

arts & entertainment

Devouring some Money and Friends

by Suzanne DeVenne

Those of you with a palate for sarcasm will absolutely devour this play.

Money and Friends
Neptune Theatre

Nicole Lipman (well-known for her previous work at the Neptune in "Shirley Valentine") gives us a more than convincing portrayal of the forty

year-old academic whose husband has left her for a woman fifteen years her junior.

The sarcastic tone with which she admits her husband's indiscretion to us not only carries throughout the play, it carries the play. Sarcasm gets the laughs and there are plenty of ha-ha's in this one.

Although the selection of piped-in music for this comedy left something to be desired, the physical cho-

reography of the actors was well thought out. There are eight players in "Money and Friends" and, although the Neptune's stage is rather small, all cast could be on stage at the same time. It is evident that careful planning went into the choreography because even with this crowded stage, the audience has an excellent vantage point from any seat in the house.

The story is of three well-to-do

couples and their two platonic ("honest!") friends. While visiting their respective summer homes in Sydney, Australia, it is discovered that one of their peers requires fast cash to the tune of \$40,000, to which they all come up with very (to them) plausible excuses as to why they can not help their friend.

To find out how this tale of "money can't buy you friends (or can it?)" unfolds, purchase a ticket for between \$19.75 and \$25.75, depending on the day you attend. For more information, call the Neptune Box Office at 429-7070. Show runs September 30 - October 23.

Black Umfolosi performs

by Sivan Orev

If you spent Saturday night getting sloshed, as you've done so many times before, or you just stayed home bemoaning Halifax's usual lack of interesting entertainment, you need to vary your activities or get out more, 'cause you missed a great show at the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium.

Black Umfolosi is an eight-man performance troupe from Zimbabwe. Into their second month of touring North America after several months of touring Europe, Black Umfolosi performed for an enthusiastic house, sharing their energy and cross-cultural humour with everyone in attendance.

The first part of the show consisted of a capella singing in their native tongue and in English, of African melodies. The second set featured a showcase of traditional dances and costumes, and a more modern piece performed in rubber boots, work pants, and construction hats to speak out on the position of labourers in Africa.

The show ended with a dance lesson in African rhythm for members of the audience. The last song of the night was an encore played for a standing crowd.

Well-received by audiences eve-

rywhere, Black Umfolosi have not forgotten from where they come, and are committed to raising money to support young artists in Zimbabwe.

Local recording artists big picture opened for Black Umfolosi to what may have been a daunting audience. Like many in the crowd, I went to see the main show, and expected to be bored while waiting for it to begin. In fact, I considered arriving late to avoid this problem. However, I was genuinely impressed with big picture, to my own surprise.

These five musicians are talented professionals (no garage punks) playing original rockish material, featuring great drum solos, impressive vocals, and a good stage presence overall (none of that stand-at-the-mike-don't-move-stare-at-the-floor routine). After a bit of applause, by the second and third songs the band seemed more relaxed, and say it: lead vocalist Benny Fong is hot! His shy smile warmed my...heart. Look out for this band, and from this blonde in the front row—ouch!

Checking out the doctor

by James Beddington

On October 7, armoured in my loudest Hawaiian shirt, wanting suspenders and a cockney accent, I ventured out to the Dr. Skankworthy show. It was housed at the Double Deuce — called a road house because it's halfway across Hollis Street.

The six Drs. play ska. I was surprised to find out while talking to a friend that they had no idea what ska was. So if you don't know, you should at least listen to "Rude Boy Train" on CKDU from 12 to 2 a.m. very

early Wednesday morning.

Better yet, you could go to the next Dr. Skankworthy gig and find out first hand. The latter option is a great idea because the band puts on a wonderful live show and has amazed a fair-sized following. I for one will definitely be there.

They played mostly originals with a couple of classic covers like Madness' "One Step Beyond." The music is fast-paced and energetic. The musicians played well. The band was well received by the crowd, and a good time was had by all.



Could I have a side order of steak with that?



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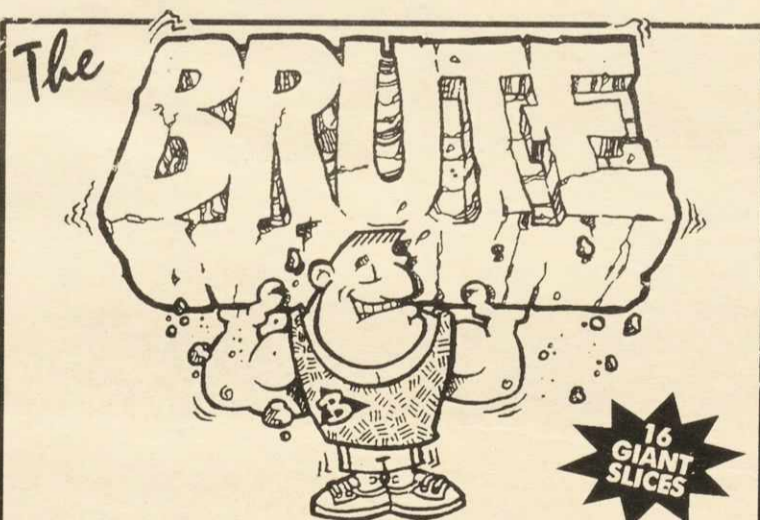
Tues. Oct. 25
Carfax Abby opens for
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Wed. Oct. 26
Stone Ground opens for
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Thurs. Oct. 27
Mad Hat opens for
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