

# DANNY'S PIZZA PAN

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## CAMPUS ACTIVITIES

### WHAT'S HAPPENING

#### Grawood Coffee House

Live entertainment. Snacks.  
Sunday. 8-11 p.m. Come on over.

#### Monday Mindpower

Jazz Dance Demonstration  
Nobn. Green Room. Free.

#### Grawood Movies

"French Lieutenant's Woman"  
Tuesday. 8 p.m.  
"For Your Eyes Only"  
Wednesday. 8 p.m.

#### Live from the Grawood:

"The Aviators"  
Thursday - Saturday

#### T.G.I.F. Cinema

"A Sense of Family"  
and  
"Bamboo Lions & Dragons"  
Rm. 100. 3 p.m. FREE.

# Lost Salt Gift successfully portrays MacLeod

by Frank McGinn and Michelle Maynes

Maritimers lined up last week to see *The Lost Salt Gift of Blood* at the Dunn Theatre. The play is an adaptation of Nova Scotia writer Alistair MacLeod's short stories brought to us by The Mulgrave Road Theatre Company. The popularity of this production is justified by the quality of the stories themselves and by the way the actors handled the material.

The play features a sequence of MacLeod's stories set in Cape Breton dealing with the lives of the families of miners and fishermen. In "The Vastness of the Dark" a boy rises on his eighteenth birthday determined that today he shall leave his home forever. He is worried that the news will hurt his parents but the knowledge of the drugery and danger of a coal miners life solidifies his decision to leave the one industry town. The father does not want to lose his son but does not want him to follow in his footsteps in the darkness of the mine. The boy leaves.

MacLeod's story successfully manages to isolate the separate pains of the encounter. The boy's guilty pain provides the story's momentum but the just-beginning-to-register pain of his parents provides the climax. MacLeod's other stories feature the same painstaking attention to painful detail. Sometimes it's the pain of leaving home, sometimes it's the pain of remaining. And sometimes it's just the pain of living a hard life as best you can. In all cases, we are shown the power family members wield over one another, and how often they are powerless to control it.

In their adaptation from another medium, The Mulgrave Road Theatre and MacLeod have taken a calculated gamble. The stories are not turned into the conventional dramatic scenes we expect from a play. Instead they are simply recited and mimed. The company is betting that their reading of MacLeod's words will create an

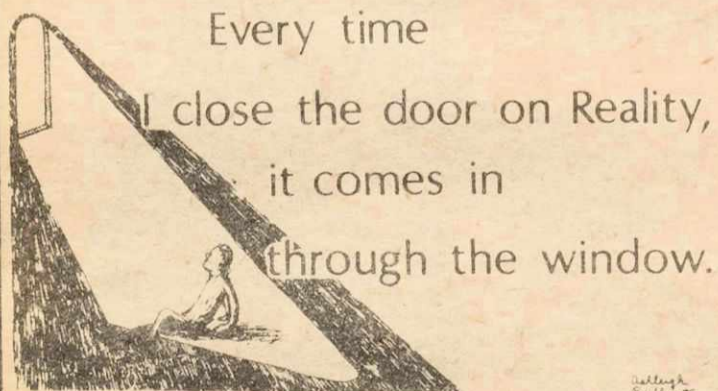


evening of rich theatre. As it happens, it works.

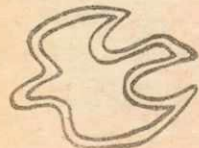
The first act is where the skill of the actors and the endurance of the audience are most severely tested. It is a collage of random fragments from several of the tales. Most of the pieces are recited by a single actor. The technique is called narrative theatre but to all intents and purposes, they're monologues. And monologues are the most demanding form of acting. Fortunately, each the four cast members seem to be of holding the stage. Some enjoyable parts include John Dart's performance in "The Vastness of the Dark" and Sinclair's reading of the teenage who is afraid to stay at the tavern afraid to come home. But there seem to be any bad moments at all.

