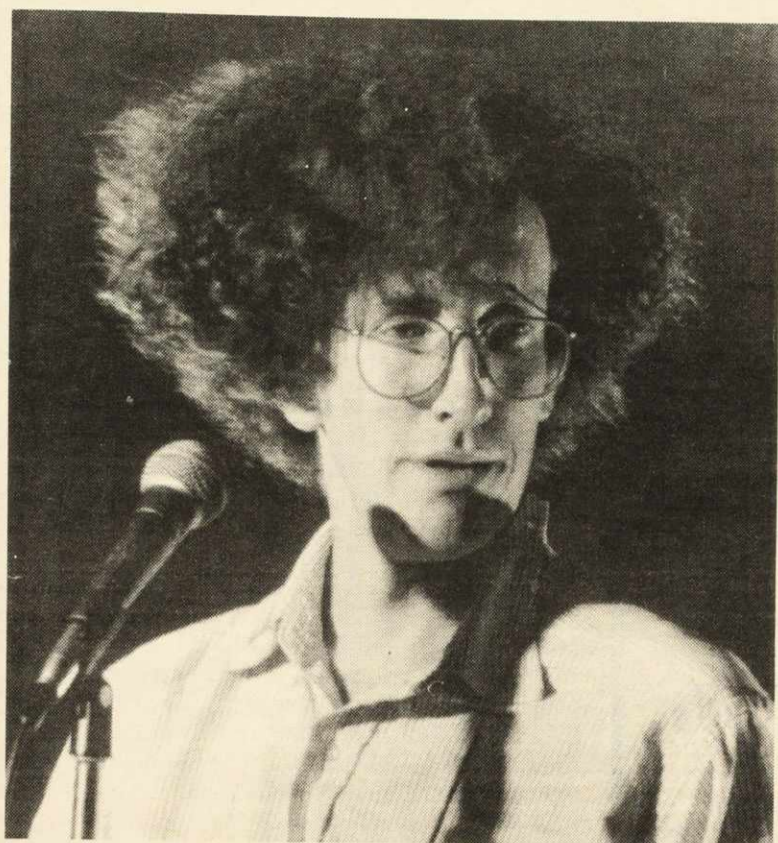


Do something with your hair



BY JAMES WORRALL

After the taping of the CBC comedy/variety show **Madly Off in All Directions** in Halifax last Friday, the Gazette's James Worrall had a chance to talk to MC and star Lorne Elliott.

Gaz: I looked through your resume type thing and...

Elliott: It's all bullshit!

Gaz: So, you have mostly done CBC specials and stuff like that?

Elliott: I guess that's one

thing, yeah. Mostly I've been working on the road, frankly. That's my principal source of revenues, you know, so I've been doing gigs all over the place.

Gaz: Being the first radio series you've done, is this show a big breakthrough?

Elliott: It doesn't feel like it — it feels really friendly and nice. I was a bit nervous when we started. This is only the fourth place we've played.

Gaz: Is there a lot of pressure filling in for a big show like *Air Farce*?

Elliott: I don't feel it. No, just gratitude. I don't feel much pressure. I'm just doing what I've always done, and they tape it and put on what they think is okay. It suits me great.

Gaz: How did the idea for the show come about?

Elliott: Brian (producer Brian Hill) heard a tape that we did at the Glenn Gould Studio. I did one there — a live show — and he liked it. They were looking for a replacement so he phoned me up and I said, "Uh, yeah, okay. All right, I s'pose, y'know."

Gaz: Are you trying to direct the kind of material in the show?

Elliott: No. Whoever you work with, you find people that you like, and you never instruct an artist, you know? Just let them do their thing. They know best what their audience wants and what they can do. When you try to impose your vision on somebody else — well, it might work, but generally it's annoying. I don't worry about it. We try to find people that we like and that I've worked with or wanted to work with, and Brian knows some people, and I know some people, and they know some other people. We try to check these people out and build up a network, you know?

Gaz: Your style on stage incorporates a lot of visual jokes. Do you find it hard working on radio?

Elliott: Well, there's also language. Visual stuff on stage tends to cut through, but when you listen to it on tape there is a lot of language there. There is something missed, obviously, but some-

times it works to your benefit. People wonder — what is his hair really like?

Gaz: How did living in Newfoundland for ten years affect your style?

Elliott: I wouldn't be a comedian if I hadn't gone to Newfoundland. It's quite acceptable there. It's just the way people behave: making fun of things and telling stories about what happened during the day, and making them delight-

ful just with everyday speech is just what goes on there — it's lovely. And worth preserving, you know? Except that if you tried to preserve it, it would probably go away, you know; people would be so self-conscious of it.

Gaz: What would you say the Chris Lorne Elliott philosophy of life is?

Elliott: Do something with your hair.

CBC show madly off

BY JAMES WORRALL

Air Farce it is not.

Lorne Elliott is the star and host of the new CBC radio series, *Madly Off in All Directions*. The show will be filling in for the *Royal Canadian Air Farce* — who are taking a break for a few months — and has been taping shows before audiences in Atlantic Canada. Elliott and crew were in the Sir James Dunn Theatre on Thursday, February 8 for the sole Halifax taping.

Madly Off in All Directions is a comedy/variety show, with Elliott serving as Master of Ceremonies. He introduces a variety of local performers doing short sketches, and does his own in between. Unfortunately, Elliott completely steals his own show.

The audience on Friday was subjected to a variety of material — some good, some terrible — but the guest performers ended up serving as filler between Elliott's sketches, instead of the other way around.

Notable exceptions to the mediocrity were Cape Breton comedians Maynard Morrison and Bette MacDonald, whose portrayal of small town stereotypes proved that the best jokes are the ones you make about yourself. Bill Carr was also good at times, although his stabs at French Canada left a lot to be

desired.

On the other end of the scale was Dave Harley, a.k.a. General John Cabot Trail, whose act seemed to amount to nothing more than bad puns and bad taste. Despite the interesting premise of his alter ego, Harley mentioned nothing about the Cape Breton Liberation Army and just ended up dying on stage in uniform instead of in civvies.

In contrast to some of the performers, Elliott seemed completely at ease on stage and his humour was natural, not forced. Although he is from Québec, his experience with Maritime audiences was evident. His anecdotes about being a mainlander in a strange land, and his jokes about Halifax and Nova Scotia, appealed to the home town audience. One feels that his talents are not fully utilized on radio, however, as his body language and use of his hair were all part of the show.

Lorne Elliott is an excellent performer who really deserves his own show. *Madly Off in All Directions* is great at times, but disappointing at others. It is worth tuning in just to hear Elliott and a few other performers, but do not expect to love every minute.

Madly Off in All Directions airs Saturdays on CBC Stereo at 10:35 a.m., and on CBC radio Sundays at 1:08 p.m. until April.

Poseurs fall flat

Lp Title
Latimer
True North

and that their publishing group has a really cool name — World Domination Music.

The first track, "Neolida," is pretty TreePeople-ish, and needless to say is the disc's best track. Sadly, the rest of *Lp Title* offers nothing that is musically or lyri-

cally creative. When the band tries to sound metallic, as they do on "Kiss 120," they fall flat on their faces. Also, Latimer's use of feedback and effects come off as petty annoyances instead of enhancing the songs.

This band definitely has potential, but their disc lacks focus. The fact that there is a song on *Lp Title* called "Poseur" is a little bit too fitting.

AARON DHIR

I really don't know a whole lot about Latimer, except for the fact that they're from Philadelphia,

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