

Playing Sun City is not so bad

by Dragos Ruiu

Music must have a conscience, at least as long as it doesn't get in the way of the money. It seems like this is what most musicians these days think.

I can hardly wait for "Palestinian Folk Opera Singers against Edible Oil Products!" It started with starving people in Ethiopia,

commentary

and then came South Africa. After that there were the ever-popular environmental concerns, political prisoners; even the Russians had to get into the act with Chernobyl-Aid. You can't knock them, or else you are a heartless ignorant boorish sub-amoeboid.

Well, let's wake up folks. I'm sure the musicians involved were sincere. But on the other hand, I'm also sure the thought of the public exposure they were going to get, and how it would help their image and careers, crossed their minds at some time. And the record companies eyes lit up (\$) (\$).

Through videos and benefit albums, the music industry has been flexing a lot of political muscle. They have proven to be a very effective force. But has that muscle gone overboard? And why is that muscle flexed in the first place? (Could it be \$\$\$?)

Have they over-sensationalized the conflicts they were trying to aid? They have made Ethiopia and South Africa into crusades. Rational opinions on the subjects are tough to find. Stop and think a second — sure these things are wrong, but are they the only things wrong with the world right now?

What happened to the Russians annexing Afghanistan, and to Iraq's armies refusing to wear bullet-proof jackets so that they can die for their God. Or how about terrorist bombings; they have certainly not stopped. Or what about our old bud Ron, Down South there, slowly removing civil rights from one of the few countries besides Canada to have them. Or what about . . . the list goes on.

Should only the trendy conflicts get our attention?

Some minor points to consider. Ethiopia

has one of the largest armies in Africa. Their wonderfully corrupt government spent exorbitant sums of money four years ago on parades and celebrations of a national anniversary. This was well after the famine started. The relief-aid food sent there goes through the government, so it reaches the black markets and only occasionally the people!

Sun City is NOT in South Africa. It is in Bophuthatswana, a neighboring BLACK RULED country. It has many resorts for the rich which are visited by a lot of South Africans because of the convenience. The only kind of segregation you will find there is economic discrimination, just as in some places like the French Riviera or Hollywood. Wearing blue jeans and runners into a Chic-and-Trendy restaurant will get the same reaction from the maitre d' there as in Hollywood. "Je suis desole, siir. All dose empty tables you see . . . are out of order."

It must annoy the various 'censor music'

lobbies to no end to see all these villainous heathen degenerates leading our children to help victims of political discrimination or starvation. And I'm sure a few politicians have nightmares about musicians waking people up to what is really going on.

Not to choose sides with the above, buy why has the music industry started to be so socially conscious? We must look to see if these efforts are sincere, or merely guided by the specter of greed; to achieve more publicity and a 'good image'.

Oh sure, there is always the mindless, sanitized, pop music that never has to worry about political comment. Recently, though, bands with more edge have been getting the spotlight.

A sure indication of this is the fact that R.E.M., a confirmed socially minded alternative ROCK group from Georgia, appears on "The Nashville Network". Sounds like it would normally alienate all those good ole boys to me. But then again, political is hot.

Bands since the sixties have been political, but the political edge of the eighties seems to be very commercial and sells a lot of records.

Are you buying records because you like what the music sounds like and what it is about, or are you buying records because the band did some nice things?

Hopefully it is just paranoid ruminations, but could this be an industry (read record companies) attempt to sanitize and package all that rebellious energy. It used to be that jazz records would be thrown out by parents with curses of "Filthy Degenerates! I forbid you to listen to that!"

Jazz was dangerous, and an act of rebellion. Then record industries packaged it and sanitized it. It sold, and lost all the edge, so the youth turned to rock and roll. The industry has not packaged that. Political music is the rebellion of the eighties. Are we seeing the big autoclave sanitizing our music?

Food for thought. G'day mates.

Make new friends at Citadel

by Suzanne C. Lundrigan

Alderman Lance White was kidnapped Wednesday morning on the City Hall steps.

After a brief struggle, White, who is running for Alderman in the coming city election, was whisked away by a masked man.

He was released unharmed in the Citadel Theatre's boardroom at approximately 10:30 a.m.

His kidnapper, Dennis Goddard, president of the Friends of the Citadel, demanded \$35.00 in ransom. White was able to produce the funds and received his freedom as well as two tickets to the Citadel's "Sleepy Hollow" Hallowe'en party.

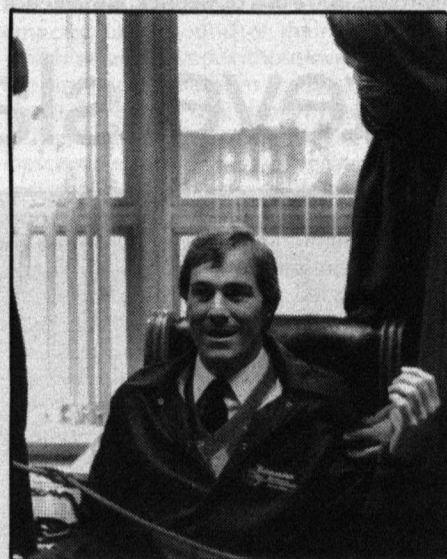
Goddard explained, "We staged the stunt to draw attention to the new group that we have formed, The Friends of the Citadel. Typically, the arts are supported by an older demographic group. The Friends of the Citadel hope to attract newer and younger audience. We plan to do it with social and fun events."

Asked if The Friends of the Citadel weren't copying other groups in town, White responded, "Not being an expert on other theatres, all I can say is that a lot of the arts are targetting younger groups; we aren't fashioning ourselves after anyone."

The Friends will be holding a series of social events. they plan to use the Citadel building. "Our biggest asset is this building. Our plan is to get people to come out here, perhaps for the party and then expose them to theatre."

The Friends of the Citadel's first event is in keeping with this plan. On October 31, a special production of The Legend of Sleepy Hollow will be staged with a buffet supper and dance to follow.

Goddard explains, "I think people of that age group (below Mick Jagger's age) tend to view theatre as something they wouldn't really be interested in. We hope to change that perception."



Alderman Lance White all tied up

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MAYORAL DEBATE

"The Main Event"

Confirmed:

OLSEN vs. DECORE

other candidates invited.

WHEN: Wednesday, October 8th
WHERE: SUB Theatre
TIME: 2:30 - 4:00 p.m.
PRICE: FREE

*Come and ask your toughest question
Poll to be taken after debate*

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