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Billy Connolly

In Concert

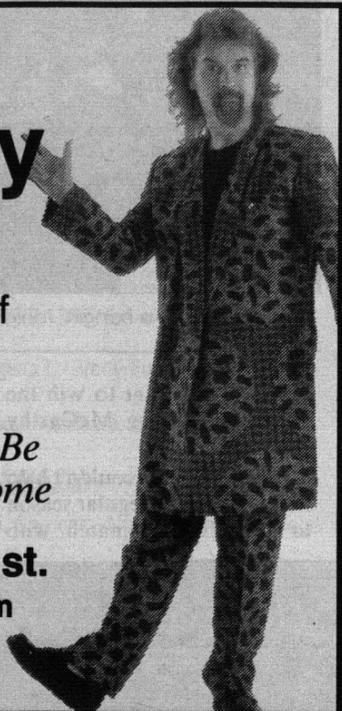
Devastating
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*Language May Be
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Wed. March 1st.
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FULL HOUSE

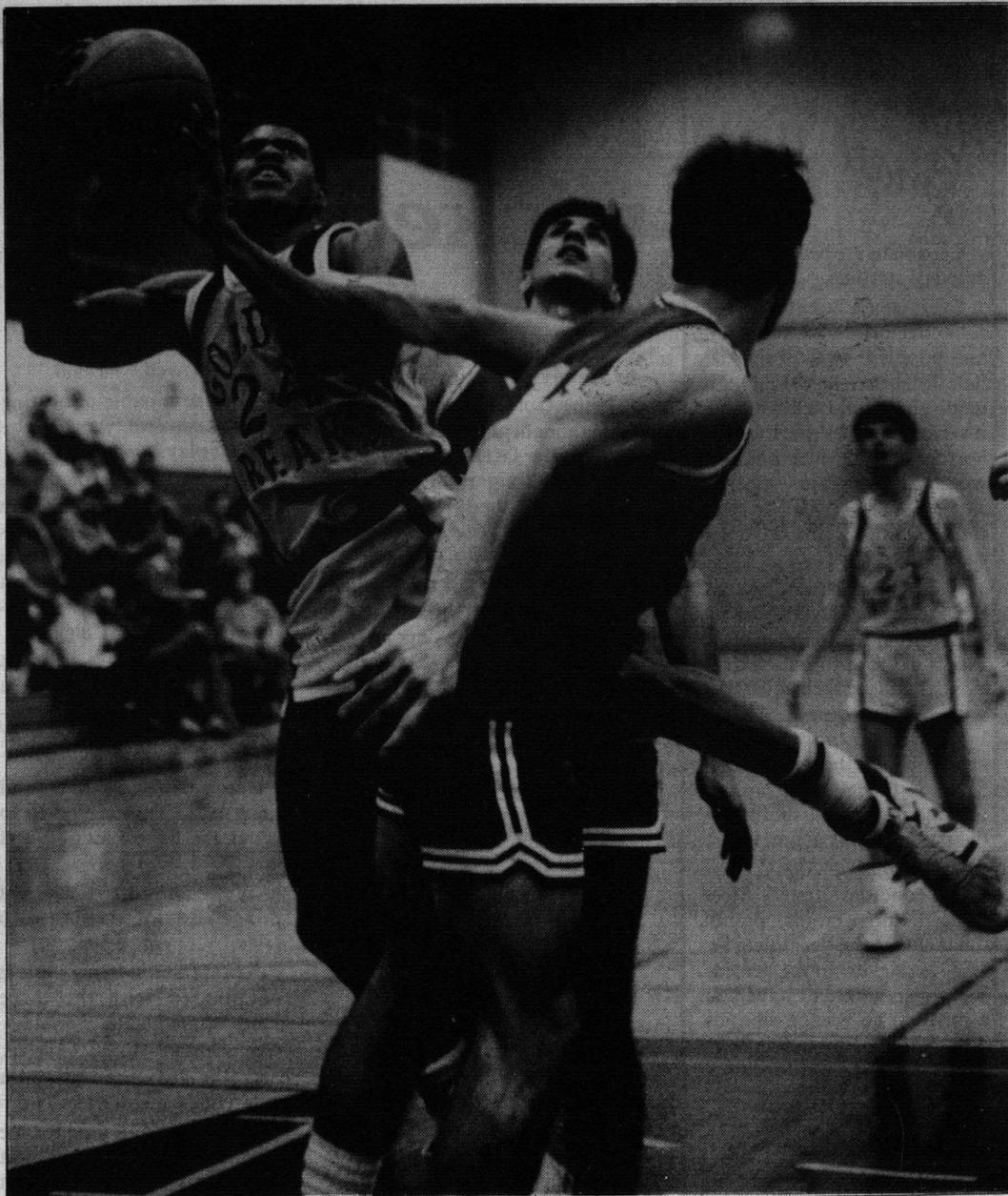
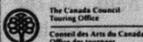
Choreographer:
GINETTE LAURIN
Lighting:
JEAN PHILIPPE TRÉPANIÉ
Dancers:
MARC BOIVIN
PIERRE-ANDRÉ CÔTÉ
CAROLE COURTOIS
ALAIN GAUMOND
SCOTT KEMP
MIREILLE LEBLANC
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MARCH 3, 4 • 8 p.m.

