

Sellout crowd at shows  
Luba highlight of Extravaganza

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Although the anticipated problem of people crowding the stage did not occur, Saturday's Extravaganza, from an entertainment viewpoint, was one of the best in years. A sellout crowd of was treated to solid performances by three different bands: Luba, Itsa Skitsa, and the theatrical rock showband, Cleveland.

Perhaps the most highly anticipated act of the night was Cleveland. The music covered--as well as some great originals--was essentially heavy rock from the past 20 years or so: Bruce Springsteen, the Who, The Doors, David Bowie, Alice Cooper, etcetera. Most of the bands members sing, although the bulk of the lead vocals were done by Peter Zaremba and his sister Polly. The group's instrumentation includes trombone and saxophone, as well as the standard line-up of guitar, bass, drums and keyboards.

Although the music was well presented, the second act of the night really had to be seen to be fully appreciated. Elaborately staged productions -- including a simulated, Alice Cooper-style

"hanging,"--were the order of the day, and the band's claim to present the audience with "50 minutes of insanity" proved true.

The evening's real surprise, though, was Luba, a Canadian band from Montreal which played in the cafeteria. This group released a four song EP a couple of years ago which yielded the hit "Everytime I See Your Picture I Cry." That song, best described as a rock ballad, featured a beautiful and intricate piano line and tight vocal harmonies. It was not, however, indicative of the whole EP: the remainder of the songs are no-holds-barred rockers.

Luba herself, I believe, writes the majority of the lyrics, and the strength she showed for writing thoughtful, intelligent lyrics is even more evident on the group's recently-released album, *Secrets and Sins*. Her lyrics are contemporary, almost controversial at times, and many of her themes are quite political. The new single, "Let It Go," a good example of Luba's songwriting. At first it seems nothing more than a catchy, calypso-ish pop/rocker with a great hook. But upon closer examination, the lyrics are a cry to everybody to question the



Luba performs before capacity crowd in cafeteria.

norm and not let themselves be buried in the masses. "Conventionally....is the bane of our existence," claims one line.

The band performed only one set of music, but included most, if not all, of the tracks from the new album *Secrets and Sins*. Noticeably absent was material from the EP, with the exception of "Everytime I See Your Picture," the only song from the EP to be included on the album.

Musically, the band was professional and tight, and featured lots of great harmonies. Besides Luba herself,

band members included Muichael Bell on bass; Mark Lyman on guitar; Peter Mazunzak on drums and percussion; and Pierre Marchand on keyboards. All but the drummer sing backup vocals, and an additional backup singer rhythm guitarist plays with the band for live performances.

My only major complaint about the evening--aside from the people crowding the stage and obscuring the view for all but a chosen--is the classic complaint about Extravaganza: it was virtually impossible to see complete sets of either band because both acts played

at about the same time. Randy Goodleaf Photos  
Although I understand there was going to be some attempt made to rectify this situation by having one band start later than the other, it didn't work too well. Those who watched the entire set by Luba missed Cleveland's second--and best--set.

All in all, Extravaganza was an entertaining good time, and as fair as I know, there were no major problems at the event. Orientation vice-chairman, Aubrey Kirkpatrick and crew should be complimented for a job well done.



(Above) Cleveland performed at the Extravaganza before a sellout crowd while (left) one member performs "Alice Cooper" hanging.

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