

Arts

Raunch and wretch - what's showing in Metro cinemas

by Michael McCarthy

Two movies largely concerned with sex are currently playing in Halifax. **Porky's** (Oxford) is one of the most outrageously funny movies I have ever seen, a sort of paean to the hilarious aspects of teenage behaviour and obsessions (i.e. sex and vulgar language). **Prison Girls** (Cove) is a soft-core pornography film featuring simulated sex and violence, meaning you hear sounds and see parts of naked bodies not actually involved in the particular acts represented.

Porky's follows a group of teenage friends at a southern U.S. high school. Their main activities are constantly playing embarrassing practical jokes on each other, and trying to get laid. It has something of the air of **American Graffiti**, if you can imagine the raunch and crudity level of that film raised (or lowered, if you prefer) about a hundredfold.

There are a few interesting statements about teenage life hidden among the jokes — comments on friendship,

racism, redneck stupidity, battered children, etc. These are very much subordinate to giving the audience a vicarious good time through watching the screen characters have one. And they certainly have lots of them.

The humour runs along the lines of: a guy who wears a condom underneath his pants on a first date; one who uses a growth chart to plot any changes in his penis size (and discovers it's getting shorter); a female teacher named Balbricker who wants a lineup of naked male students to catch the one with a mole on his penis, who shoved his organ through a hole in the female shower room wall. (Another teacher suggests an A.P.B. for "a prick, armed and dangerous, last seen hanging out at...") There are tricks played like switching a raw egg for a boiled one, getting a waitress to ask if anyone has "seen Mike Hunt" (say it quickly, and you'll understand), and sending a group of naked teenagers running into the woods in fear of what they

think is the murderous boyfriend of the prostitute they were lined up for.

The ultimate trick is the revenge they get on a redneck cathouse owner who has bilked the lads of some money, and sent one of them to a hospital. Much of the inspiration for the climactic scenes comes from **Graffiti** and other teen rebel flicks, i.e. police cars are sabotaged and then the police are taunted into giving chase. Nonetheless, it's always refreshing to a large section of moviegoers to see fun-loving teenagers make fools of the nasty, pig-headed cops who inhabit this type of film.

Certainly there are some difficulties with credibility in parts of the movie. Considering the constant flow of embarrassing and humiliating jokes pulled by the friends on one another, it's difficult to imagine them falling for another so easily, or remaining friends, for that matter. The demolition job the boys carry out on "Porky's" seems a bit complicated for simple teenagers. It's difficult to believe the

heroes have avoided jail for so long.

But after all, it's all in fun, and why worry about small things like credibility when you're having such a great time watching this raucously uproarious film. It makes **Animal House** look like *The Bobsey Twins Go To School*.

Not much can be said about **Prison Girls**. The most interesting thing about it is that it's in 3-D. The modern 3-D is much easier on the eyes, and the glasses are less dark. Unfortunately, the night I was there there were problems and half the image was out of frame with the other half, making it impossible to bring the picture into focus unless you closed one eye.

There is some added erotic effect to seeing copulation on swings which seem to come out of the screen, and parts of nude bodies stand out more. However, the absence of plot, of good acting, the sloppy film editing, sexism and two lamentable beating scenes cut down severely on any enjoyment one

might get from the bodies uncovered on the screen.

