

Homeless UPEI Theatre Society to be Given Shelter... Finally

By Brodie MacRAE

The UPEI Theatre Society has been rewarded for its years of patience while wandering aimlessly from place to place around the campus. Once renovations are complete, the former yearbook office in the basement of Main will house the Thespian society of UPEI. This is an important event for UPEITS, explains last year's chair Andrew MacPhee. "It will give us a greater sense of continuity, allowing us to strive for longer term goals, whereas in previous years, we began anew each September. We can also store scripts and other such theatrical related items and it will be a cool place to meet and relax." It is also hoped that a permanent home for UPEITS will bring a greater awareness of itself and of theatre to the University community. Many students are unaware of the Theatre Society's existence and activities. As Scott Robinson notes, "Even I was unaware of the Theatre Society's existence and activities."

While the first Theatre Society meeting will have passed by the time this reaches publication, you shouldn't be concerned about having missed the boat. "It is at the second meeting that I would like to see a large attendance, as this is the meeting where important dates are decided upon and potential plays for this term are discussed", says MacPhee. When asked about potential plays for this year, MacPhee replied, "At this point, it is looking like a night of student directed light one-acts for the first semester and a Shakespeare, possibly "As You Like It" for the second. However, if a student wants to produce or direct another play in addition to these, we will certainly encourage the endeavour." In order to get involved in any capacity, a student has to only email theatre@upei.ca to be led along the right path. "Anyone can be involved," adds MacPhee.

Likely venues for these plays include the Duffy Amphitheatre and the Carrefour. "The Student Centre is

also a possibility, as it has a large stage and room for a large audience.

Unfortunately, we would have to set up wings for a backstage, and the fact that the bar isn't soundproof from the stage makes it very difficult to work with. It isn't as conducive to theatre as it could have been," adds MacPhee.

When asked about whether or not a proper theatre on the University campus would be a worthwhile venture, MacPhee replied, "Of course we could use a theatre, it could even be profitable for the University. We could build a black box theatre which seats about 120 people and make it a versatile space so that many different types of theatre would be comfortable in it. Different theatre groups, especially student run groups who can't afford Charlottetown theatre (such as The Arts Guild, The MacKenzie Theatre and the Carrefour) would want to use it. We could even feature groups from other universities. Having a black box theatre on campus would encourage riskier, more groundbreaking plays from student playwrights like Mickey Acorn or Matt Stewart." It should be noted here that UPEI is one of only four undergraduate universities of out of all the undergrad schools in Canada (as listed by MacLeans Magazine) without a space devoted specifically for theatrical presentations. "The University has a duty to act as the cultural centre of Charlottetown and I don't think we are living up to our potential. The University should be a seedbed for new ideas, techniques, and creations which should leave UPEI and enrich the community and beyond, helping to form the core of Canadian culture. After all, it has often been from universities that revolutionary ideas have sprung forth. The plays of Ibsen are an example. More than anyone, we have a responsibility to act as a catalyst to culture, and a theatre on the campus is a step in that direction."

So there.

Student Health Plan

How do I enrol?

All full-time students at UPEI are automatically enrolled in this health insurance plan when they register for classes. The fee for the health plan is included in your registration fees.

What if I am already covered?

If you are already covered under an extended health plan you may choose to opt out of this plan and receive a refund of the health plan fees you have paid.

You **must** provide proof of your other health insurance company and policy number to the Student Union Office.

How to opt-out?

You must provide proof of your other health insurance plan to the Student Union Office in the form of the following:

- A copy of your current insurance plan card, or a letter from your insurance company clearly indicating the insurance company and policy number
(Note: Handwritten information is not valid)

AND

- Proof of full time student status

Deadline to opt-out?

Opt outs are processed on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays ~ ONLY. The deadline to present proof of your other insurance plan to the Student Union Office is

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4th, 2002

-NO EXCEPTIONS-

For further information contact the Student Health Plan Administrator at 566-0530, email studentu@upei.ca, or drop into the Student Union Office, 2nd floor of the Student Centre