

Delays and frustrations, but Gary U.S. Bonds was worth it

by Michael Redmond

The new Dal rink had a fine initiation into campus life last week with the Gary U.S. Bonds concert. Though plagued by annoying delays, the 1500 patient souls who took the good with the bad were well rewarded.

An hour and fifteen minute delay at the start of the concert left a testy audience for the warmup band, **Wrabit**, to whip into shape for the headliner. In truth Wrabit never had a chance. The audience had come to see Bonds and certainly not a heavy metal band. Game though they were, Wrabit made it look like the whole evening might be a disaster. They produced the requisite amount of sound for a heavy metal band in their gig (in other words they threatened the collective eardrums of all present). The excessive volume along with song after song with little pause in between left the audience battered. The music was hardly recognizable as being such and the short set was more than enough for those present.

Even with the poor performance, the audience was given a bit of life by Wrabit, or perhaps it was the anticipation of the headliner that set them abuzz. No matter which, the crowd was again left flat by an hour long delay for a stage change. Only the professional elan of Bonds and his musicians saved the night.

From the minute he strode on stage a few short moments after his band, Bonds held the audience until he decided to let go - only after the final encore. A few numbers in quick succession started everyone's adrenalin pumping. Then, with the audience hooked, he started to reel them in, joking between numbers with the just plain power of his personality coming across. A natural ham, he played to photographers and to the audience. Everyone loved it.

Musically he played a strong set. His band had great talent and Bonds gave them all an opportunity to show it. Joey Stan on sax blew strong and was a favourite of the crowd. Drummer Mike Micara, guitarist Greg Mead and bass player George Ruiz all gave solid performances. On rhythm guitar, Joe Martin possessed stage energy that wouldn't stop and keyboard player Nick Bariluk added that

extra dimension to round out a great crew. The collective talent and personality, expressed through such tunes as Out of Work, So Deep and This Little Girl made the concert and the night something worth remembering.

The less experienced Foster, on his first real tour, opened the show. A cool audience did not take long to warm up in the short time Foster had on stage. His Al Haig impression, while less than timely, was one that hit the mark. Perhaps his best hit, judging by the audience response, was his charge card/Star

Trek skit. With that he struck a chord with every Trecky present.

Ron Vaudry had the stage for far longer and held the warmed up audience in his hand for the whole time. It's hard to pick out highlights from his act as the whole show was solidly funny. His stage personality, quite different from his predecessor's, was aggressive and well-suited to his routine. At times, he exchanged banter with hecklers and always came out clearly on top. The wit and pointed humour of these two left me convinced that the next time I'm in Toronto I'll have to visit Yuk-Yuks.



Childerhose/Dal Photo

Gary U.S. Bonds wows 'em at the Dal rink (although the concert loses over \$5000). Orientation Week as a whole breaks even.

Concert a financial bust

by C. Ricketts and M. Redmond

The Gary U.S. Bonds concert last Wednesday night met with mixed success. Scheduled to be the highlight of Orientation Week, it initially failed to live up to both audience and financial expectations.

The audience was initially disappointed with the delays before the opening set, Wrabit, and between sets before Gary U.S. Bonds walked on stage. But after the first few numbers, those that had stuck it out were "more than satisfied", according to John Graham, Manager of the Student Union.

Delays had been caused by Bonds' dissatisfaction with the way in which Wrabit had set up the equipment, and also because the Bonds' band had been delayed at the Canada-U.S. border. They had

neglected to bring their security bond required by Canada Customs, and were detained until officials had received it.

The concert did not prove to be a financial success. Poor promotion was blamed, coupled with few ticket booths in relatively obscure locations. Projected ticket sales were for 2200, but sales were less than 1400.

"In hindsight, the wrong method of promotion was used," said Shawn Houlihan, treasurer of the Student Union. He contended that a Friday concert with possibly lower ticket price would have attracted greater numbers. Last minute organization for the event contributed to the problems. Some of the organizers were out of town

up until two weeks before the concert. There had also been threats of cancellation at the last moment.

The organizers, however, are generally satisfied with the results. The deficit should be nearly covered by profits from the other events. An unprecedented cooperative effort between the Administration and the Student Union to hold the concert is hoped to continue in the future. According to John Russell, VP Internal of the Student Council, the marketability of the Dal rink for staging major events such as the Bonds concert has been proven. He has also been assured by the acoustical staff that problems encountered in that area are ones which can be diminished for coming events.

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