

television guide and entertainment supplement

Man Goes Machine

by Tom Clahane

George Segal is the Terminal Man, the major figure in new semi-sci-fi feature that is currently at the Paramount. Before I get into the review too deeply let me say this. It is a definite pleasure to see a movie as well done as this was, and after the mediocre crap that's been in this city allsummer (with the exception of the Sting which was great but made a near permanent home of Oxford) it is a surprise to actually enjoy a movie. I have had a personal prejudice against Segal ever since I saw what I found to be one of the worst movies of my life "A Touch Of Class", and as anyone who knows me will testify, my personal prejudices are shaken only by monumental occurrences.

The Terminal Man is based on a fine novel of Michael Crichton and unlike most adapted from novels type movies they didn't really massacre it. It was both produced and directed by Mike Rodgers and he does a formidable job of it.



I haven't been so impressed with a science fiction movie in ages, as a matter of fact,

not since "Westworld" with Yul Brynner, and even then it was probably the originality

of the idea, and not the overall picture. With the Terminal Man it's different, the whole thing from start to finish is incredibly well done. George Segal plays the part of the misfortunate Harry Benson so well that it overcame all my former bad impressions of his acting ability. The part is played perfectly, and amid the second rate performances that I've seen in recent months this is a high compliment.

The plot runs along these lines. Harry Benson is a highly intelligent inventor in the field of computer science, but suffers from an acute fear that machines are eventually going to take over the world. After an unfortunate accident he begins to suffer from blackouts occurring spasmodically, but at a rapidly increasing rate. During these blackouts he becomes very violent, and attacks anyone around him. After a few of these blackouts, during one of which he attacks and injures his wife, he is divorced. There exists an operation

which has been successfully performed on animals through which a computer is implanted in the brain to control such behaviour misfunctions. Benson agrees to become the first human to undergo the operation, and for awhile it looks successful. The computer causes a tranquilizing effect in the area of the brain that is causing the problem, and the attack is avoided. Unfortunately, the brain grows to like the effects of the tranks and begins to malfunction at an increasing rate in order to satisfy it's desires, eventually overloading. At this point the brain is under continuous seizures and the tranquilizing effect is overrun, making Benson homicidal. The periods in which he is dangerous increase at an alarming rate, and he leaves a trail of dead bodies behind him. He must be stopped, the question is how. The movie is well worth seeing, and the overall effect on the viewer is one of increased skepticism of over zealous doctors.

LIVE, IN THE COHN!!

This year as part of Orientation '74 Dalhousie students had a chance to take in a concert by a relatively new Canadian band called Devotion. The concert took place last Thursday in the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium and the featured band played a style of music not often heard in Halifax.

Things got under way about fifteen minutes late but the concert was well worth any wait. Afterwards there were complaints of excessive volume but I feel these were due to lack of concert-going on the part of those in Halifax as well as the lack of

concerts.

Devotion is a six man group that has been around for about half a year. Three of the members were already known in the Canadian music field and the others should become well known in the near future because of their affiliation with Devotion. The three members that you may have heard of before are; Terry Hatty, who used to sing for Pepper Tree (remember them), Steve Laing and Lorne Nehring come from Mash-makan (a one hit band that put out two albums). Simon Stone, Peter Follett and Rich Blechta complete the lineup.

Devotion's is not a dance band by any stretch of the imagination, but is definitely a great concert band. Attendance at the concert was, unfortunately, very poor but that is the loss of those who did not attend.

Devotion's repertoire consists of music by the middle sized (five to seven members) classical influenced electric bands. The majority of their material comes from Yes, Genesis, King Crimson and Jethro Tull.

The concert was started with a near perfect rendition of "Watcher of the Skies", this they did note for note



Photo by Ken Lee

from "Genesis Live" and if I'd timed it the times would probably have been the same.

From here on I'm not sure of the order of songs but I remember what most of them were.

The Jethro Tull they used was "Thick as a Brick" on which I must say they did a great job. This is a fairly complicated piece to do, so a great deal of practice must have been put into it.

By Yes, the band did a couple of numbers, "Roundabout" and "I'VE Seen All Good People". On these numbers Devotion made use of poetic licence to