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Jeff Cowley

Bear Ed Joseph is fouled against Saskatchewan. Alberta plays UBC in Vancouver this weekend.

Bears, Birds battle for third

One win for playoffs, two wins for .500.

by Alan Small

The basketball Bears can solve their playoff problems this weekend when they travel to the west coast to take on the UBC T-Birds.

On the line will be third place in the conference, and the right not to play the Victoria Vikings, the number three team in the CIAU. Only the Calgary Dinosaurs have beaten the Vikes in conference play this year, so facing the island powerhouse on their court is one to be avoided.

"I believe it is easier to face Calgary in the first round," said Bear head coach Don Horwood, "although after this weekend, I don't think so."

Calgary knocked off Victoria from their lofty perch on top of the CIAU by drubbing them twice at home. There were meaningless games however.

The chance to get revenge from Calgary, who dumped the Bears in all four meetings this season, isn't the only reason for the Bears to finish first, according to Horwood.

"It would be an improvement on last year's record," said Horwood, who is in his sixth year running the Golden Bear squad. "A lot of papers around the conference were picking us to

finish fifth, because we were losing our top two scorers from last year and that we didn't get any major recruits out of high school."

To be guaranteed of third place, the Bears must take at least one of the games against War Memorial Gym against UBC, and win the season series in point differential over the Vancouverites. Right now, the Bears hold a four point



edge in that category, due to a split in November in Edmonton over the T-Birds.

That assumes that the Lethbridge Pronghorns, who are also locked at 8-10 with the Bears and UBC, don't pull off some upsets on UVic's home court.

"If we win both games over UBC, we'd finish with a .500 record," Horwood said. "That would be fantastic."

UBC hasn't been as dominating as they were projected to have

been. Player revolts, coaching leaves and key losses from last year's 14-6 club have left them in the same boat as the U of A. They are also playing the same inconsistent ball that the Bears have.

"They're like us," Horwood said. "they have a good game, then they have a bad one. That doesn't necessarily work in our favor."

Horwood, like many Canada West basketball watchers, didn't peg the 10-man Bear squad so highly coming out of training camp. He did not think a 10-10 mark would be attainable for this year's club.

"It would have been an optimistic prediction," Horwood admitted. "I was just hoping for a better record than last year." Last season, the Bears finished in fourth spot in the CWUAA, with an 8-12 mark. They were subsequently kicked out of the playoffs in two straight games by the Vikings.

The Pandas have a slim shot at making the playoffs, and that slim shot is in their own hands.

They face UBC as well, and must get a sweep to tie with the Lady Thunderbirds. UBC swept the Pandas in Edmonton earlier this year.