

ENTERTAINMENT

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Sweet sounds of ginger

ANTHONY DAVIS
THE BRUNSWICKAN

The Brunswickan recently conducted a telephone interview with Chris Hooper, one of the founding members of Vancouver's ginger. The group is performing at UNB on February 22 with Moist.

ginger consists of Chris on drums, his brother Tom on bass and lead vocal, and Lanny Hussey on guitar. An extra guitar player has been added

for people to just... you know, you read these articles and [they] go, 'Holy shit, they've got it together, they have finally moved out of the Grapes and they are their own band.'

suddenly i came to my senses, the album, now on its second single, is doing very well. It is a very different album for the members of ginger, because, for the first time, they made a conscious effort not to put out the same old thing. Hooper says that the band thought, "We can't keep doing the same thing, plus we [were] bored, and people listening would think 'same old

"Every now and then we do an old Grapes song because there is that time..."
- Chris Hooper

for the tour. This is partially to fill in for the recently departed Vincent Jones, long-time Grapes of Wrath keyboardist (1985 - 1992) and founding member of ginger (1992 - 1995). Jones decided that he wanted to spend more time in the studio, and wasn't really up for the road trips anymore. "He said 'I don't really feel like touring anymore, and doing the [road] thing. I'd rather stay in the studio,'" Hooper explains. As one might expect, the sound that they now produce live is a bit heavier than it would have been before, but they still give a good representation of what is on the album. "It's just guitar now, and it works out well, with two guitars we can pretty well approximate the record well, even without keyboards."

According to Hooper, the tour is going very well. The first three weeks was their own act, and now they are the opening band for Moist. The material they are playing is mostly from their new album, *suddenly i came to my senses*, with an occasional tune from *For Out*. "We are doing a little bit of the first album. But the new one... a lot of it's pretty different, so we are trying to concentrate on that," Hooper says. For die-hard Grapes of Wrath fans, don't expect to hear any Grapes material; they are not planning to play any. "Every now and then we do an old Grapes song ... because there is that time. I guess there always will be, but it is nice

thing." ginger knew that they could put out a good album by a band that is not just 'the old Grapes of Wrath.' After the Grapes of Wrath broke up "we kind of carried on, doing the same as usual, and then we went 'we have to do something different, we are a different band.'" Now it looks like that has paid off. The album they have just put out is every bit as good as those Grapes of Wrath albums, only it is not a Grapes of Wrath album. Radio play appears to be guaranteed for the band, as it had been in the past. Their success with television had been limited up until this point, but now Hooper says, "We got video rotation, which was nice. We hadn't had that yet. The new single looks like it's doing pretty good already. Hopefully it will sell some albums."

"There are a couple of pop songs there, but we tried to get more of an atmospheric thing happening, a sort of vibe to the album as opposed to 'here's a pop single, three minutes long.'" Hooper reveals that the band was searching for something on this album. They wanted to create a vibe, have an album that people could listen to and that had length, diversity, and most importantly, they wanted to put out an album that wasn't straight pop. "Maybe subconsciously we are kind of going



THE WRATH OF GINGER: Tom Hooper, Lanny Hussey and Chris Hooper will present *suddenly i came to my senses* for the UNB crowd when they open for Moist.

for a Pink Floyd-type album. Pink Floyd for the nineties." The result is a cult type album, one that will go down in Canadian music history with the Grapes of Wrath, Rheostatics,

It is made up of real songs, which won't be driven into the ground from overplaying, but will be listened to while driving, partying, or studying. For those out there who are hoping for a

years. He didn't really handle it too well. It was not pleasant." It was also a bitter disappointment to the fans, but as Hooper says, "It's too bad it ended that way, but how could

"We have found what we are now, and that's pretty cool."

54+40 and many other bands that have worked their way into the hearts of Canadians, similar to hockey legends like Newsy Lalonde and Howie Morenz.

"We have been really lucky. Almost everybody gets it," says Hooper, regarding the vibe idea. "We have never had that much popular press. It's great." The press is well deserved. The album is fantastic, if you aren't looking for a bunch of hits placed back to back.

Grapes of Wrath reunion, it's not going to happen, ginger says that chances are "very slim. I think very, very slim. I can't see it really coming together." According to Hooper, the band is still not on talking terms with Kevin Kane, guitarist for the defunct Grapes of Wrath, and Tom has been quoted many times on how they haven't spoken since the last Grapes of Wrath show in 1992. Chris says, "[Kevin Kane] didn't take it well. He has been taking us to court for four

you end it well?" Well, perhaps it isn't that bad. The Grapes are gone, but now, as people come to their senses, another great band is looking for fans. That is one vacancy that should not be hard to fill. Perhaps Hooper put it best: "There are Grapes of Wrath records, but now we are hoping there are going to be ginger albums. We found what we are now, which is pretty cool."

