# Beatlemania sweeps Dinwoodie

1964 Dinwoodie Saturday Sept. 6

#### by Roberta Franchuk

It's been 16 years since the Beatles ceased to exist John Lennon has been dead for almost six years. Yet the mystique of the Fab Four lives on, and tans too young to catch the mania the first time around were knee deep in nostalgia Saturday night, as Dinwoodie and the Pembina Hall Students' Association presented '1964 as the Beatles'.

The idea of dressing up as a now-defunct band and doing sound-alike versions of their songs may seem, well, almost parasitic, but the sold out crowd of Beatles fans saw it as more of an opportunity to involve themselves in something that they could otherwise only live through B&W film clips. And involve themselves they did.

The warm-up band "The Edge" opened with a 45 minute set of enthusiastic, if not especially memorable, tunes to loosen people up and get them dancing, and the momentum continued to build throughout the evening. By the end of '1964's act, tables and the new stand-up bars were being pressed into use as dance floors. The crowd was four deep in front of the stage for the entire show, leaving little room for those bravely trying to jive 'n' jitterbug, but everyone on the floor clapped, sang, bopped, waved, and howled as appropriate.

Now, '1964's musical impersonation of the Beatles wasn't perfect. Their voices tended to be overly nasal, with attempts at Scouse sounding more like a Monty-Python takeoff than the lads from Liverpool. But from the opening bars of "I Wanna Hold Your Hand", the audience accepted them as the Fab Four incarnate. And, especially visually, they were pretty darned convincing.

'1964' restricted their repetoire to the Beatles' earlier hits, both Lennon-McCartney originals and their best-known covers such as "Please Mister Postman". The audience responded enthusiastically as the band ran through virtually every single released in the U.S. in '64 and '65, plus a few selections from 1966's 'Revolver' LP. "Twist and Shout", the opening song after the intermission, received such a response that it was repeated as an encore, packing the dance floor with people trying to out-swivel each other.

A lot of work had obviously gone into the details needed to recreate the atmosphere of the Beatles in '64 — well worn Vox amplifiers and vintage guitars, pipestem trousers and pointy boots. Even the unusual symmetry of the Beatles' stage act was retained, with a left-handed 'Paul' and a right-handed 'John' flanking 'George' in the center.

The individual performers, although not all perfect lookalikes, kept the illusion intact with their well-practiced mannerisms. 'Ringo', the most dead-on of the crew in looks, sat behind his drum kit, grinning goofily, shaking his mop to the music and waving cheerfully at the crowd after each number. 'George', a very close second in the Doppelganger sweepstakes, stood nervously behind his oversized Gretsch guitar, fingering intricate passages and joining 'Paul' at the mike for the head-shaking "yeah, yeah, yeah,"s that used to inspire a rain of jelly



'1964' recreates the Fab Four

photo by Rob Schmidt

babies from teenage fans. (Luckily, this crowd's appreciation for accuracy did not extend to candy throwing). 'Paul', though his resemblence was weaker than that of the others, carried his share of the vocals, winked and smiled at the crowd, and exuded McCartney charm. 'John' too resembled his namesake only marginally, but played the

audience well, providing most of the between-song patter and exhorting them at every opportunity to "clap your hands, stomp your feet, sing along" — which they were only too happy to do.

Details aside, the one facet of the act that made it almost as good as the Beatles in person was the sense of fun that the band demonstrated. Like the early Beatles, these guys were here to enjoy themselves, and they carried the crowd right along with them. It was unquestionably a great opening for the school year. One can only hope that Dinwoodie's new decor and sound system continues to be utilized by acts equally as good.

### The Papers provide taste of Canada

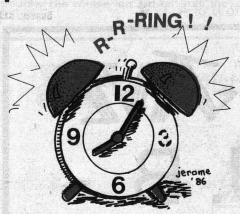
The Morningside Papers Peter Gzowski

#### by Lucien Cloutier

The Morningside Papers by Peter Gzowski is a book about many things but is probably best described as a book about people: specifically Canadians. In fact, most of the book is written by Canadians, in the form of letters that were sent to Gzowski with regards to his CBC morning show, "Morningside".

These letters contain praise, criticism, and personal stories as commenting on the subjects Gzowski discussed on his broadcasts. In the book, Gzowski recreates the broadcasts and the corresponding letters follow. Often Gzowski presents the subjects from an objective point of view to, as it seems by this book, generate a maximal response.

The result of this format is a tasty and entertaining product that is better read twice. As well, one would be best advised to follow the suggestion made at the beginning of the book to not read the book from beginning



to end but rather to browse through the book from section to section treating it in much the same manner as one would a copy of the Reader's Digest.

Taken in this manner, the book can serve as an endless source of refreshment from the day's monochromatic drone.

There's material in this book to make you laugh and to make you cry — to make you angry and to make you happy. The

Morningside Papers does all this and so much more because what you see before you is more than the work of one man.

What you see is the work of ordinary people like yourself. There is something in this book for all of us.

There are letters from women who feel guilt about having had abortions and other women who feel nothing but relief about having had theirs. There are letters from people who tell of their greatest adventures with bears. There are poems and limericks about our nation's government. There are stories of birth and death; and there are letters from those who choose not to sign a name. It's all in this book.

The Morningside Papers is a treasure for those who have not followed Gzowski's broadcasts and is even more so for those who have. Should Gzowski choose to produce a sequel, I wish it to have at least half the charm of his first. It is a book for him to be proud of and a book for all Canadians to be proud of as it is Canadians who made this book possible.

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