

Chieftains cast Celtic charm

While many, or most, area residents were sleepily unaware Theatre New Brunswick was besieged with phone calls from all over the province, "When can we get tickets to the Chieftains?"

By now most of you are probably asking, "Who are The Chieftains? The Chieftains are billed as "The world's leading proponents of Irish traditional music." A very apt description it is, too. The real traditional Celtic music of Ireland (not "Sweet Rosy O'Grady" or "Danny Boy") before the Chieftains was confined to, hidden corners of Eire and was, like so many authentic folk traditions, dying. The Chieftains, who evolved, in the early 60's as a distinct entity, have veritably opened a floodgate of renewed interest in the traditional Irish instruments and music.

The Chieftains are currently a "supergroup" in Europe. They have been to Canada and the U.S.A. three times. They have toured Britain and continental Europe numerous times. They recently toured Australia and New Zealand. They have had numbers on the British pop music charts. They played much of the sound track for the film "Barry Lyndon". They have played with rock and folk musicians, notably Jerry Garcia and the Grateful Dead, and Paul Simon. The 70's is the decade for the Chieftains. They are happening, now.

The group consists of seven men. They are led by a delightful leprechaun, Paddy Maloney, who plays the Irish bag pipes called uilleann ("eeleun", Gaelic for "elbow") pipes. Air is pumped through the bag and the pipe played with the fingers (not the mouth as with the Scottish pipes). Derek Bell, who looks disarmingly formal but turns out to be the worst character of the lot, plays the harp and tioran (Irish dulcimer). Sean Keane and Martin Fay comprise the fiddling compon-

ent of the group. Michael Tubridy plays the flute and concertina (squeeze-box). Sean Potts (who stole my fiancee's heart) plays the tin whistle. The newest edition to the group, Kevin Conneff plays the bodhran (bo-rroon, goat's skin in Gaelic), the Irish traditional drum. Kevin also sings, which has added a new dimension to the previously instrumental group. He carries an unaccompanied melody beautifully and even stirs the others into a heavenly harmony. He replaces Peadar Mercier (ex-bodhran player) whose ten children might be the reason he retired.

Enough introduction, on to the concert. The Chieftains gave two back to back concerts at the Playhouse September 7. Their publicity said "for people who hate Irish Music, or think they do."

They won the audience's heart from the very beginning. As each musician introduced himself on his instrument everyone was entranced hearing such uncommon and beautiful sounds (many, I'm sure, for the first time). Within minutes, you could hear a muffled collective tapping of feet keeping time with the musical spell. This continued throughout the concert, as did smiles, laughter and swaying heads and bodies. The Chieftains went through their normal repertoire of instrumental classics. They did excerpts from the vocal piece "Bonaparte's Retreat". They also sang two comic tunes. One in English "If I had a wife, the plague o' me life, I'll tell you what I would do. I'd get her a boat and put her afloat, and paddle my own canoe." Another, in Gaelic, seemed to allude to discovering some of the findings of the "Hite Report" (something about "promising to come" and "yelping").

From watching the Chieftains perform you could tell these men, who until recently were holding down full time work outside of music, are really in love with their

shirts and other miscellaneous expenses.

A video workshop will be held this Saturday the 21st at The Video Centre in Marshall D'Avray Hall.

Workshops of this kind will give new members a chance to experiment with the studio equipment before actual production work gets under way.

Following the meeting the members of last years club remained behind to finalize the vote of four unfilled positions. Station Manager will be filled by Bruce Oliver, Dave Veniot will occupy the position of programme director, Sue Lyons will be features director and PR Amar Varma, and technic director by acclamation Steve Linton.

All interested people who would like to find out more about the club and what it involves are invited to drop in over the next couple of weeks to the CHVW office located on first floor of Marshall D'Avray. Please come and bring your friends!

CHVW wants YOU!

With a turn out of approximately 25 students and interested people, the first official meeting of CHVW (College Hill Video Workshop) was held in the SUB, the evening of Sept 20th. Bob Miller, President of the Television Club, opened the meeting by presenting a quick run down of the club's activities during the past year.

