

## SHOOT ALBERTA

by Stacey Bertles

**L**oyalties. Anne Wheeler's first feature, premiered late September to positive reviews and good audiences – except in Toronto and Vancouver. Universal acclaim hasn't seemed to help it in those centres, although Wheeler said the box office is "holding steady" in Winnipeg and Calgary. It's been extremely popular in Edmonton,

Wheeler's home town.

**Loyalties'** success in Canada will determine distribution in the United States. It's also slated for release in Britain and Australia.

Wheeler is currently shopping for a producer for **Bye Bye Blues**, her feature script about the romances between rural Albertans and the army trainees posted here during

WWII. She's also working on a feature for Atlantis called **Cowboys Don't Cry**.

**On The Edge**, a half-hour drama written, directed, and produced by Francis Damberger, was screened October 6. It's a study of a suicidal teenager and the cast includes Thomas Peacocke (Genie winner for **The Hounds of Notre Dame**). Damberger is making a name for himself. His first drama, **Rat Tales**, aired on CBC last season. **Edge** will be shown this fall. In the mean-

time, Damberger and his company of Young Alberta Film Makers are developing some feature length scripts.

Dave Winning, Damberger's Calgary counterpart, has "almost" secured distribution for his first feature. **Storm** premiered at the Montreal film festival last year to rave reviews. Winning has received offers from companies in Canada, the U.S. and even Japan. Production of **Flash Frame**, his next feature, has been postponed until spring.

There's no other word about upcoming productions in Calgary. **Hamilton's Quest**, the \$2 million series developed by a consortium of CTV affiliates, wrapped August 15. **Golden Harvest**, a CBS made-for-TV movie, finished September 18.

**Stingray**, the NBC series produced by Stephen J. Cannell's production company, will shoot until mid-October. That deadline may be pushed back if the seven episode series, starring Nick Mancuso, is extended to 10 or 13.

Aside from **Stingray**, there's not much production in Calgary. As one local put it, "the whole (Calgary) film community is in Vancouver, working on **Airwolf**."

So far the biggest local production starting up will be **Stone Fox**, an NBC TV movie produced by Edmonton-based Allarcom and Taft Entertainment. The five week shoot is scheduled to begin November 3, although locations haven't been confirmed.

**Stone Fox** is an adaptation of a children's story by John Reynolds Gardiner. NBC is airing it in the Sunday night time slot (March 1) as an experiment. Producers are hoping it will break through and create a demand for family entertainment.

Bo Ho films, a subsidiary of the Golden Harvest Group, is bringing another feature to Alberta. Unlike **Paper Marriage**, which shot in Edmonton last summer, it is not Canadian financed. Production is tentatively scheduled to begin mid-November. Locations include a prison in Lethbridge, a cadet camp in Banff, and an army camp in Edmonton. The extent

of **Kicking Horse's** involvement with production isn't definite, since Arvi Liimatainen, production supervisor on **Paper Marriage**, may have other commitments. Among them is **Poker Night**, a feature about a single career woman who becomes pregnant. It was written by Katherine Neilsen of Vancouver and Liimatainen has been developing it as a pet project.

**The Haunting Of Hamilton High**, Simcom's \$3 1/2 nonsequel to **Prom Night**, wrapped late in September. The suspense/mystery, directed by Bruce Pittman, is part of a three picture deal backed by Simcom and Allarcom. **Higher Education**, a comedy, and **Blind Side**, a psychological thriller, are slated for production in Toronto.

Although L.A. special effects wiz Jim Doyle (**A Nightmare On Elm Street**) was recruited for **Haunting**, producer Ray Sager insists that "it's not a slasher." Some of the trickier effects included a scene where a girl is swallowed by a blackboard and the ghost of a mutilated prom queen who rises from the body of another. Four Edmonton schools comprised **Hamilton High**, which "becomes a character of its own."

## Caplan-Sauvageau

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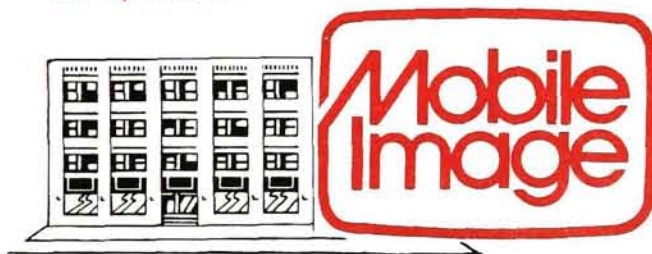
National Archives, unread. In the week that MacDonald succeeded Masse as minister of Communications, one highly placed federal appointee suggested that the entire report would be suppressed, never to be made public.

Now, due to the authority with which it is written and the care with which its recommendations are backed with statistics and carefully reasoned argument, the Caplan-Sauvageau Report has imposed itself as one of the most important documents dealing with broadcasting and culture to be commissioned by any Canadian government. It has become virtually impossible for the current government not to give it due consideration.

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