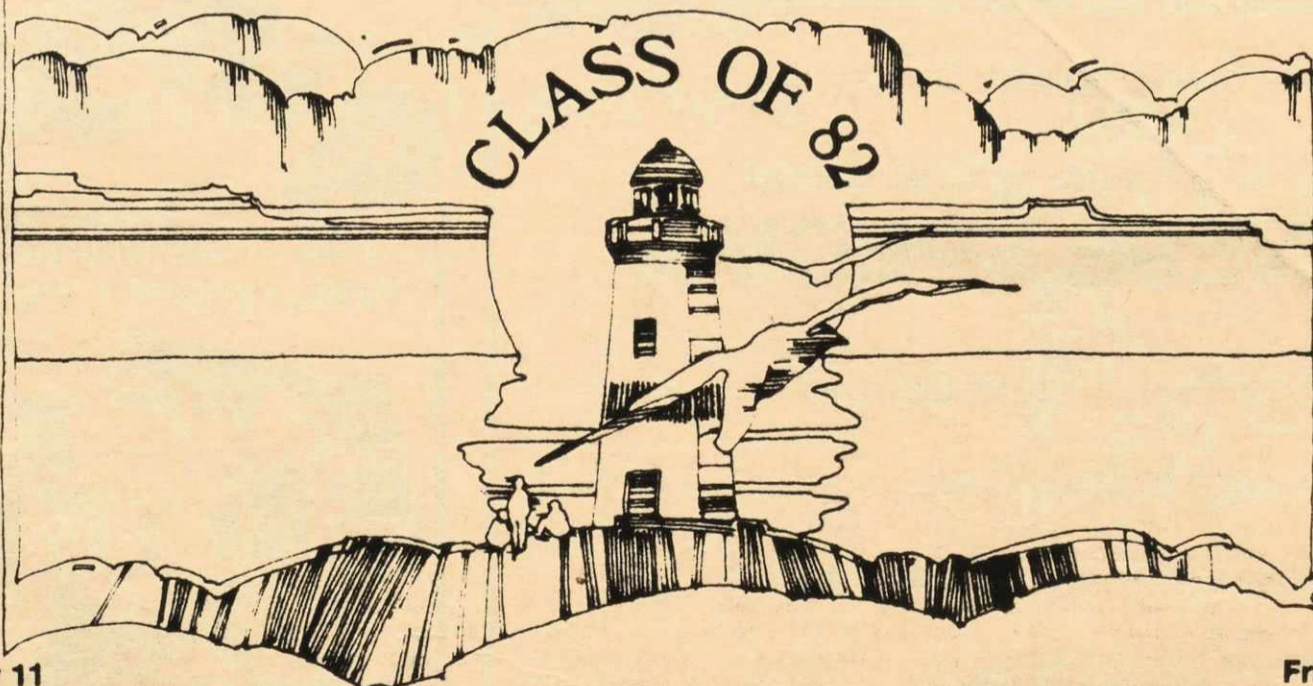
There is total female nudity in the film. The men are not displayed so completely, and none of them look like much anyway, so there would probably be little of interest for women in this movie. As well, the women are stereotypes, stupid, and two of them are grossly demeaned. There were, however, a sizeable number of women in the audience, about one-third of the eighty people attending the same show I did.

The title is misleading. The stories of six female convicts are told, but they have been given weekend passes to go outside and have sex. Anyone looking for descriptions of prison life is out of luck.

The Cove will likely continue to show 3-D films for a while (there are about a dozen in release this year). My advice is to pass up this one, and wait for **House of Wax**, which promises to be a thrilling three-dimensional experience (if you like horror flicks, of course).

GRADUATION WEEK

With a Little Help From My Friends



Tuesday, May 11

A.M.

10:00 a.m. - Tree Planting

10:30 a.m. - Reception at President's House

P.M.

7:00 p.m. - Pub Crawl

Wednesday, May 12

A.M.

- Dentistry and Dental Hygiene Convocation

P.M.

1:00 p.m. to - Barbeque

4:00 p.m. and - Boat Tours

7:00 p.m. - Pub Night

Thursday, May 13

A.M.

- Administrative Studies Convocation

P.M.

- Health Professions Convocation

- Reception Shirreff Hall for graduates

7:45 p.m. - Grad Night in the Grawood with Terry Kelly

Friday, May 14

A.M.

10:00 a.m. - Baccalaureate Service (Green Room)

11:00 a.m. - Reception to follow in Green Room

P.M.

- Arts and Science Convocation

- Reception in Shirreff

10:30 p.m. - Grad Ball with John Alphonse's Big Band

2:00 a.m. - Brunch