

The Woodshed: An entertainment alternative

by Kaye MacPhee
Entertainment Editor

The Woodshed Coffeehouse begins its 1985-85 season today at 11:30 a.m., and will remain open until 2:00 p.m.

Take heart, students; the doors reopen at 8 p.m., and this Friday and Saturday nights you will be treated to the sweetest sounds you're apt to hear — the Constantine Brothers.

Ed and Walter have been the mainstay of UNB's entertainment scene for the past couple of seasons and once you hear them, you will understand why. From 8:30 to 11:30 tonight and tomorrow night you will be able to enjoy their music in the comfort of the friendly environs of the Woodshed, free of charge.

Coming up in the near future in the line of weekend entertainment, the Woodshed will be presenting Jaimie Newsom and his six-piece jazz band; Ian Sedgewich, an accomplished pianist whose taste ranges from contemporary to jazz; and Andrew Bartlett, a

well-known local guitarist whose musical range is eclectic enough to satisfy anyone's taste. Once again, no cover charge will be levied for any of these events.

On Thursdays, the Woodshed will have its 'open stage' format. Any student from either UNB-F or STU is welcome to use the sound system and stage of the Woodshed. This policy of providing a forum for students to "come and play" is one of long standing, and in the past few years many students have gladly taken advantage of the opportunity.

Another plus this year is the expanded product line. As in the past, you can buy a wide variety of coffee and tea blends, as well as muffins. However, in addition to that fare will be a variety of doughnuts and cookies from Dunsters, croissants from Cafe Croissant, and Perrier water.

Under the guiding hand of Gregg Felix, the Woodshed's new manager, the 1985-86 season promises to be one of the best ever. He sees the Woodshed as a multipurpose facility

which provides a non-alcoholic alternative for students of both campuses.

The Woodshed also provides its facilities for special events for university clubs and organizations such as the Status of Women Committee, the Business Society, PALE (Peer Alcohol), STU Variety Shows, as well as others.

Another positive aspect of the Woodshed is that it provides student employment opportunities — all of its employees are students. None of this would be possible, of course, without the sponsorship of the College Hill Social Club. The Social Club, as part of an ongoing policy, has pledged to provide alternative social activities for the student population; thus it now financially and managerially totally supports the Woodshed.

In brief, for refreshments, relaxed study, local entertainment, and special non-alcoholic events, the Woodshed Coffeehouse is open seven nights a week from 8 to 12 and Monday through Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.



Photo credit: Sandy Rabasse

Garrison's Garage: A Must See Comedy

by Diane S. Burt

Students are invited to attend the preview of TNB's production of "Garrison's Garage" on Friday, October 4 at 8 p.m. Tickets for the preview are only five dollars for students with I.D. The author, Ted Johns, describes his play as "a comedy about fixing cars and religion and money and romance."

"Garrison's Garage" looks at

inger, the old tyrant who owns the garage. Garrison's daughter, Lorna, is played by Marianne Melsaac. In the play, Garrison says, "Lorna ain't no ditz — Lorna's smart. She's passed all kinds of exams that leave you bug-eyed."

Frank, the irritable mechanic, is played by Robert King. David Fox is Blair, the religious tax auditor. He previously did a one-man show in Montreal called "Gone the Burning Sun" by Ken Mitchell.

Bert, the unassuming town councillor, is played by Ron Gabriel. Robert King and Ron Gabriel will be remembered by theatre-goers for their memorable performances in the TNB production of "Country Hearts."

Ted Johns taught English and Psychology at Brock University in Ontario for four years. He has written five or six plays, mostly comedies, which he describes as "sort of hard to write." He co-wrote "Country Hearts" with John Roby. He enjoys acting more than writing and has been in a number of plays and television shows.

Growing up on a dairy farm in Southern Ontario has given Johns a realistic outlook on life. He writes about "ordinary people who find themselves in extraordinary situations, if there is such a thing as an ordinary person, and vice versa — extraordinary people in ordinary situations, which is what happens to Blair (the taxman in "Garrison's Garage")."

"Garrison's Garage", according to the author, is a closely integrated short comedy which will appeal to students; he urges them to attend the preview on Friday evening.



two of life's inevitable problems — taxes and car repairs. Set in a typical small-town garage, the play takes a large swipe at Revenue Canada." Ted Johns says he got the idea for the story from complaints and stories about Revenue Canada, which he heard when he sat in on various hearings. He believes that the taxation department is very powerful. "There are more people in Revenue Canada than there are in the Canadian Forces," he said, in a recent interview.

There are five characters in the play. Ted Johns, the author, is also an actor and plays the part of Garrison Spr-

Cosby: A positive approach

by KAYE MacPHEE
Entertainment Editor

Finally!

A television series that depicts an all black family in a way that is refreshingly devoid of negative connotations and or stereotypes.

For instance, the Huxtable family does not live in a house adjacent to a junkyard (*Sanford and Son*); nor does it have the autocratic, egotistical image of a George Jefferson who "moved on up" to the middle class (*The Jeffersons*).

To further add to a positive image of blacks, the Huxtables are an upper-middle class family; Dad's an M.D., Mom's a lawyer. The 'role reversal' here as far as occupations are concerned is a nice touch. The male obstetrician is in the nurturing profession while the mother is in the traditionally male-dominated 'dog-eat-dog' world of law.

Prior to *The Cosby Show*, the only way a black child could be a member of the social strata to which the Huxtables belong was if they were adopted (*Different Strokes*); or under the guardianship (*Webster*) of white folks.

In short, the American TV networks were sending out a message that was loud and

clear; in order to be financially 'comfortable' one must be white. The implications are obviously racist. The damage done, however, was not only to the collective black psyche.



No. Sadly another generation of white youths have grown up believing the negative stereotypical myths that have been perpetuated by the networks.

Back in the late 50's and early 60's the first series featuring blacks was *Amos and Andy*. By the standards of even that time, one found the show shocking in that the majority of the black men were characterized as being stupid and or lazy. That show should not have been aired then, and thankfully, would not be aired today. However, it was a

breakthrough in the sense that blacks could 'get a series.'

It took a long time to overcome the barriers, and there were many, but strides have been made. We have now evolved to the point where we have a series such as *The Cosby Show*.

The producers of this series are careful to maintain a certain degree of credibility. The individual situations which arise must be done in such a way so that the viewers can identify with them. I must point out, however, that in no way do I see *The Cosby Show* as an accurate portrayal of family life; but then this is a comedy show.

The point is that it is gratifying to see blacks portrayed in a series that is without the negative stereotypes, nor has it fallen prey to the trend of taking cheap shots at WASPS.

It is a cerebral comedy that we can all identify with, but then that has always been Cosby's forté. Entering its second season, undoubtedly destined to be among the top in the Nielsen ratings, this writer is confident that the Cosby genre will be continued.

And maybe, just maybe, this generation of youngsters, regardless of hue, will be better off.