

# Never is heard a discouraging word

**The Deer and the Antelope Play**  
by Paul Gross  
Drama Department and Theatre Network  
at Studio Theatre until April 2

by Dave Cox

Paul Gross' *The Deer and the Antelope Play*, showing now at Studio Theatre, is an all-round professional production.

The play is about the dreadful power of the prairie geography and life in the badlands to warp people's psyches.

Francis Damberger plays Jimmy, the youth who has been scarred by his father Woody's action. He has apparently lost confidence in and respect for Woody because of some strange incidents. Damberger's performance is very good in a complex and challenging role.

It is even uncertain whether Woody really is Jimmy's father, from unusual remarks made by other characters. Peter MacNeill as Woody has just the right facade of hardened self-reliant toughness which is cracking to reveal a flawed, weak interior.

Woody plays off well against C.C., who is both a rival and an alter ego for him. Graham McPherson as C.C. is rather like the essential hoser, a real Canadian redneck.

Jimmy's mother Mary, played by Elan Ross Gibson, is a central character, but with a rather bizarre role. She protects Jimmy, but stifles him to the point where he attacks her; she is a mother but also a sexual being (she tries to seduce C.C., she even tries to "cure" Jimmy's psychological and sexual disorders by offering her body to him). Gibson plays this integral multifaceted character's personality with the right degree of feeling.

The show's production was also enhanced by a wonderful, menacing set. It's bleakness underlined the starkness of the work.

Paul Gross' writing is rich and symbolic. I look forward to seeing more of his work.

Catch this strange, mythical play before it leaves.

# Local Hero confused

by Richard Watts

This movie is a strange one, believe me. It is one of those movies where you come out of it saying "Huh, what the hell was that all about?"

The story line is an old one; Great big, multi-national, conglomerate-type oil company wants to buy all the land surrounding this little fishing village in the north of Scotland. Two representatives from the oil company, an American and a Scot, go out to this "enchanted little place" to clinch the deal and begin to question whether the oil company is doing "the right thing."

And as usual with these stories there is one eccentric old man who owns a crucial piece of real estate, the beach, and doesn't want to sell it, not for tons and tons of money and even a new beach thrown in.

There are all kinds of symbolic little scenes to make you realize that the two b-y-m (bright young men) from the oil company are falling under the spell

The American who has got a watch set to bleep at regular intervals goes wading leaving his watch on a rock. The tide comes in and washes over the watch as it plaintively bleeps it's last bleep.

The Scotsman takes to hanging around the beach waiting for the beautiful marine biologist to show up. She just sort of comes out of the water, does some marine biology type stuff, talks to the Scotsman and then swims away out to sea.

The humor in the movie is gentle and raises no belly laughs. Most of the giggles come from basically incongruous situations; a freaked out punk rocker in the middle of this simple little town, or a Russian sailor singing a Country and Western tune while the little old Scot ladies surrounding him weep.

Burt Lancaster plays an eccentric millionaire who gets off on watching the stars through a telescope more than he does on being stinking rich and turns in a fairly believable performance.

In fact, that just about sums up the movie; it's not great, in fact, it falls kind of flat. There are too many characters and little sub-plots which just aren't developed enough.

There is this Russian sailor, full of bonhomie who turns up to discuss his finances with the town's accountant but has nothing to do with the story. There's the mermaid (the girl with the webbed toes), where does she fit in? All you know is that the Scotsman runs down to the beach to wait for her to come out of the sea. Burt Lancaster's preoccupation with the stars does have some bearing on the plot, but it's not explored enough to register as more than a hobbyist's quaint obsession.

But there are some nice shots of the Scottish countryside, and the movie doesn't offend, it just doesn't do much of anything at all.



photo Ray Ciguere

O.K., I'll write this just the way Larry told me. This is Secret Society. They're appearing at Dinwoodie Thursday. From right to left (the only way to go) they are Tim Compagna, 18, and Warren Schacher, 20 (guitars, vocals and songwriting), Vlado Forgas, 21 (drums) and Larry Compagna, 22 (bass). Right now, they are recording a demo at Sundown. They are in the process of choosing a producer from among Wes Dakus from Sundown; Rick Ericson from Damon; Ron Vaugeois, lead singer for One Horse Blue (who produced Darkroom's E.P.); and Peter Bodman, lead singer for the Models (working as a consultant for Secret Society). They are the youngest band actively playing local nightclubs, and have been together for one year. The band started performing professionally under Dave Beck at Artist Management in October and by January had broken into the nightclub circuit. Their live material is mainly sixties music and new music; their chief influences have been the Rolling Stones, the Beatles and the Clash. An E.P. will be recorded in June, probably on Veracruz, and distributed by a major label. Released in August, it will be a 4-song, 15-inch E.P. Secret Society has broken away from exclusive representation by Artist Management. Larry acts as the group's manager.

## LOCAL HERO

A beautiful coastline...  
A rich oil man wants to develop it.  
A poor beach bum wants to live on it.  
An entire town wants to profit by it.  
A real-live mermaid wants to save it...  
And only one of them will get their way.

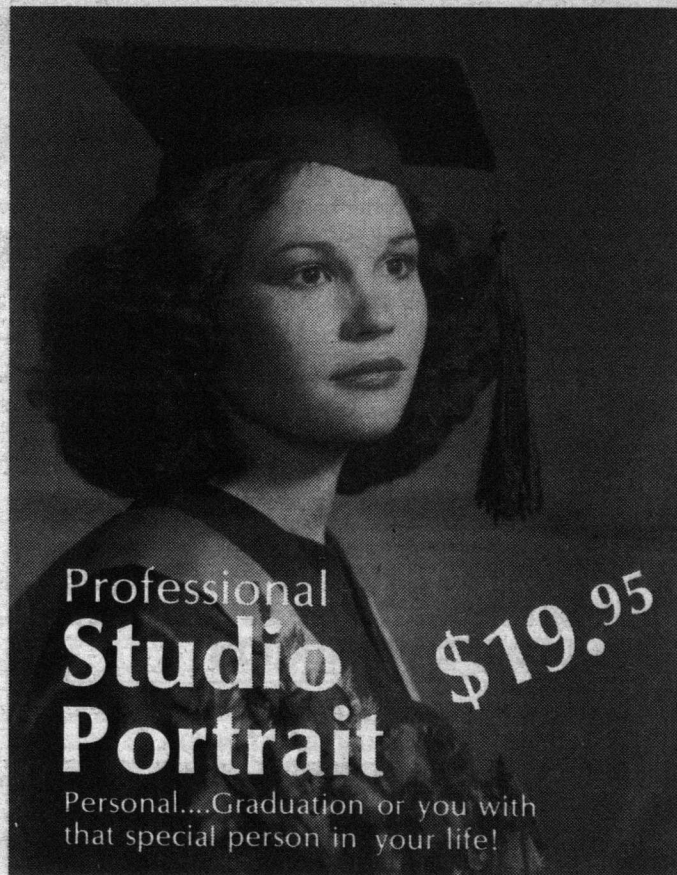


"LOCAL HERO"  
An Enigma Production for Goldcrest  
PETER RIEGERT • DENIS LAWSON • FULTON MACKAY and BURT LANCASTER  
Music by MARK KNOPFLER • Produced by DAVID PUTTNAM  
Written and Directed by BILL FORSYTH

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