

IN AND ABOUT TOWN

RICHARD WILLIS

MARCH 26 - APRIL FOOLS DAY

Film

Wild Bunch: UPEI Duffy
Sun., March 31; 8:30 p.m.
Adm. 75¢

Prince Edward Cinemas:
#1 Magnum Force
#2 Sisters and Summer Lust
7 & 9 p.m.; Adm. \$2., under
18 -- \$1.75.

The Way We Were: Confederation
Center; Tue. - Sat., March
26 - 30; 8 p.m.; Adm. \$2.

The French Connection:
Holland College Lecture
Theatre; Wed., March 27, 8
p.m., Adm 99¢.

STREAKING

During Christmas vacation this year was the first time I heard of people running around with just sneakers and a big smile on. Each day there would be another account of more and more people doing it. They were usually running as fast as they could in order to avoid being picked up for indecent exposure. Whether it was because of the fact that they were running so fast, or because they had on sneakers, it was soon labelled 'streaking'.

That this type of thing should begin in Southern California and that it should spread, were both taken for granted by me, but I never had any idea that it would spread at such a rapid pace. With the help of the mass media, it has spread unbelievably fast. In just a few months it crossed the United States, Canada and has moved to two other continents. It has been done in mass movements with more than 2000 people involved and done to masses with people streaking in front of crowds at such things as athletic events. Even four days before Time magazine did a two page layout on streaking, UPEI had its own account.

Streaking raises the whole question of what our society has thought of nudity. Year after year more nudity moves in the world of film, yet the idea of it moving openly into society is not allowed. Last year, some olympic swimmers were asked to swim their practices in the nude. The result was that everyone of them was able to swim at a faster speed without a bathing suit on, yet I doubt that you will see the next olympic games per-

Music

Tagan: UPEI Barn; Thur., Mar.
28, 9 p.m.; Adm. 75¢

UPEI Chamber Chorus: St. Peter's Cathedral; Sun., Mar.
31; 3 p.m. Free

Music Recitals: UPEI Music
Dept., Basement of Holland
College; Fri., March 29,
11:30; Free.

Misc

Klondike Night (gambling)
UPEI Gym, Sunday March 31
8:30 - 11:30 p.m.

Art exhibit

Confederation Center Art
Gallery -- Progress in Con-
servation; Brian Paulsen
(paintings); & Permanent
collection; Tue.-Sat., 10-5;
Sun. 2-5; Students -- free.

Theatre

Who Killed Santa Claus? (TNB)
Confederation Center; Tue.,
March 26, 8 p.m.; \$3., \$3.50
\$2; Students -- \$1.50.

formed in the nude. It isn't such a wild idea when you realize that the idea of olympic games originated with the Greeks, who performed all athletic events in the nude. They realized that clothes would hinder them from doing their very best of ability. The human body has always been recognized as one of the most perfect art forms, with paintings and statues of it appearing in every art gallery, yet to expose it in public is socially condemned.

Not only are there athletic reasons for not wearing clothes but also the fact that in many cases it is more comfortable. During the winter, they keep you warm but on a hot summer they serve almost no purpose at all. The time it is most evident is when you go swimming. Almost everybody has gone swimming with no suit on at one time or another.

Women often complained about having to cover more of their bodies than men do when they go swimming. As a result, the two piece bathing suit appeared and got smaller every year. A few years ago they even had a craze with topless bathing suits. It wasn't able to get a social acceptance in North America but many places in Europe, such as the Riviera, where most females don't wear a top at the beach.

Our society has made it mandatory that everybody cover their body with clothing, but with such things as streaking and topless bathing suits, the more people that do it, the harder it is to stop. It is easy to stop one person, but police have been forced to turn the other cheek when they are confronted

with hundreds of other people with no clothes on.

It may be a shock to many people to see people walking around with no clothes on, but that is only because nudity has been so suppressed in our society. As more and more people do it, the 'shock' factor will begin to wear off a bit. People's social inhibitions will begin to break down.

It will take a while for it to happen, but things like streaking and topless bathing suits have been excellent in breaking down the absurd social customs which force people to cover their bodies with clothes. If such things continue, it will get to a point where it is simply a matter of choice. If you don't feel like wearing clothes, you don't and if you want to, you do and nobody will raise an eyebrow either way.

