

EDITORIAL

THE CREATIVE JUICES ARE FLOWING HERE

by Kwame Dawes

Many of the people I have met in Fredericton constantly complain about the dearth of diverse and fresh artistic expression in the city. True, there are not as many live theatres as there are in some of the larger cities; the clubs are all very similar in orientation and few of them are able to or interested in attracting international acts. The clubs are not worried since people still crowd the premises on weekend for a dose of tried and proven entertainment. But occasionally, there are sparks of inspiration and in a given month it becomes clear that there is a lot going on in the city.

Consider, for instance, the coming month. Apart from the regular Hollywood flicks at the Plaza and Nashwaksis Cinemas, the UNB Film Society hosts a number of interesting "Art" films which are sometimes not even available on video. Their fare includes very old classic films and low budget films that are not in the mainstream of the film business. These films are usually easy to acquire and not too expensive. Each weekend on Fridays and Saturdays, the films are shown on campus. On Wednesdays the Student Union shows some of the bigger Hollywood films that you may have missed a few months ago. The cost is minimal. The shows are of a high calibre. On Mondays a revitalized Capitol Film Co-op presents more current alternative films at L'Ecole Ste. Anne. The selections are invariably excellent and promise thoughtful entertainment for viewers. The films are more up to date than the films put on by the film society and the venue for viewing is comfortable and pleasant.

The theatre is also quite active. UNB's season continues with a Eugene O'Neil classic while the St. Thomas University Drama Society stages the massive musical "Hair". At UNB rehearsals are going full force for *The Crucible* directed by Judith Thompson and *Zootrozi*, directed by graduate student Linda McNutt. These two productions are student shows and reflect a positive interest in theatre on the part of students here. In mid-February the annual storyfest - a Festival of story-telling will be held in Fredericton. The calibre of speakers along with the promise of a culturally rich experience make this event one that we can look forward to. At the Playhouse, rehearsals for the young company's production will get underway soon. The theme is the demise of Via Rail. This also promises to bring dynamic theatre to the region.

UNB's Winter Carnival is underway now. The arsenal of musical talent and dynamism is extremely promising. Couple this event with the plethora of international cultural nights that will bring life and energy to the Student Union Building and the Marshall d'Avray Hall virtually every week in February and March. We will realize that the weekends do not have to be boring and lonely.

There are currently several interesting projects in film going on in the city as well. The Film Co-op has at least three new films on-line for release in the next few months while shooting for other projects will soon get underway. The Co-op is hosting a film-makers series in which workshops on all aspects of the art of film-making will be given. Playwrights are meeting regularly at the Playhouse and in Gallery Connexion to read scripts and to share ideas on writing. I have been to a few of these and the promise of good original material in Fredericton is great.

The D'Avray noon-time series of classical and folk offerings continues each week while the Creative Arts Centre at UNB continues to present talented and experienced artists whose work deserves attention. The Centre is also organizing a Creative Arts Contest in which students can win awards for writing, music and fine art (i.e. painting, sculpting etc). Thus the creative among us have an outlet for their talents.

Bands continue to work in Fredericton. I read an article in the Aquinian this week about local bands like the Druids, The Vogons, Exploding Meat etc, who continue to keep the flame burning in alternative music. There are other bands like the reggae act Ujamma whose growth as an alternative sound in Fredericton is exciting to see. R & B bands like the Frank Davies troupe are still extant and looking for work.

The point is, while I have not listed all the existing entertainment outlets in Fredericton, the list I have presented is formidable for a city of this size. Things do happen in this town and we only need to keep our ears pricked, we would be surprised. There is a time for complaining and moaning about the boredom in this city but there is also a time to sit back and note that things are happening. Let's keep the juices flowing.

In six months, a leaky toilet wastes 108,000 litres of water. How can you find a leak in your toilet? Put some dye in the tank - if colour shows up in the bowl without a flush, you've got a leak.

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