

CINEMASCOPE by Dave Wood

I have not read W.O. Mitchell's Who Has Seen the Wind?, but I am sure that the film version of the novel does not do it justice. This is supposed to be one of the truly great works of Canadian fiction, but the film I saw last Friday night was a sorry excuse for a great Canadian film. True, great Canadian films have always been in short supply, but this one should have been the cream of the new crop of greatly improved Canadian motion pictures. It wasn't.

First the good news. Who Has Seen the Wind? is extremely well filmed. The camera moves perfectly, cutting and thrusting through the nebulous plot and giving the viewer a startlingly clear and appealing vehicle through which to capture the flavour of prairie life during the depression. The use of light and colour is precise and effective in conveying a definite mood here, and

it is during Brian's (the young protagonist of the film) brief run-away scene that the texture of the vast prairie and the mood of loneliness and despair are best portrayed. As well, the film manages to create a lot of silent dialogue; there is little actual conversation heard during most scenes, but the communication taking place is obvious to even the most drowsy moviegoer (and at this film, I'm sure a lot of us were more drowsy than usual.)

The plot of Who Has Seen the Wind? remains something of a mystery to me. Presumably, it is about a young boy's learning experience in a small prairie town, but beyond that things are a bit muddled. There are several other plots buzzing away in the background, and the whole thing moves slowly and silently across in front of the viewer's eyes for about two hours, then abruptly stops. We don't get to know anyone well

during those two hours, and character portrayal as a whole is just awful. Some are stereotyped: the religious madman living alone in the wild, the sadistic old school-teacher, the young pair of star-crossed lovers, the bickering old great-aunt and uncle. All parts are abominably acted, Gordon Pinsent and Margo Kitter not excluded. There is some heavy imagery of an animal dying and of an animal being set free, and this does pertain to the subplot of Young Ben, but its impact is somehow deadened by the ungodly acting and the vagueness of the whole thing.

One does get the sense

that Mitchell's novel dealt with a lot of things in considerable more depth than the film did, and no doubt the movie could have been marvelous in a lot of ways. But awareness of its potentials does not stop one from constantly peering at his watch to see when he can get out of his seat and go somewhere more enjoyable. It is my opinion that Who Has Seen the Wind? is a poor film, and one which does little or nothing to improve the status of Canadian movies at home or abroad. W.O. Mitchell has my sincere sympathy, for I'm sure his book has been slaughtered.

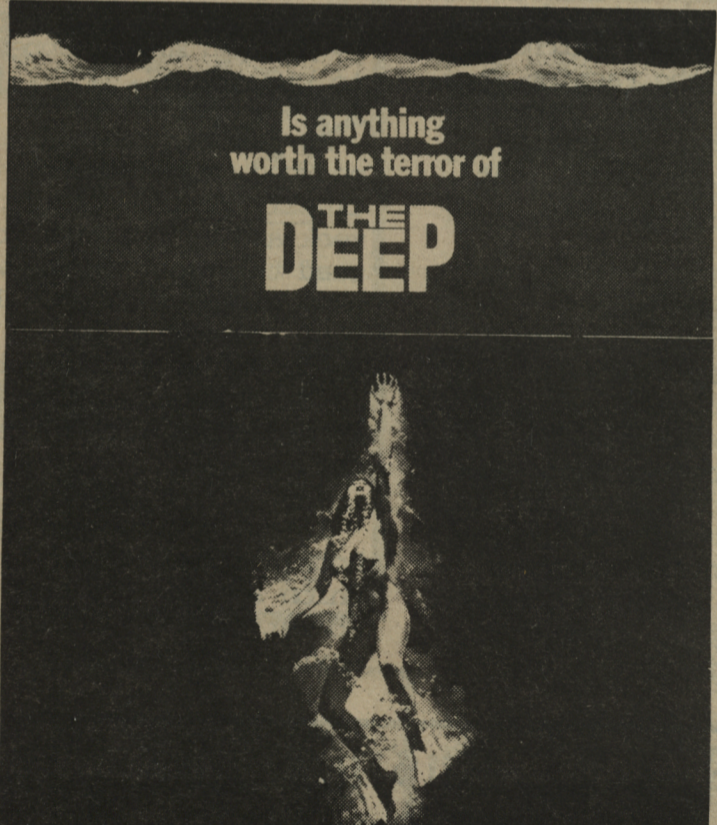
RUMOR HATH IT THAT

-There is a Student Union election coming soon.
-Marion Hall raided Bernadine Hall.
-Winter Carnival managed to come out in the black.
-There is a new Movie Club.
-There will be a Photo Club on campus next Fall.
-Dr. Meincke (President Elect) was on campus this week.
-The Education Society is going to Florida for the March Break.
-John Neville and Kevin Gauthier are running for Executive positions again.
-Vince Mulligan's Intramurals are running well this year.
-David "Moose" Cameron is on the injured list for the rest of the season.
-Panther Hockey and Basketball teams will make the play-offs.
-Student Union election nominations have already opened.
-Last week's Band, Bop Sho Bop Revue, was better than Liverpool.
-Sun photographer, Lee Donnelly took 1,900 photos during Carnival Week.
-The 'Ice Box' became the 'Snow Bin' during "The Great Blizzard" of Feb. 8.
-The Panther Hockey team is on the road this weekend against Acadia and St. Marys.
-Blanchard Hall students had to shovel the snow banks that were found INSIDE the Building during The Great Blizzard.
-Memorial Hall may lay idle for yet another year.
-CIMN has been challenged by CHTN in next week's "Bowl for Millions" for Big Brothers.
-"Rumor Hath it That...." is a true column, written by students from different parts of campus.

Sunday Night Movie

Is anything worth the terror of

THE DEEP



A Columbia/EMI Presentation · The Casablanca FilmWorks Production · A Peter Yates Film
 ROBERT SHAW · JACQUELINE BISSET · NICK NOLTE
 "THE DEEP" · LOUIS GOSSETT and ELI WALLACH
 Based on the novel by Peter Benchley · Screenplay by Peter Benchley and Tracy Keenan Wynn
 Produced by Peter Guber · Directed by Peter Yates · Music by John Barry

COLOR/SCOPE123 MIN.

note; two shows 7&9
 adm. \$ 1.50
 in Duffy