

Go down to the basement, get up out of your seats and be prepared to dance

by Ira Nayman

Sitting on our hands no more

M. J. Kelly has heard about Toronto music audiences. "They just sit there!" she says.

Kelly, a native of Ryley, Alberta, recently became director of programs for the Student Centre. In other words, she books the bands for the nameless basement bar.

"I took it [the director's position] because of the challenge" of creating an identity for a new facility, Kelly said. She worries that, without "amazing programs," students will quickly get used to DJs and taped dance music.

Rodeo in the basement

The biggest band of the orientation season is probably **Blue Rodeo**, who appear Friday, September 13. According to Kelly, the concert was sold out before the tickets were printed.

The show is sponsored by Vanier, McLaughlin and Bethune colleges. Sponsoring colleges promote the bands on their own in return for the opportunity of buying tickets to the show at a reduced price. Most of the tickets are given free to first-year college students.

Opening for Blue Rodeo will be **Ron Sexsmith and the Uncool**. "I don't name them, I just book them," Kelly says.

Dummies in the pub

Winnipeg's **Crash Test Dummies** open York's live music season Tuesday, September 3. The Dummies, who are a lot of fun onstage, have been opening up for major acts at the CNE on the strength of their first single, "Superman's Song."

The Dummies are a folk-rock band (you know — the kind where you can make out most of the lyrics), mixing mandolin and accordion with their guitars, keyboards and percussion. Lead singer Brad Roberts' fuzzy baritone takes some getting used to, but it makes a welcome change from the screeching tenor of most rock singers.

Opening for the Crash Test Dummies is a band called **On the Fringe**.

Naked guys onstage

Barenaked Ladies (who are all clothed men) will be performing Tuesday, September 10. They sometimes refer to their sound as 'acoustic



hip hop' and there's no mistaking their irreverent attitude.

"(Be My) Yoko Ono" was featured on the 1990 CFNY Modern Music Search CD; its fans include Ono herself and her son, Sean Lennon. Other highlights are "If I Had a Million Dollars" and "Brian Wilson," about the angst of being a Beach Boy.

Umm — oh, yeah, about the name: "It's simply a kid's name," lead singer Steven Page told the Toronto Star, "representative of adolescent sexual awakening before any sense of real sexism sets in."

Opening for Barenaked Ladies is **Moxy Fruvous**, featuring former York Federation of Students President Jean Ghomeshi. Their tight a capella harmonies, cleverly choreographed stage acts and searing political satires have won them a local cult following.

This is one of those rare occasions where the opening act is more entertaining than the headliner, so show up early.

One on the fourth

A nominee for best live band at the 1990 Canadian Reggae Music Awards, **One**, will perform on Wednesday, September 4. One mixes covers of such diverse musicians as Bob Marley and the Rolling Stones, Led Zeppelin and Blondie, with original material.

Bourbon at the bar

The **Bourbon Tabernacle Choir**, a blues-jazz-gospel-funk-soul-rhythm-and-blues influenced

band from Toronto, will be performing on Saturday, September 7. They're regulars at a lot of big local venues (the Diamond, the Horse-shoe, Albert's Hall and Lee's Palace, to name a few). Their fans are truly fanatical, so expect a crowded dance floor.

Opening for the Choir will be **Push Me Pull You**.

Everything else

Other acts include **Skydiggers** and **The Lost Dakotas** (Friday, September 6), Newfoundland's **Thomas Trio** with opener **Stephen Fearing** (sponsored by McLaughlin college on Monday, September 9) and **The Leslie Spit Treeo** and **The Saddletamps** (Wednesday, September 11). Local jazz fiends the **Shuffle Demons** have yet to be confirmed for Thursday, September 12.

Students in the Centre

The Student Centre has a legal capacity of 700, but, because that includes the staff, only 650 tickets are available for each show. That's not many seats for a university with 40,000 full and part-time students; if you're interested in a band, get your tickets early.

Tickets went on sale Monday, August 26. Prices range from free to \$12, with most between \$4 and \$6. Tickets are available at the information centre next to the doors of the pub.

ID will be required at the Restaurant Club. To get in, you will have to be a York student or be accompanied by one (students will be able to sign up to five guests in).

Patrons will be banded. There will be a special band for underage guests, to whom alcohol will not be served.

Messenjah plays benefit

The Restaurant Club will be holding benefit concerts throughout the year. The first, for the African Students Association (ASA)'s Relief Fund, will feature dinner, a raffle, a live DJ and a performance by reggae group **Messenjah**. It will be held on Saturday, September 14.

The Relief Fund was created to help students in Canada whose funds are cut off because of war or internal problems in their native African states. According to ASA President Diamond Tobin-West, "we want to help African students in serious financial trouble".

Munyonzwe Hamalengwa, an African barrister, will attend the event with copies of his book, *Thoughts are Free*. Hamalengwa was imprisoned for anti-government activities in his native country, said Tobin-West; the book relates his "victimization by his government." Part of the money raised by sales of the book will be donated to the Relief Fund.

Other invited guests include York University President **Harry Arthurs** and York Chancellor **Oscar Peterson**. The event is sponsored by the York Federation of Students, York radio station CHRY, University of Toronto radio station CIUT, York's Race and Ethnic Relations Office, the African Studies Program,

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Andrew Brouse



Andrew Cash played the new Student Centre Restaurant and Club (aka The Place With No Name) over the summer. But, forget that old news. In September, there will be an avalanche of talented

musical acts, including Skydiggers. Programmer M. J. Kelly says she wants "amazing programs," and, if M. J. Kelly says it, it's got to be true.