

entertainment

FROSH WEEK WINDS UP AT AUC



by Luke Peterson

It used to be that the concert, which marked the unofficial ending of the summer break and also the climax of Frosh Week, was held outdoors at Buchanan field. Freshmen and Upperclassmen flocked in droves to the grassy slopes of Buchanan hill to enjoy the last fleeting moments of summer and the evening's musical performances. All too soon, the hill upon which they relaxed would be covered in a couple feet of snow and they themselves would soon be chained indoors to a library carrel.

This year the concert was held in the Aitken Centre - famous for its dreadful acoustics and certain unfriendly security persons - far away from the stars, grass (the lawn variety) and the fresh air. Granted, a Campus Police officer was struck in the head by a flying beer bottle last year - a regrettable incident to say the least - however moving the concert indoors did not curtail the presence of beer bottles (I personally tripped over one, and wiped out, on the floor last Saturday night). Hopefully all parties involved will see fit to move the concert back outdoors next fall. Strategically placed

security persons and barricades could control access to Buchanan field, thus limiting the number of alcohol bottles on the field.

It would also be great if these security persons are not of the AUC variety, as one of these gentlemen left me locked out of the Aitken Centre, when I stepped outside for a moment to speak with a friend. Furthermore, this guard silently watched me walk past him to the lobby to use the telephone; only when I wanted to reenter the premises, did he bluntly inform me that no one was allowed back into the venue. Despite my having a press pass, a concert ticket and a hand stamp indicating that I had already been inside, I was told that I could return during business hours (on Monday) to discuss this further. I really doubted that Gowan would still have been playing 2 days later. All in all, it's pretty damn difficult to review a show when you're locked outside of the building.

Despite the obvious limitations of the venue, the performers appeared to be well received by the modest crowd of approximately 800 or 900 students. Having missed much of Hemmingway Corner (although

the Co-Entertainment Editor Steve and I did hear some of their album earlier in the evening at the new Student Union pub) I set out during the first intermission to ask some of the collected audience members what they thought of the band. Opinion was mixed, but nonetheless tended to be more favorable than not.

Lee Foster, a third year business student was quite free in his praise of the band: "They were awesome. Great voices. Great guitar players. It was a great acoustic set. They'd be great in any small bar in town, like the Rogue or the Dock. (They're) well worth seeing anytime you can."

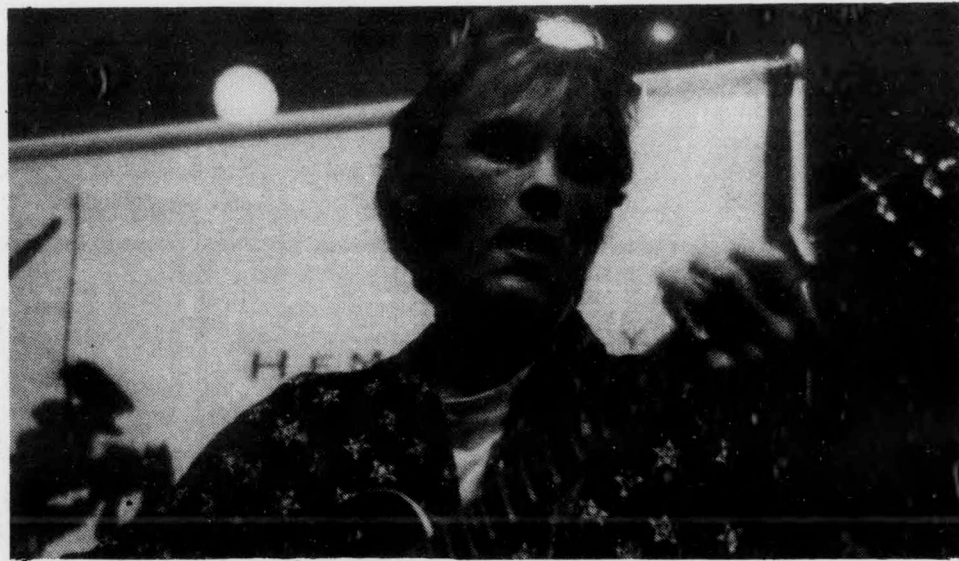
Others like Kerry Thompson, a second year science student, were more reserved in their assessment of Hemmingway Corner: "It all seemed to sound the same. It was pretty slow and mellow and didn't get people 'psyched up' for the concert."

Deven Chandra, a third year science student, offered a telling insight as to the band's sound: "I would call them a mix between the Eagles and America."

After a moderate intermission, Sue Medley, armed merely



Kevin G Porter Photos



with an acoustic guitar and an obvious acumen for audience banter, took to the stage to the delight of many of those assembled. Accompanied by a lone guitarist/back-up vocalist, Robbie Staliger of Vancouver who looked a bit like Neil Young in appearance and dress, Sue gradually worked the audience into a bobbing, writhing mass of happy campers. While many of the assembled students seemed quite happy to see Sue, nonetheless, they were rather lethargic during the first few songs of her set. Eventually the audience warmed up and began to shed its inhibitions, due in large part to Sue's urging between tunes. By the time she launched into some of her better known rockers like "That's Life", "Love is Strange" and "Dangerous Times", many of those on the floor were dancing and engaging in (clearly) spontaneous attempts at body surfing which resulted in numerous unwanted flying arms, elbows and legs. In fact, several of the twenty or so individuals who were unceremoniously hoisted skyward, looked as if they would have been much happier with both feet firmly planted on the AUC floor.

Once Sue Medley finished

her set, and Lawrence Gowan took to the stage, it was quite apparent by the level of applause that many of those assembled were looking forward to hearing the man who I unfortunately could not picture singing any song other than "(you're a) Strange Animal". It should of course be noted that Gowan's musical repertoire does indeed range much farther than the aforementioned 80's hit; an accomplished pianist and guitarist, Gowan worked the audience well (even dedicating a tune to the STU frosh in attendance), as he weaved through an array of songs from both his latest album and his more antiquated discs. Clad in a Johnny Cash-like black ensemble, Gowan pleased the crowd with old favorites like, "All the Lovers in the World" and "Devotion" and also his latest jag, "A Time for Love". According to Co-Entertainment Editor Steve, the assembled students particularly seemed to enjoy Gowan's rousing rendition of CCR's classic "Down on the Corner", however by this point I was reduced to bellowing outside the Aitken Centre doors, not unlike Fred Flintstone at the end of each cartoon episode: "G...O...R...D...O...N!!!"