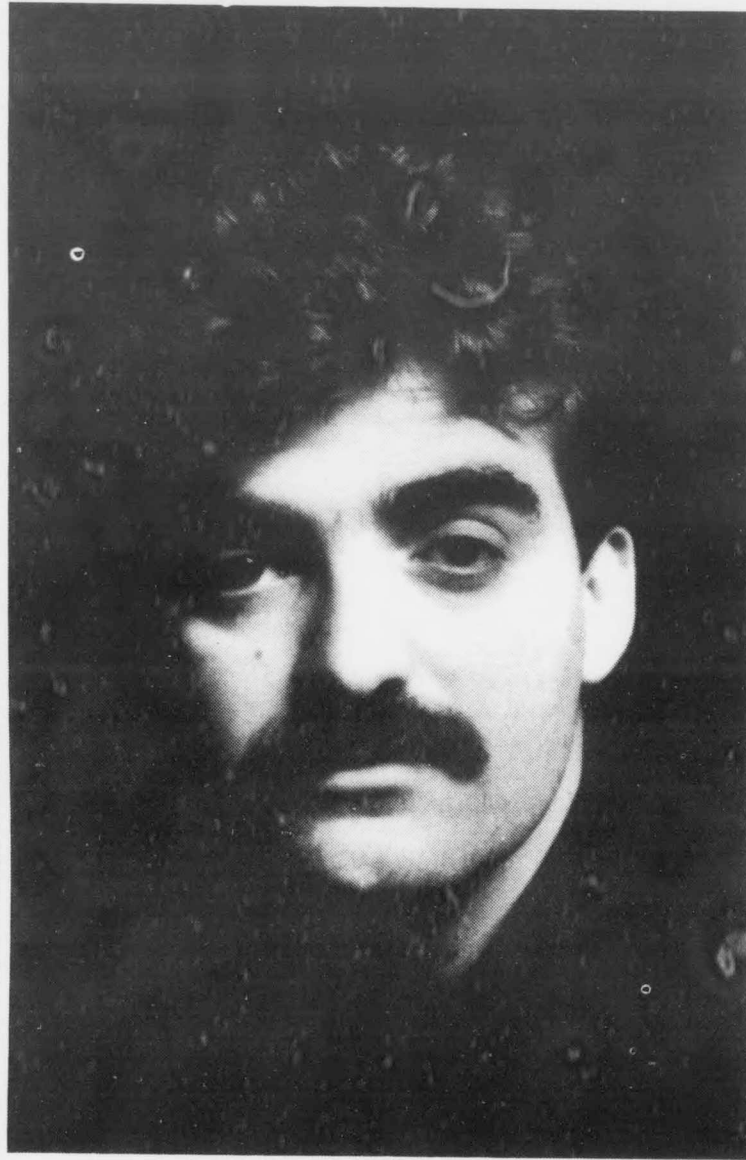


Nino Ricci to visit campus



by Lilith

Despite the fact that everyone I mentioned him to confused him with the perfume manufacturer, I knew who Nino Ricci was and was excited that he was coming to campus to read from the follow-up to his 1991 Governor General's Award winning novel *Lives of the Saints*. Ricci is currently in the polishing stage of the writing of the second installment of a projected trilogy, to be published this fall by Cormorant Books under the title *In a Glass House*. Ricci's visit to U.N.B. as part of the English Department's reading series is part of an extensive university tour through the Maritimes. As Ricci's schedule while in Fredericton is extremely tight, I interviewed him

from his home in Toronto (which will be featured in next weeks *Brunswick*...because we have to save something for the week when practically nothing is going on).

Ricci wrote *Lives of the Saints* as his thesis for the M.A. in Creative writing at Concordia Univer-

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sity in Montreal, and originally intended to deal with the relationship between a boy and his half sister. He discovered, however, in exploring their histories, that the character of their absent mother was intriguing enough to deserve a story of its own. The novel, as told from the perspective of a seven year old boy, follows the young Vittorio

Innocente and his mother from the village of Valle del Sole to Canada, to join the long emigrated father. Vittorio is caught in between the his mother, who leaves him very much innocent as to the cause of the swelling of her belly (attributing it to a snake bite) and the villagers who condemn her as an adulteress.

One of the most striking aspects of Ricci's work is his close attention to local detail, as the rural setting of *Lives of the Saints* is convincingly brought to life. Although Ricci was born in Leamington Ontario, Ricci constructed his portrait of rural post-WWII Italy from the tales of his parents, who hailed from the Molise region of Italy described in the novel; several visits to Italy over a period of years and, in the respect of drawing on the dynamics of a village culture, his experiences as an English teacher in Nigeria, following the completion of his undergraduate degree.

The nearly completed *In a Glass House* picks up the story of Vittorio and his sister once they reach Canada and focuses on their relationship with Vittorio's father. Ricci will be featuring sections of this novel, as well as from *Lives of the Saints*, in the reading, which is to be held on February 23 at 4:30pm in Memorial Hall (no admission charge- everyone welcome). For more information contact the Department of English at 453-4676. Tune in next week for the interview....

Heal The Planet Concert

A group of fourth year Social Work students are in the process of evaluating local interest of various groups who may want to participate in a local Heal the Planet Concert in late March, 1993.

The theme and focus of this concert will be directed towards consciousness-raising and imparting information to the community concerning the various issues that are affecting our planet from a political, social, and environmental perspective.

Our committee has a vision of welcoming various community groups and artists to come together as part of this concert, to tell their views of our current situation, as well as offering alternative visions. The concert format will consist of verbal, musical or artistic presentations. Each group will be invited to participate according to their particular interests. For example:

1. Verbal presentations will consist of a 5-10 minute overview of current issues rel-

evant to your particular group, a vision for change, or poetic verse.

2. As well, we welcome local schools to participate on an artistic/project level and are interested in discussing this aspect further.

3. Local musicians are encouraged to submit an audition tape of three selections they wish to perform containing music that reflects any of the above themes. Both personal composition or renditions are welcomed. The maximum performance time will be 15 minutes.

If you feel your group may be interested in contributing to this project, please forward information concerning your group to the address above by the 25th of February. If you have further questions, feel free to contact either myself at 455-8133 or Brenda Gustaven at 454-7090. We look forward to hearing from you and working together in an effort to promote a new Heal The Planet social vision.

Attention Vaughn Blaney!!!

Whereas the McKenna government has said that Education is a "top priority" and has spent over a quarter of a million of tax payers dollars on a commission to study "excellence in education;"

Whereas 46.1% of UNB students relied upon a Canada Student Loan to help cover the costs of their education and 29.8% of UNB students also received a NB Bursary last year;

Whereas the New Brunswick Minister of Advanced Education and Labour, Vaughn Blaney, has revealed his governments intention to eliminate the NB Bursary program and replace it with a loans program;

I, the undersigned, call upon the government of the Province of New Brunswick to preserve and enhance the New Brunswick Bursary Program for students and supplement the Canada Student Loan Program to more accurately reflect the actual costs of attaining a post secondary education.

Sincerely,

Mail to: Vaughn Blaney
Minister of Advanced Education and Labour
P.O. Box 6000
Fredericton, N.B.
E3B 5H1

If you cannot afford a stamp, please drop this off at the Brunswickan, room 35 of the SUB, and we will deliver it for you.