He's the man behind the bands

PETER J. CULLEN
THE BRUNSWICKAN

A lot of people in the Student Union Building know Darryl Kent as a hard working, dedicated and competent individual. But now, the UNB campus is starting to regard him as 'The Guy Who Brings in the Bands.'

Kent has been manager of The Cellar since late 1995, but while he has done an admirable job in that position, his reputation has been building due to the fact that he's the man responsible for bringing bands such as The Mahones, Sloan, Our Lady Peace, I Mother Earth, Ginger, Moist, Big Sugar and several others to UNB - the likes of which has never been seen before.

Kent has volunteered with the Student Union since he started at UNB back in 1991. After taking jobs like Activities Director, Kent started with Bar Services and eventually took over at The Cellar. "I've always wanted to manage a student bar," he says. "This bar offers a little more than other bars around town. For one thing, it's on the university campus so it provides the alternative to just a booze hole. And it's great to support local stuff."

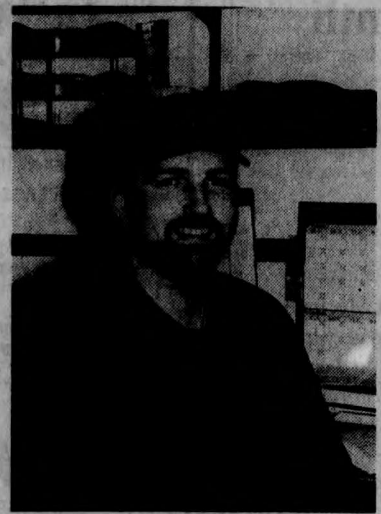
Kent has a history of supporting local acts, but now he's better known for putting on major concerts in the SUB. "Back when I first came to UNB, we used to bring in about four concerts per term," Kent says. But, he has brought in more than that amount in the month of February alone. "You need someone who's dedicated to doing it, because if you're not, then you won't put the time into it."

And Kent has contributed more than his fair share of time since he took over the job of General Administrator. "[The Student Union] hired a general administrator, and that job would be to book bands. That way you have some continuity, so they would do the bookings and would deal with the agents. ... But Barb Kirk, our General Administrator, is taking some time off right now, so logically that came down to me because I do the entertainment stuff, and I'm a full-time person. And I generally like doing it, too."

It's evident Kent likes his work, as he clocks in at least twelve hours of work each day.

"I'm normally here at 8 or 9 in the morning, and I'm generally here till 8 or 9 at night. On the weekends - well, I have to learn to take more time off. But January was a busy month."

Every month has been busy lately as Kent has certainly been keen on getting the some of Canada's hottest bands, but he claims that it isn't an extraordinary job to lure the acts here. "Fredericton's a great location for bands like [those that have been playing]. They're going to play Halifax, and we're one stop away," he says. "And it's good too, because if



DREW GILBERT PHOTO
SHEER KENT-ERTAINMENT: Darryl Kent has been responsible for the numerous bands playing on campus the last couple of months.

you're driving to Halifax you don't want to drive straight through in one day."

However, Kent admits that it is a lot of work, and there are hazards to putting on each and every show. "It is a risky business. For The Mahones show we sold a hundred tickets out of a 300 seat room. But for Our Lady Peace we sold a 600-some seat room. You take your chances."

"There's no real profit," Kent continues. "We don't have the right size venues to make it a really profitable show. We need a venue that could seat a thousand or 1500. ... A lot of it depends on the students, too. A lot of times people would rather go to the bars and listen to dance music. Sometimes, when you get bands at the right stage or when the students are listening to them, you've got to get them out."

Kent was being witnessed many a student come out to the shows, something he loves to see. But while bands such as Our Lady Peace and I Mother Earth have proven their popularity among the student population by selling out their shows, Kent himself doesn't profess to be incredibly interested in the particular acts stopping at UNB as of late, proving that he's doing it for the enjoyment of the entire student body. "No, I'm not really a huge fan [of these bands]. I'm very open to music. Especially on local stuff. I really like the local stuff, [at The Cellar] especially. It's a great venue. And local is Canada, too. You have to support the music or they're not going to go anywhere."

Recently, Kent and The Cellar raised over \$600 for Amnesty International by featuring New Brunswick artists such as Alderknot, 3 Foot 7, Smiley and Brent Mason. In fact, the latter two are playing at the East Coast Music Awards this weekend. "There is a scene here. People are interested in seeing that music," Kent explains. "And they come to the Jam Sessions every other Friday. We get a great turnout. There are so many people that are interested in music and can actually play music. That will need to be tapped."

And with the deluge of big league artists playing Fredericton, Kent sees it helping the local artists he puts so much effort into promoting. "It gets a real feeling going. ... People see a great band in the cafeteria and then think, 'Let's go dancing.' But then they say, 'No, let's go see another band.' And they know it's here."