Following this, such topics as membership details, specific club departments, studio equipment and proposed video-workshops were discussed. It was decided that a five dollar membership fee would be charged to help cover the costs of membership cards, tee



THE CHIEFTAINS: Expressing in music what they've been feeling all their lives.

music, their mission, and each other (in a nice way!). As some played alone the others listened attentively either in eyes-closed contemplation or swaying rhythmically back and forth. When playing together they were one mind, Paddy encouraging them with barely heard wise-cracks.

After a magical mystical evening producing in your mind images of ancient battles, tender love, Russian winter, and quaint Irish countryside the Chieftains received a standing ovation at the first show for which they delighted us with an encore. The second show also demanded an encore (though in the sitting position). I think the first audience would have given at least three standing ovations but for sympathy for the musicians limited break before the 9 o'clock show.

After the second concert the Chieftains retired to the Chestnut Inn for a "piss-up" quaffing Guinness stout and sharing the gift of the gab with anyone who approached them. They honored the crowd with two impromptu numbers to their "enlightened" boisterous enjoyment.

Paddy talked at some length to us about the group's music and travels. You could hear the love of his culture and music in the man's voice. He held your whole attention while describing his family background in his music and the musical renaissance

taking place in Ireland (thanks to the Chieftains). He almost made us cry when talking about how the reeds of his pipes which he "talked to and prayed to" broke from the changes of temperature on a Canadian trip.

Being big fans of the local cousin to Irish music (the likes of Ryan's Fancy) we were eager to know their experiences with Ryan's Fancy when they appeared on their TV show. We were dismayed to learn that they were taped and the two groups didn't even meet. The Chieftains did play in St. John's, however, and were very impressed with the warmth of the people. Paddy also said he was aware of a great hidden local talent in Atlantic folk music "very

definitely Irish influences" which he hoped to explore further on later trips. He said the group wished to spend more time discovering the communities they play in. The Maritimes seemed to impress and intrigue all of them that we talked to.

The Chieftains have found fertile ground for cultural ties in the Atlantic and it is our hope that they will return again, and again, and get a chance to travel the region and gain an intimate knowledge of the folk traditions that are in all too near danger of extinction with the present generation.

By GERRY LASKEY & SIOBHAN MURRAY

Inside Out

Unfortunately the university's cut-backs are hitting hard at one of its major facilities — the library. The main Harriet Irving Library as well as its smaller branch libraries all have shorter hours. In fact the only place you can now study on a Friday night is the new Science Library but as for Saturday night... forget it! [Unless, of course, you happen to be one of a minority who live in a quiet place]. Naturally that rules out everyone that stays in residence and most of us who live at home. As far as I can see the university is trying to tell us one of three things. 1] we work far too hard all week and should take a night or two off to relax and enjoy ourselves. 2] the administration doesn't believe we'd actually spend Saturday night in a library anyway. [speaking from personal experience, this is untrue] or 3] they simply haven't got the funds required for the necessary upkeep of the libraries.

Whereas the third choice does seem the most likely, it is indeed a shame. Surely there must be some jobs on campus which could be more easily expended at less expense to the students? The library is also suffering from various other cut-backs. The periodical department is having to reduce the number of periodicals it subscribes to by about 400 titles! This includes magazines, newspapers and journals. Many of these publish research papers to keep both students and faculty informed of the latest discoveries and theories in their fields. The library has to also employ very few student assistants this year. So it does indeed seem as if UNB has seen its days of glory as far as references go. Let's hope this is only a temporary lapse... Kay

P.S. Just found out — Engineering Library also open Friday nite.

... what's to be done? Sister dear has crowded me out again! Can't think of anything terribly witty anyhow... guess Dylan does it best... "I accept chaos. I am not sure whether chaos accepts me"... Megan.

The real thing?

Those who indulge in cocaine, the rich person's high, now have a new toy to play with. Called Sno-Blower, it's for those who have snorted so much coke they get extreme sinus reactions or find their septums eroding.

Sno-Blower shoots flake up onto the soft palate at the back of the throat, totally circumventing the nasal passages. The device's inventors say this technique gets you as high as the traditional method would. For \$15 - (dollars) you get a six-inch-piece of glass tubing with a rubber squeeze-bulb at one end and a small scoop at the other.

So what happens if you continue to do too much coke and you soft palate erodes? Does your brain fall out?