

entertainment

Woodshed plans for spring

With the Spring break behind us it's time to enjoy the rest of the term with us at The Woodshed. A special week of Entertainment has been planned to mark the return to classes. Joan

Wellhauser and Lehanne Stoczek performed a mixture folk and pop songs on Tuesday and Wednesday evening. To complete the live entertainment program for this week we are happy to bring

back, by popular demand. Laurie Stacey and Graham Topp.

This versatile duet will be performing Friday and Saturday evening 9 p.m. - 12 a.m.

Music for the Hard of Thinking

By DAVID MAZEROLLE

Doug Bennett of Doug and the Slugs on the concert stage is a top contender for the title, "Canada's Male Betie Midler." His outrageous humour is of the adult variety and is commonly directed towards himself. The band's live show is musically very proficient and tremendously entertaining. In fact, they have a knack for making a silk purse from a sow's ear; in this case, that means taking rather weak material and producing hilarious, though naughty, pop songs.

The magic of the stage does not always come out on vinyl. Doug and the Slugs' third and latest album, *Music for the Hard of Thinking*, seems sometimes like a shadow of the band's former self. Gone is much of Doug Bennett's trademark sparkling lyrics. Is it a sign that two of the songs on this album are cover versions, and that of, the Isley Brothers "No No No" has hardly any words to sing, let alone write? One yearns for the imaginative and very vivid writing of earlier Slug works.

The death knell need not be tolled for Bennett's writing career yet, however. He can still throw into a song such characters as "the churchyard prostitute" and the over-the-hill swinger in "Cool Operator." An insightful look into the paranoia of a member of the middle class,

a man whose positions in life are "middle class and so missionary," makes for a fine tune in "When the Doorbell Rings." That song fares much better than "St. Laurent Summer," the album's other slow number. It is a pallid ballad at best, coming as it does from the same band that gave us the gorgeous "Tropical Rainstorm." Bennett's phrasing has never sounded clunkier. He is a rather unorthodox crooner, and here he sounds self-conscious.

Music for the Hard of Thinking succeeds in its songs that pay homage to sixties' pop and bar bands. The other cover version, "Who Knows How to Make Love Stay," is a perfectly charming tune. It features Simon Kendall (the very profound "basso profundo" of the liner notes), whose voice sometimes goes so low it falls to frequencies undetected by human ears. "Take it or Leave It" is a good hybrid of Sixties and Slug Style. "No No No," for all its lack of articulation, really creates a party mood.

Allow Doug and the Slugs this romp, which should gain some new fans and alienate few of the old ones. American producer Ritchie Cordell, who did the honours for Joan Jett's career-maker, *I Love Rock 'n Roll*, should attract wider attention for the band in the Stateside music press, and the Slugs, one of Canada's better good-time bands, deserve the notice.

March Schedule (open Tuesday - Saturday 9-12 a.m.)

*March 8 - TBA
March 9 - Open stage night
10, 11, 12 - Paul Donat and Marc Lulham

*15 - TBA
16 - Open stage night
17, 18, 19 - Lutia Lauzon

*March 22 - TBA



23 - Open stage night
24, 25, 26 - Paul Lauzon

*March 29, 30, 31 - TBA

Enjoy an evening or two with us at . . . The Woodshed, located in the basement of the Student Union Building.

New Film Society underway

A new film society is underway! The New Film Society, in fact -- featuring contemporary international cinema (movies made within the last ten years). Sponsored by the New Brunswick Filmmakers' Co-operative Limited, and run by two co-op members, Jon and Freda Pedersen, the New Film Society will screen films weekly -- in Fredericton at the Monsignor Boyd Centre Mondays and Tuesdays at 8 p.m. and in Saint John at the National Film Board Wednesdays at 7 and 9 p.m. Admission is \$3 per film and \$2 per year membership. NBFCO paid up members automatically get free membership in the New Film Society. A mailing list is being compiled so that interested persons will receive information sheets on the upcoming films. Call the NBFCO to get your name on the list.

is the story of a group of Hungarian peasants who contract to work on a German farm in the winter of 1942-43.

Feb. 28-Mar. 2 - Steevie, (Great Britain, 1978, English) Glenda Jackson and Trevor Howard star in the powerful story of the British poet Steevie Smith.

March 7-9 - El Super, (USA, 1979, subtitled). This film was shot in Manhattan by Cubans and tells the story of a Cuban exile working as a superintendent of a grungy apartment block. It's delightfully funny.

March 14-16 - The Orphans, (Russia, 1976, subtitled). A writer's visit to the old orphanage where he spent his childhood triggers a series of beautifully photographed reflections on growing up. The

February 21-23 - The Hungarians, (Hungary, 1981, film is at times nostalgic, and subtitled). This Oscar Nominee at times very funny.

March 21-23 - Rain and Shine, (Hungary, 1977, subtitled). This very special comedy examines the behaviour of a rural working class family in the Hungarian countryside as they celebrate one of their country's most important holidays.

March 28-30 - Despair (Germany/England, 1977, English). This Fassbinder film stars Dirk Bogarde in a story based on a novel by Nabokov, in which a mild little man is driven to murder by his own delusions.

April 4-6 - The Marriage of Maria Braun, (Germany, 1979, subtitled). This film has been hailed as Fassbinder's greatest. It is a realistic, entertaining and bitterly humorous story of a love-obsessed woman and her life in post World War II Germany.

Providing the response is adequate, the New Film Society will continue on a year round basis. More information in the next newsletter.

Arts and crafts . . .

The Fredericton National Exhibition Centre is offering a March Break Art and Crafts course for children ages 6-10. A variety of projects, from paper maché to simple batik are planned. The course will be held March 7-11 from 10 a.m. until 12 noon. Registration fee is \$20. Course limit is 15.

Monday - Thursday 12 noon - 4 p.m.
Friday 12 noon - 9 p.m.
Saturday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Here is a synopsis of the schedule for the next seven weeks:

February 21-23 - The Hungarians, (Hungary, 1981, film is at times nostalgic, and subtitled). This Oscar Nominee at times very funny.