

Play review

# 'Loose Ends' includes comical commentary

D. Dietrich

Of The Print

"Loose Ends" opened Friday night at Portland State University in Lincoln Hall, to a small but appreciative audience. Michael Weller's episodic drama tells the story of the growth and decay of a young couple while making social commentary on the '70s setting.

The title alludes to the unresolved love affair carried on stage as well as the role of the less-than-politically-traumatic '70s in tying up the dramatic changes that overtook America in the '60s. After the search to find oneself is over, decisions have to be made and the guilt of materialistic wealth dealt with.

Paul and Susan are a young couple who met on the shores of Bali while traveling abroad in their youth. Paul, played by Daniel D. Perkin, has just finished a stint in the Peace Corps only to find it all boiled down to a few funny stories. Susan, played by Melissa Karlson, is on her way to India with her friend Janice. The two lovers part with the hope of meeting someday back in the states but neither feels sure about ever seeing each other again.

See each other they do, though, and in the second of eight scenes Paul and Susan are dating and currently visiting another young couple. Apparently, Paul looks Susan up in Boston and things are rolling. Doug (Steven Purvis) and Maraya (Judith Branham), whose home they're

visiting, portray a contrast to the style of Paul and Susan. Doug is crude and content as a common laborer while Maraya is happy as the epitome of barefoot, pregnant, and in the kitchen. Maraya becomes a sounding board for Susan who shows more of a commitment to Paul than she feels from him. Thus is the beginning of their problems.

The play follows the couple through their nine-year marriage, in which they can't seem to cope with the fact that they love each other so much. Neither one is particularly found of dependence. Real problems arise with the success of her photography career, which she is happy about, and then the success of his filmmaking career, which he isn't happy about. Seems that Paul can't feel comfortable with a "dress for success" type of life and would much rather concentrate on raising a family.

Susan is not ready for a family, as she points out to Paul, "Would you want people like us for parents?" Yes, he would, and the bottom falls out of their marriage on just that issue. Without revealing the ending, it suffices to say that Ann Landers gives good advice when she tells a young couple to talk it out before marriage.

Perkin gives a staid but refined performance as the aesthetically motivated Paul. A bit tight at first, he loosens up and carries the weight of the climactic scene with strong drama. Karlson,

who gave a good performance in the recent "Talking With" at the Storefront Theater, shows a developed sense of her character and true conviction with a precious few schmaltzy lines. Her gravelly voice adds to her down-to-earth personality to give you the feeling that you know her from somewhere.

A stable line of supporting actors take the couple through their paces, including the ever-sensible Selina, played by Lakshmi Pratory, Paul's film editing peer, and the schizophrenic Janice. Janice, played by Vickie Walker, changes her character smoothly, with a hint of air-head for consistency. The comical character arrives in the form of Susan's flamboyant boss Lawrence, played by Charles Daniels. Daniels has the moves down pat and doesn't miss a beat in the short but memorable scene.

Director Susan LeClerc, who was also in "Talking With," tries to do a bit of the story telling with a rather artsy slide show during the many scene changes. The effect is successful in giving glimpses of their off-stage lives as well as combining visuals with the well-selected music of the era. The result is a strong feeling of the couple as real people, although the script might need a few rougher edges for complete congruity.

"Loose Ends" will continue through May 18 at 8 p.m. on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. General admission is \$3.50.

## Artist's society gathers 'Come hell or high water'

Amy LaBare

Of The Print

Artwork done by members of the Paul Kane Society is on display in the Pauling Gallery

this month.

Leland John, a member of the society and an instructor at Clackamas Community College, said that the society

meets the second Sunday of each month to paint. "It's useful to us to have a day to paint to set aside time," John said. He emphasized the group's dedication, noted by what has become their motto: "Come hell or high water, We go out no matter what the weather."

The society was formed from the need of local area artists who take their art serious-

ly and want to have quality time to paint, John said. He added that many people look at painting as a hobby, "something you do after you mow the lawn," but said members of the society believe art is much too important to them to put it off.

The society was named after Paul Kane, one of the first artists to paint scenes of the Pacific Northwest, John said.

Kane traveled with the Hudson Bay Co. on their explorations of the Northwest.

The society began in 1970, but "drifted away," John said. This spring the group began meeting again. There are approximately 12 people in

the society now from the Oregon City area and from as far away as Silverton, John said.



"Duke of Foxworthy" is the title of painting by Timothy Perigou. The local artist's work is among collection from members of the Paul Kane Society currently showing in the Pauling Gallery.

Wednesday, May 8, 1985

### C.C.C. Cafeteria Daily Specials

<b>Wed., May 8</b>	
<b>Salisbury Steak with Mashed Potatoes</b>	<b>\$1.50</b>
<b>Thurs., May 9</b>	
<b>Mexican Casserole</b>	<b>\$1.50</b>
<b>Fri., May 10</b>	
<b>Pizza Slices</b>	<b>\$1.30</b>
<b>Mon., May 13</b>	
<b>Beef Tips with Noodles</b>	<b>\$1.50</b>
<b>Tues., May 14</b>	
<b>Tacos</b>	<b>\$.65</b>

