

entertainment

West Indies steel

By Laura Brown

The strains of various "new world" tunes wafted through the halls of Central Square last Friday afternoon, drawing well over 200 people to the bear pit for the first campus-wide performance by the West Indian Performing Group's steel band.

The band's 45 minute performance began with a brief West African piece which acted as a prelude to the various pop, calypso, reggae and Latin American numbers which they performed. The audience swayed to the music and tapped their feet to the sometimes mellow, sometimes driving, but always sensual music. Each piece received warm and hearty applause from the closely grouped audience.

The eight-number steel band is just one part of the larger organization called the West Indies Performing Group. Consisting of around 35 people, the group also has a dance workshop, theatre workshop, and a choir which has just recently formed.

Artistic director Ivor Picou said the group formed two years ago to

provide a vehicle for "people with a need to release artistic and cultural expression."

"Our work will be an affirmation of the West Indies' presence in the university," Picou added, "for there are many misconceptions about the West Indies which need to be corrected and our group can bring about awareness."

Finding its home base at Founders College, the band has performed there a lot, as well as at the York Day Care Centre and the York Youth Connection in the summer. Friday's performance for a large, open group was a trial and the band will not move readily across campus because, "we don't want to rush and spoil our development," Picou said.

"But after Friday we now have the confidence to stand up to a large, and perhaps discriminating, audience" he continued.

After Friday's reception, many requests will certainly come in for the band which introduces us to "another interesting kind of music."

For further inquiries about the West Indian Performing Group come out to Room 134 Founders College.

performance

Next week the York Department of Theatre is presenting Student Project Week, which will consist of six evenings of plays, songs, and skits, in Atkinson Studio East and Stong Theatre. During Project week, the Theatre Department cancels all classes to give students the opportunity to get involved in doing their own shows. This year the material ranges from an adaptation of Margaret Lawrence's *Stone Angel* to Monty Python sketches, songs from *Cabaret*, to original pieces. All shows are produced, directed, and acted by undergraduate members of the theatre program. One show will be performed in Stong Theatre on Monday and Tuesday (December 3 and 4) at 9 pm, and a series of shows will begin in Atkinson Studio East on Wednesday December 6 through Saturday December 9 beginning at 7 pm.



Pan-players Gerry Escayg, Garry Carter and Tony Williams.

Off York



Cinema

The Best of the Fest, a free exhibition of award winning films from the May '78 Rochester International Amateur Film Festival, will be screened at the Ryerson Photographic Arts Centre, Bond and Gould, on Saturday from 1 to 4 pm. The festival, boasting a 20-year history, showcases Super 8 and 16 mm, black and white and colour, films from amateurs around the world. Students are only considered amateurs if they intend their films not to make money. Representatives from Movies on a Shoestring will be on hand to distribute applications for next year's festival.

Mike Korican

Amidst the sentimental slush of John G. Avildsen's new film, *Slow Dancing in the Big City* lies the powerful acting of newcomer, Anne Ditchburn, who hails from Toronto where she choreographed many dances for the Royal Ballet of Canada. The story goes that director Avildsen found the leading lady for his new film while leafing through a magazine. He was so impressed with the face that he contacted and persuaded her to try her hand at acting. Although Ms. Ditchburn does display flaws, her performance as a dancer giving her swam song is enlightening, competent and, above all, refreshing.

Elliott Lefko

Theatre

The Trojan Women: Gwendolyn MacEwen's contemporary version of the classic play is a blend of her own poetic dialogue with words from the original by Euripides and a large dose of street slang. MacEwen has expanded the play at certain points to probe the psyche of each woman and reveal dilemmas with distinctly feminist overtones. It's questionable whether this great play needed updating but the current production at the St. Lawrence Theatre retains the emotional grip of the original. Dawn Greenhalgh as Hecuba, the aged matriarch who carries the weight of the production on her stooped shoulders, is very good. Special mention goes to the designers of the monstrous set which looks like the remains of a nuclear holocaust with tentacles of mangled scaffolding reaching skyward like the ruins of a modern cityscape.

Hugh Westrup

18 Wheels, a new and exciting production by the Tarragon Theatre is a mini-musical dealing with life's common problems from a trucker's point of view. The play's premise is that the best way to get to know Canada, our "homeland," is to travel across the Trans-Canada Highway. Although the actors (Frank Moore, Shelly Sommers, and Stephen Miller) are quite good they are unsure of the theme of the play itself. As a result, the content deals with everything from taking uppers on the job to killing "four wheelers" on Highway 400. Truly a confusing presentation.

Jamie Palmer

Action

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