a bang by bringing B-S PRODUCTIONS' exciting one-man show, *Drinking in America*, to the Steele Recital Hall for a three-night run. Written by Eric Bogosian (Talk Radio; Sex, Drugs & Rock'n Roll) this award winning play is a dangerously funny look at the seamier side of modern North American life. *Drinking in America* ran all summer at the Arts Guild in Charlottetown, and has just returned from Halifax and a five-day run as the Island's entry in the Atlantic Fringe Festival.

Actor Craig Blair has received critical acclaim for his dynamic and polished portrayal of the play's twelve memorable male characters, as wildly diverse as bums and evangelists.

As a former student at UPEI, Craig made quite a name for himself as an actor and director for the Theatre Society. He shone in student productions of *The Dumbwaiter*, *Quiet in the Land*, and *The Golden Fleece*, and as both 'Jingle' and 'The Lawyer' in *Mr Pickwick*. He also directed and performed in last year's *God and Romeo and Juliet*. Craig has several professional credits under his belt, and is currently in rehearsal for Theatre PEI's fall production of *The Glass Menagerie*.

But of all these endeavors, none showcases Craig Blair's acting abilities as does *Drinking in America*. Reviewers have noted the power and versatility of his performance, with comments that range from "a complete hoot" to "chilling" (*The Guardian*) and "vastly disturbing to very funny" (*The Buzz*). With his first one-man tour de force under his belt, Blair is well on his way to a stellar career in 'The Biz'.

Drinking in America examines issues such as homelessness, drug addiction, sex, and fascism in a way that makes its audience laugh and shudder at the same time. It's truly a walk on the wild side, and guaranteed to make a theatre lover of any university student. This production is a fundraiser for the Theatre Society, so don't miss its final run at Steele Recital Hall: Friday, Sept. 22; Saturday, Sept. 23; and Sunday, Sept. 24. Showtime 8 p.m. Tickets (\$8 for the waged, \$5 for students and seniors) are on sale at The Book Store, at the door, and from members of the UPEI Theatre Society.

FAME FORTUNE
PIZZA SOUND GOOD THEN JOIN YOUR SCHOOL NEWSPAPER TONIGHT
MAIN ROOM 06 NEAR THE VENDING MACHINES

BIG BANKS WANT PIECE OF STUDENT MARKET

by Stu Clark (CUP)

While the Canadian government is eager to get out of the student loan business, Canada's banks are desperate to get in. Three of Canada's Big Five banks, as well as several smaller financial institutions, are offering non-government student loans this year.

The Bank of Montreal, Toronto Dominion Bank, and Bank of Nova Scotia have all started their own loan programs this year after refusing to participate in the government's student loan plan.

The Canadian government is working with selected banks to privatize its program.

The new programs offer students the opportunity to borrow up to \$5,500 a year for four years. The three banks are planning to lend students well over \$500,000 during the next year to 18 months.

Joe Barbera, a spokesperson for the Bank of Montreal thinks the new programs are an essential service for students. "The vast majority of students in Canada don't qualify for a government student loan," said Barbera. "We're servicing the market."

According to Barbera, only 17 to 18 per cent of students qualify for the governments Canadian student loan plan.

Barbera admits the new programs don't compare with the government loans. "We're not competitive with the government plan. If you qualify for a government loan, I suggest you take advantage of it," said Barbera.

Alexis Roman is one student who will be taking advantage of the new loans. "I couldn't get a regular student loan," said Roman, a second-year arts major at the University of Regina. "It's a good program for people who can't get regular student loans, but if you don't have a co-signer you're out of luck."

Currently the loans plans are all very similar. Griffiths thinks that might change as the banks compete harder for a share of the student loan market.

And the market could become more competitive very soon.

The Royal Bank is already considering starting a loan program of its own next year to complement the government loan program it now operates.

New Student Orientation a Smash

By Steve Ellis

New Student Orientation (NSO), formerly known as Frosh Week, was filled with memories of the new students of 1995. This year's chair, Rebecca VanDerHeyden, and her group of volunteers did their best to ensure that incoming students felt welcome and comfortable as they took their first tentative steps in the journey to a baccalaureate degree.

"Catch The Spirit" was the theme of this year's events. Fittingly, during the day, high spirited games were mixed with educational sessions such as financial planning and time management. Students introduced themselves to UPEI geography through a campus-wide scavenger hunt. They also savoured their first taste of UPEI athletic competition. The sport of choice: soccer baseball. The victors: team Royal.

On registration day, new students took part in a tradition almost as old as UPEI itself, *Shinerama '95*. This year's shoe-shining for Cystic Fibrosis was organized by

Melissa Buote. Though revenues from the shoe-shine blitz were down this year, all students who took part had a great time working for this very worthy cause.

The evening entertainment was super spirited as well. The Karaoke night was equally resplendent with good bad and downright ugly amateur vocalization. Highlights included a couple of impromptu a capella performances by the Ikede brothers, Ifo and Ajiri and an emotional group version of "That's What Friends Are For". Other entertainment included a casino night (Who was that bald man in the tuxedo?) and a performance by the entrancing hypnotist, Steve Santini.

Unlike other years, orientation events did not end with the first week of classes. Other activities continued throughout the next week culminating with the Terry Fox Run on Sunday the 17th.

Congratulations go out to Rebecca, her volunteers and Student Services for making NSO '95 such a smashing success.

Advice Column Coming soon!!!

Attention all persons who are lovesick, lost, poor and bleeding, without a friend to turn to in time of trouble and woe, Sally wants to hear a about it in care of this very newspaper.

Not to be confused with Dear Abby, whose right-wing sentiment can be like fingernails on a chalkboard, Dear Sally is a modern thinker with tons of know-how, common sense and ingenuity.

That's right folks, Sally is starting an advice column right here in this illustrious rag. The frequency of this column will depend on the amount of letters received.

Did you arrive home and find your boyfriend in the arms of another man? Are you running out of money already and your cat eats better than you do? Does your mother still call you 'her little man' and you're female? Then Sally will listen and dispense advice by the potato-bag full.

If you have got a problem, Sally has a solution or if she doesn't, then she'll soon find out. Just address all correspondence to "Dear Sally" and drop it through the mail slot in the newspaper office door. Use a pseudonym if desired, but privacy is strictly respected.

Is Sally an acronym for anything or does it mean something in particular? Nope, nothing else came to mind at the time of this writing, so Sally it for want of a better handle. See you in the newspaper!

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