

Creative Writing Class Presents Radio Plays

By PAM SAUNDERS

"Wise men speak, fools write their thoughts." Such is the motto emblazoned on shirts worn by members of Kent Thompson's English 3100, Creative Writing and Practical Criticism. To complete the costume are white construction helmets with UNB crests, indicating the "constructive criticism" pursued by the group. Already it must be obvious that this is not the average university course, but is something quite different. Ten students participate in English 3100, meeting every week with Prof. Thompson in McCord Hall, a tiny building close to the Old Arts Building.

As one member of the class stated, it is "a true seminar class," operating on the workshop principle. Exercises in the different genres are undertaken by each student, and then are criticized by the group. The principle of the course is, as Thompson remarked, to "learn to write by making mistakes" and "to teach one another."

Although one student stated "at first no one said anything," that is certainly not a problem in the class now. A real sense of group spirit is noticeable and the atmosphere is relaxed and informal.

Although last year's class was interested in novel writing, according to Thompson, this year, the students are more intrigued by drama. Their final project is a series of twelve plays they have written, which will be broadcast during March on CHSR. This includes drama, romantic plays, horror, musical-comedy, situation comedy, and even a morality play. As one student remarked, "We do have our moral side."

The group encourages response to their broadcast, either criticism, or course constructive criticism, or better yet praise. Meanwhile, in the words of a member of English 3100, "The search for the perfect semi-colon" goes on.

By PHILIP SEXSMITH

Radio 3100 is a special production of CHSR that will broadcast throughout March. For an hour each week students have the opportunity to listen to performances of original radio plays. These plays were all written, directed, and often acted by the students of English 3100 (Creative Writing and Practical Criticism).

Radio is a unique medium. A writer can create almost any kind of scene or situation imaginable. Radio 3100 does this most effectively, leading its audience through exotic, and often absurd situations. From the highlands of Cape Breton to Charlamagne's court at Aachen, Radio 3100 is the best way to travel.

Despite radio's many advantages there are also some problems in this medium. One difficulty is to imply action in a radio-play. Television is a visual medium. We can see a car go over the cliff, as the camera describes the scene for us. Yet for radio, only sound and the observations of a character can project this image to an audience.

Sound effects were our one big nightmare. Our first attempt at taping a radio play was in the tradition of the old live radio shows of the 1940's. While we tried to concentrate on our own scripts we also tried to do our own sound effects. This led to a variety of problems. Our biggest problem was footsteps. Footsteps are very easy to write into a script, but they are nearly impossible to do. Our early attempts at footsteps made everyone sound like a drunken sailor with a peg-leg. Needless to say we gradually let the footsteps and a variety of other sound



Students At Work Members of English 3100, l. to r. Valerie Birch, Penelope Van Dine, Philip Sexsmith, Prof. Thompson, Linda Stewart, Peter Spacek, Shirley-Dale Easley, Ephie Carrier, Brent White

effects be inferred by our dialogue.

Despite our many failings in the area of sound effects we did have a few successes. On one play, there is a scene where the waitress counts out money to a nervous robber. Radio provides a unique type of humour through sound and imagination that television would only destroy.

On the re.'m of horror stories (and we have several) radio is supreme. Our imagination creates vivid mental pictures more terrifying than any projected on a

movie screen. A howling wind and a creaking door heard over radio says in a moment what several hundred feet of film might project. Radio 3100 promises all the violence and horror of television, but we do it with taste!

Our professor Kent Thompson laid down only one rule for writing plays for Radio 3100: "there can be no narrator". There will be no person to tell the audience that Brent White's play takes place in Regina, Saskatchewan, and that Mrs. Smith is talking to her husband about his drinking

problem. The situation is established through the characters. The characters are then established through dialogue.

Radio 3100 is the product of many hours of hard work. Not only by the members of English 3100, but by people like Vaughn Fulford, the CHSR staff, and the many actors and actresses who helped in the production of our show. We hope that you have the opportunity to listen to our show. Please cut out the schedule and put it by your radio. Good listening!

Radio Play Schedule

ON CAMPUS ACCOMMODATION
1979-1980

Applications for Residence Accommodation for the academic year 1979-80 are now being received.

Forms are available from the Men's Residence Office on campus.

For information, drop in, call 453-4858, or write.

Dean of Men's Residences
University of New Brunswick
P.O. Box 4400
Fredericton, New Brunswick
E3B 5A3

<p>"INSANITY INCORPORATED" By Philip Sexsmith</p> <p>"HENRY GOES DISCO" By Philip Sexsmith</p> <p>"ON HIS OWN" By Philip Sexsmith (I)</p> <p>"ON HIS OWN" By Philip Sexsmith (II)</p> <p>Tuesday March 15 8:00 pm.</p>	<p>"I'LL DRINK TO THAT" By Peter Spacer</p> <p>"TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME" By Brent White</p> <p>"THE MONK" By Philip Sexsmith</p> <p>"THE GREAT CAPE BRETON AIR DISASTER" By Shirley-Dale Easley</p> <p>Tuesday March 22 8:00 pm.</p>	<p>"REMEMBERING" By Philip Sexsmith</p> <p>"THE MORNING AFTER" By Brent White</p> <p>"THE BREADWINNER" By Valerie Birch</p> <p>"A GOTHIC HORROR" By Linda Stewart</p> <p>"HOW YA GONNA KEEP HER DOWN ON THE FARM" By Philip Sexsmith</p> <p>Tuesday March 29 8:00 pm.</p>
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Outrageous Craig Russell

Craig Russell, Canada's internationally acclaimed female impersonator and star of the award winning film, **OUTRAGEOUS**, is coming to the Playhouse on Sunday, March 11.

Mr. Russell's exciting and unusual act presents his very personal impressions of the great stars of the twentieth century, including Mae West, Carol

Channing, Barbra Streisand, Marilyn Monroe, Tallulah Bankhead, Marlene Dietrich, Judy Garland and Anita Bryant.

Mr. Russell received "the best actor" award at the Cannes Film Festival in 1977 for his performance in the film **OUTRAGEOUS**, in which he portrayed a hairdresser whose life's ambition is to be a female impersonator. **OUTRA-**

GEOUS was the first Canadian Film to win the coveted "best picture" award at Cannes.

Performances are at 7:00 p.m. and 9:30 p.m., March 11. Ticket prices are \$7, \$8, \$12 (first two rows). Theatre New Brunswick subscribers will receive a \$1.00 discount. For reservations come to the Playhouse or call between 12:00 noon and 5:00 p.m.