



ENTERTAINMENT

The Dock rocks on a Sunday night

by Peter J. Cullen
Brunswickan Entertainment

In what is becoming something of a habit, The Dock continued to host incredible bands with extraordinary talent last Sunday. Weeping Tile and The Bourbon Tabernacle Choir, two of the numerous up-and-coming Canadian groups, managed to capture the attention of the audience and extract tremendous applause from the pub's patrons with their vivid, dynamic showmanship and remarkable musical aptitude.

Despite the \$4.50 cover charge, The Dock entertained a crowded house. With only standing room available, the audience seemed eager for the festivities to commence. As the evening's opening act, Weeping Tile confidently took the stage around 10 PM to begin the evening and they immediately took control. For a relatively smaller-scale band, they energetically produced a big time sound. In relation to other bands, Weeping Tile sound a lot like, well, Weeping Tile. Their music does not differentiate them enormously from other groups, but they do manage to snare their own little niche that defines themselves as musicians. Although loud and energetic, the end result is not noise but astounding music. The band, originally from Kingston, Ontario, consists of 4 members: the 'Sister Act' of Sarah and Mary Harmer, Luther Wright on lead guitar, and beret-clad Camille Giroux playing percussion. With a full-length rock n' roll debut, entitled *Cold Snap*, set for an October 17 release, and an upcoming tour with The Skydiggers, the group appears ready for recognition and success.

Lead singer Sarah Harmer wields a wonderful voice and attributes most of her musical influence to her choral singing as a child. Attending church every Sunday and participating in choir evidently swayed her towards the field of music. But at the age of 16, Harmer saw her first live band: the Tragically Hip. Her fascination with the Hip gave her the incentive to begin a musical career. Now at the age of 24, Harmer stimulates her own crowds with her well-toned singing and rocking guitar rhythms.

Aside from their musical endowment, Weeping Tile also possess a great sense of humour. The group jokingly refers to the Harmer siblings as Sister Sarah and Sister Mary. Giroux, the drummer, was dubbed with the clever moniker of 'Captain CamGiroux'.

But above all else, Weeping Tile play great music. Once they took the stage, all eyes in The Dock were riveted on the band, and not only



The Bourbon Tabernacle Choir blow their own horn

Photo by Peter J. Cullen

because of the attractive Sarah Harmer. Weeping Tile command notice because, quite simply, they play well for their audience. Wright coaxes every possible ounce of sound from his instrument, occasionally looking oblivious to his surroundings. The quartet plays with an intensity that is not evident in their stage movement, but is definitely apparent through the music itself. Ultimately, Weeping Tile were paid immense respect by the spectators; as each song took place, not one head looked anywhere other than the stage.

As if Weeping Tile were not enough for the evening, the crowd favourites soon appeared. The Bourbon Tabernacle Choir, hailing from Toronto, have gathered a loyal following from their previous gigs in Fredericton. The diversity and ability of BTC's many musicians stands as a very impressive feature of the band. It is rare to see such a broad range of musical instruments in one group. From trumpet to trombone, and violin to saxophone, all come together to display a harmonious, soulful sound. BTC manages to rock, yet seem mellow at the same time.

When The Bourbon Tabernacle Choir started their set, the area in front of the stage quickly transformed into a lively, spirited dance district. The affectionate fans immensely enjoyed themselves as the musical

grooves and sensational vocals of Dave Wall, Kate Fenner and Chris Brown blended with the music to create an ethereal atmosphere.

With their latest CD, *Shy Folk*, BTC unleashed new material on the crowd, such as the single "All Peace". *Shy Folk* captures the full range of musical ability embodied by The Bourbon Tabernacle Choir, and fully represents their rhythm and blues and gospel influences.

BTC have achieved national recognition on campus radio and have also tapped into the MuchMusic video market. But the group's acclamations did not matter to the crowd at The Dock on Sunday. Those

that were frantically dancing at the front were delighted; the people in the middle of the bar rhythmically bobbed their heads to the beat; the congregation at the back chatted and nursed their beers while drumming the tables or tapping the floor. The Bourbon Tabernacle Choir had a visible effect on their audience and displayed the talent that will eventually lead them to greater success.

If a band cannot please its audience, it will most certainly fail. But if crowd response from The Dock was any indication, things will only get bigger and better for Weeping Tile and The Bourbon Tabernacle Choir.

We all know what Road Apples are...

by Taigue McAvity
Brunswickan Entertainment

It is really too bad that the Tragically Hip are too good to be affordable anymore because there are quite a few Hip fans living in Fredericton. However if you want to hear Hip tunes played just the way they should be you should check out the Road Apples.

The Dock was packed and the Road Apples played a great show, and unlike most cover bands, their original tunes were really not that bad, and it's surprising that they haven't been recognised for their own material. They actually do have a CD under the name Vagabond Groove, and they really do have real talent. However, most of their recognition comes from playing Hip tunes.

Let's face it though, Road Apples are not the Tragically Hip and they don't have that certain something that the Hip have. But they are the next best thing to the Hip, and they're even from Kingston, Ontario. And to top it all off they are a great bunch of guys with enough talent and ambition to do very well, if only someone notices them.



...CONCERT DIARY...CONCERT DIARY...

There are plenty of other cool shows coming to town soon - here are some dates for your diary:

Friday 13th October - Cub, Pluto, Pansy Division, Hayden, the Monoxides and Wagbeard at the Farmers Market. Show starts at 6.30 pm, and tickets are just \$8 in advance or \$10 at the door. You can get tickets at Backstreet Records, Purple Haze and at the Help Centre in the SUB.

Saturday 21st October - SNFU at the Pyramid Warehouse. Tickets go on sale October 14th, and will be \$8 in advance or \$10 at the door. They will be available at Backstreet Records and Purple Haze.

Saturday 21st October - Moxy Fruvous at the Dock. I don't know about ticket prices, but I'm sure it will be reasonable as those people at the Dock are just so damned lovable. Give them a call at 458-1254.