

Sprout shows he can still germinate after Blimp crashes

Bobby Sprout
Northlands Bunker
Tuesday, December 6

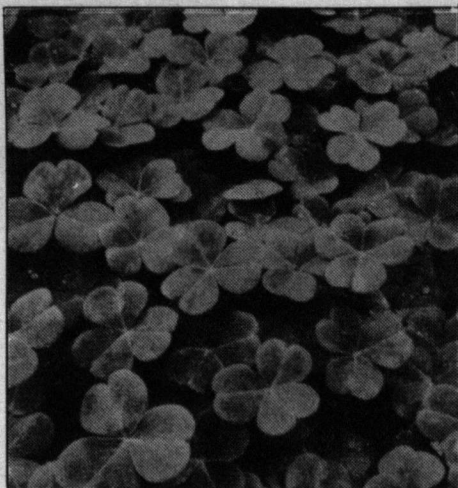
review by Mikey

Aging houseplant-cum-rocker Bobby Sprout brought his dazzling array of foliage to the Bunker Tuesday night for a show that displayed many of his recent growths to full advantage as well as revisiting the well-known hits of his former band, the Big Blimp.

Sprout was in fine form throughout the show, wriggling his trunk in time to the music and shaking his long flowing leaves, which showed no signs of underwatering or mineral deficiencies, just like he did when he was a young English Sprout.

The sold-out crowd in the Bunker was behind Sprout all the way, although their constant demands for old Blimp hits became rather nauseating at times, as did the smells of the various weeds they were ingesting throughout the show to display their solidarity with Sprout, who didn't seem to be offended in the least by this wanton destruction of his fellow foliage.

The stage was decorated in tasteful earth-tones, offset by a large circular screen which split into many smaller circles, representing the light of the sun and the regeneration of plant life through compost heaps. Onto this backdrop was projected apocalyptic images of forest fires, lumberjacks wielding large chainsaws and over-trimmed and underwatered houseplants of various kinds.



An in-concert photo of the top of Bobby Sprout's head. Denied photo access, our photographer was forced to resort to dubious means to obtain this picture, taken from the catwalks of the Bunker.

The lighting was also sympathetic, emphasizing the full range of the colour spectrum, although an overabundance of infrared rays toward the end of the show had Sprout and his sidemen wilting slightly.

Musically, the show ran the gamut of Sprout's long career, including hits like "Topsoil Breakdown" from the first Blimp album, "In The Sunlight" from *Chlorophyll Graffiti* and more recent favourites like "Ship of Roots" and "Tall Shady One".

A particularly poignant moment occurred when Sprout set down his roots to perform a moving version of "Growing in California", his famous ode to that ideal climate for houseplants. After applauding the first chords of the song loudly, the crowd settled down to hear the quiet rustling of the guitar strings.

The response to this song was typical of the preference the audience displayed for both old Blimp songs and green plant life. In response, Sprout performed songs from every Blimp album except for *Water Through the Drain Hole* and *Houses of the Holly*.

Musical scores with sports and fashion fans alike

Turf Momma Offa da Bus: da Musical Jubilee Auditorium
Sunday, December 4

review by Sandal Ratters

The cast of *Turf Momma Offa da Bus* scored a big win on Sunday night before a crowd of several thousand people at the Jubilee

Charles opted for the GQ look, in blazer and jeans...

Auditorium.

The second line had a big night, as Chiffon, Crystal, and Ronette repeatedly came out of nowhere to score song lyrics like body blows. Just like a good boxer, they'd get in, connect, and get back out again.

The first squad weren't shut out, however. Owen (Vito de Danny) and Momma

This was Sprout's first appearance in Edmonton since the Blimp first crash-landed here way back in 1970. He appears to have steadily grown new shoots during that period, although the bark around his older branches has grown a little thicker. But, as Sprout showed clearly at the Bunker Tuesday night, he can still photosynthesize with the best of them.

(Ram Antsy) were especially effective. The two connected for a major with "The Girl Sure Looks Like Tread Food To Me" as a duet, and they tallied unassisted with "Splish Splash (She Was Takin' a Drown)" and "Owen Yer a Ween" respectively.

Unappreciated but essential, like good defence in hockey, were Apollo Creed as the bus driver, and the band — Paul Papermate, G.E. Electric, and Buster Chops.

The evening was also a major social event. Seen in the crowd were SU types Charlie Vee-delt and David Upperty. Charles opted for the GQ look, in blazer and jeans, while David sported a natty black and white sweater. Later, Romantic Lit. prof. Dr. Naim Redu was also seen — with a young lady who was not his wife. The mystery girl sported a daring blue dress which was *tres décolletage*, and a darling hat and glove set from the Jackie Shop at Holt Renfrew.

Overall, the evening would have to rate a smashing success.

An Ode to William S.

by sid

she cried, "serenade me, as the Bard would"
panic — twisting my guts — Damn!
Quoth I: her skin, dun colored, anaemic!
I retch
crush my heart, brain, lovely as a tree!
Disembowel me, you rose! sonnet 63
Strumpet! get on down
I shrivel up without thee!
Emasculate! trumpet thine arrival — pregnant with desire
maketh water all o'er me!
complete, worthy of her pulchritude, thinketh I
"NO DICE, WIMP!" entreated she
of me
damned bitch

peoples pub

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