

Lighthouse concert: many just couldn't dig it

By JOHN KERNAGHAN

Some of the kids pulled up in Caddies driven by lingering parents. Others rolled in on 'old wheels' — pre 1960 — arms waving out of rolled down windows. Quite a few hitched to make it and some just trudged through the slush.

The occasion? Lighthouse, Canada's and maybe the world's foremost jazz-rock band, were performing last Thursday night at Erindale Secondary School and the faithful weren't going to miss it.

The problem with bringing a still largely experimental outfit into a suburban high school is primarily

economic. The Erindale band who promoted the affair, lost money on the deal.

Only a small percentage of the 800 strong audience really knew what Lighthouse was about. Despite a lot of publicity, there were still a number of knee-socks brigade who were expecting four rosy-cheeked 18 year olds.

INVENTIVE

Lighthouse has 11 members: four brass, two strings, one piano and organ, one bass, one drummer, one lead guitar and a lead singer. They average about 25 years of age. They are not simply a pop group. They are a highly professional

and very inventive group of musicians.

A mixed bag of students (there was a sad lack of over 20's) turned out for the performances. Many of the girls were carefully guarding their first pair of nylons against runs from the auditorium chairs and the tight sweater and expertly-aged blue jeans crowd was there too.

If a gap exists between factions of youth and it could be closed, Lighthouse would have been the band to do it. Their very big sound, straining at fever pitch all the time, should have had everyone on their feet.

But the obstacles were too great. Woodstock Nation doesn't make it in a high school cafeteria. Lighthouse, who are veterans of festivals like the Isle of Wight 1969 just couldn't get their feeling across in that kind of atmosphere. But it wasn't that they didn't try.

They warmed up the crowd with a few heavily rock orientated numbers that relied largely on co-leader Skip Prokop and his rock ensemble. Then they did some jazzy things with Paul Hoffert leading the brass and strings very nimbly. But it was a little over the audience's collective head.

NO FEELING

'Hats off to the Stranger' should have had the kids dancing, shouting and singing but apart from some mile hand-clapping in the

first performance and a few courageous free spirits in the second the feeling just wasn't there.

'Hats' which lasted about 15 minutes and 'Chant', a 25 minute powerhouse showed the band at it's best. Both numbers went through a lot of changes and featured solos from everyone.

The fusion of rock and jazz is everywhere in their

music. The transitions are clever but there is still the impression of two separate entities. Lighthouse is really a rock foursome backed by a seven man jazz ensemble.

That doesn't take away from their excitement, though. They purely enjoy each others music and if the audience can't dig it, they will.

The most depressing thing

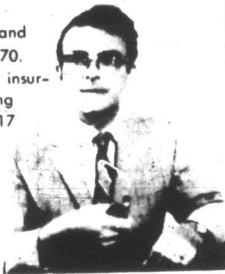
about the whole evening was not the lack of audience appreciation but the fact that the Erindale Band, who promoted the concerts to earn money for a Spring trip to Regina and had the taste to hire such an excellent group, couldn't get sufficient support to make it a paying proposition.

"A very bad scene," said one concert organizer.

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Somewhere in this world of ours, ...

someone wrote the following piece of prose! To this enlightened individual we give our thanks ... and pass his message on to you at the close of 1970, and the start of the New Year 1971.

It costs nothing but creates much
It enriches those who receive, without
impoverishing those who give

It happens in a flash and the memory of it
sometimes lasts forever

None are so rich they can get along
without it, and none are so poor but
are richer for its benefits

It creates happiness in the home, fosters
good will in business and is the countersign
of friends

It is a rest to the weary, daylight to the
discouraged, sunshine to the sad, and
nature's best antidote for trouble

Yet it cannot be bought, begged, borrowed,
or stolen, for it is something that is no
earthly good to anyone till it is given away

And if, sometime in the future, we should
forget to give you a smile, may we ask you
to leave one of yours

A smile is one of the greatest gifts anyone
has to offer.

... and so, as the old year
draws to a close, may we
extend to all of you,
from all of us, our most sincere wishes
for a very

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY AND
PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR 1971

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Lighthouse drummer, Skip Prokop, grimaces as he churns out a drum solo. The 11-man band played at Erindale Secondary school last week.

'Act like adults' Saddington tells county council members

Port Credit Mayor Cy Saddington told Peel County councillors, Thursday, to

"act like adults" and get on with the county's business. He made his remark when

a controversy blew up over a recommendation that councillors who wanted to leave early from future meetings get permission from the warden during the first 30 minutes of the meeting.

Mayor Saddington, who was late for the meeting, said he had been out on a matter connected with his municipality.

"I had to deal with it," he said.

Mississauga R-eve Chic Murray also opposed the recommendation, pointing out that emergencies sometimes cropped up which necessitated a member leaving a meeting after the first half hour.

He had then received a telephone call — shortly after the first 30 minutes of Thursday's meeting — that his company president was in town for an important company meeting. He was asked to be there.

Chinguacousy Councillor Terry Miller, who made the recommendation said: "it's only for those malfactors who want to get out when the heat gets too much."

The recommendation was lost.



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