Even so, the first act pushes about as far as they'll go. The act settles down to tell one story, "The Boat". The technique is simple but there is one main narrator and others act out his words. Seeing the characters represented adds greater to the play, after the abstractions of the first half. And it's enjoyable to one of MacLeod's moving stories beginning to end. For these reasons and because the story was particularly universal, the second part is ultimately more enjoyable than the first.

*The Lost Salt Gift of Blood* is by Hans Boggild, with original by Ronald MacEachern. It's touring 23 communities in three provinces, all of which it will be wildly Maritimers are like anybody else. They love seeing themselves on stage.



...Maybe its time to come in and meet the campus chaplains

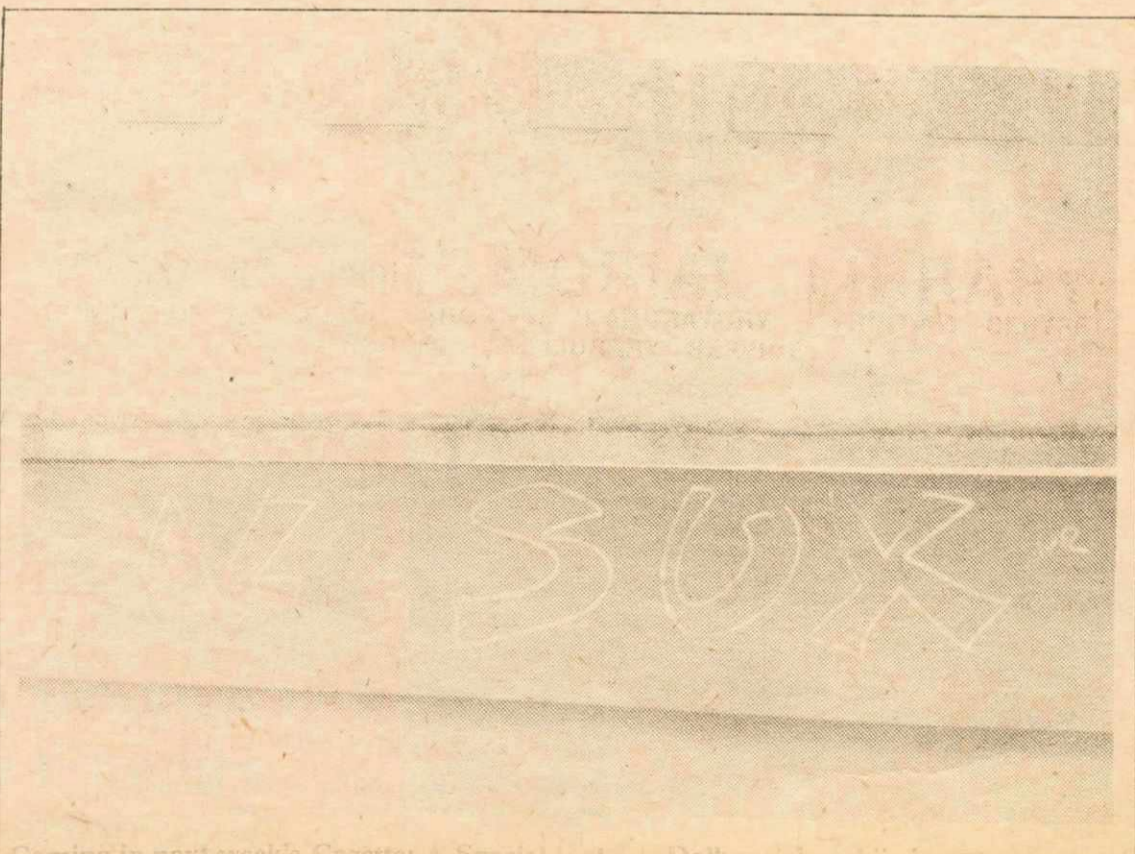


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Priest/Dal Photo



Coming in next week's Gazette: A Special look at Dalhousie's public image