And, should Kent continue to achieve the level of success he has in the past few months, people should know it's here for a while to come.

Glueleggin' it, and lovin' it

CHUCK TEED
THE BRUNSWICKAN

Glueleg, an excellent Canadian four piece band, opened for I Mother Earth on Tuesday, February 11 at the SUB Cafeteria. Before the show, I had the pleasure to talk with guitarist/vocalist Ruben Huizenga about what they've been up to, their new album and the band's mean streak.

C: What have you guys been doing since you last toured the East Coast?
R: A lot of recording. We recorded our new record, *Clodhopper* (due in stores March 18), in October with producer Sylvia Massey, who also produced the new Tool album. After that we secured a record deal with EMI Canada through our small label Liquid Records.

C: How did the EMI record deal come about?
R: Because Sylvia Massey suddenly got involved, there was need for money to pay her (laughter). Because we have a good relationship with EMI, they backed us up on that. They were so happy with the end product that they decided to go for a deal with us.

C: Where did Carlos (former Chapman stick player) take off to?
R: He is working in the family business repairing small aircraft. He is now living north of Toronto, has bought a house, and is going to be a father. Band life isn't for everybody.

C: Who is his replacement?
R: Our new bass player is named Chowder, a great guy we've known for a long time. I went to college with him, but I didn't recognise him when he came to audition. He was like "I know you..." (laughs). He's been an excellent addition.

C: How has that changed the sound?
R: This record is similar to the last record, except it's taking it one step further. We've expanded on a lot of things, added a lot of new sounds. There are songs that are heavier and songs that are a lot softer as well. It's still Glueleg.

C: Bruce (bass player from I Mother Earth) said that when he filled in for you guys you would beat him up if he made mistakes.
R: (laughing) Yeah, Bruce played with us at a Liquid Records showcase because, at the time, we didn't have a bass player. He learned the songs in three days and he did really well. We did beat up on him, but that was because of our thirst for violence (laughs).



* Theatre UNB presents Tom Stoppard's *The Real Thing*, Feb 20-22 at UNB Memorial Hall. \$4 students/seniors, \$5 others: 8 pm.

* The Benzerbrook Art Gallery
Antio Richard Lukacs: *E-Work* - Now - Mar 2/97

* UNB Art Centre presents *Common Ground* (clay works by Craig Schneider) and *Tempting Fate* (paintings by Philip Iverson) at Memorial Hall. Now - Feb 23/97. FREE. 453-4623.

* Gallery Conexion presents *Step* by Beaty Popescu and Shawn O'Hagan. Now - Feb 28/97. 454-1433.

* Capital Film Society presents *The Funeral* at Tilley Hall 102. Feb 17, 8 pm. \$3 members, \$5 non-members.

* New Brunswick Museum presents *Jewels of France* at Market Square in Saint John. Now - Apr 30/97. Also *Folk Art* now on display. (506) 643-2300.

* Theatre Fredericton presents *The Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society's Production of Machev - A Comedy*, February 14 and 15, Marshall d'Avery Hall

* The Dock presents the Tragically Hip by Road Apples.

If you have an event you would like to publicize, send all relevant info to "Know Where To Go?", c/o *The Brunswickan*. Submissions can be sent via fax (453-4958), or by e-mail (brun@unb.ca). Or simply drop off your information at *The Brunswickan* office, located at Room 35 in the SUB.

This week we have 3 Moist albums and 3 ginger albums to give away!

Moist question: Name three singles off the group's *Silver* album.
ginger question: What are the titles of the two ginger albums?

Drop off your answers (with your name, phone number and student number) by Wednesday at noon. Submit your entries via e-mail (brun@unb.ca) or drop them off at Room 35 of the SUB.

Last week's winner of two Moist tickets ("Give me a darn good reason why I should give you two Moist tickets") was... his answer, you'll have to agree that the poor guy deserved to win.

Last week, I purchased a pair of tickets, for me and my girlfriend, at the Paper Trail (in the SUB), but because of a... I lost them. As I was driving home, after spending \$40 on the tickets, I decided to roll my window down since... the steering wheel, I placed the tickets in my mouth and rolled the window down with my free hand. All of the sudden, the sun emerged from behind the cloud, caught my eye, and made me sneeze. The two tickets, along with a bunch of mucus, flew out of the window and onto the highway. Naturally, I panicked! I made a u-turn in an attempt to find the tickets. Suddenly, I felt a burning sensation on the back of my neck from flashing red and blue lights. I pleaded my case with the cops, but all he said was, "880, thanks." With the two tickets long gone, and me out \$120, I went home and called in a day. I wish that I could say that I made this story up, but I would be lying. So do something nice, and give a guy a break, thanks.