

Entertainment

SuperSUB: Super Entertainment, unSuper Turnout



K. Rainville Photo

Simon Says "Laugh!"

by Jason Tremere

While comedian Simon B. Cotter was scheduled to perform in the Blue Lounge at nine, when I arrived there were only bartenders, campus police and Bruns staff present. To make a long story short, while I was in the Ballroom watching Denis Legere, I ended up missing the first half of Simon Cotter's act due to the lack of information about the revised starting time and place. Although it would have been quite a metaphysical feat to be in all three places at the same time, I did eventually find Simon well underway in the Sub Cafeteria and not the (completely deserted) Blue Lounge as advertised.

Here is a brief capsule of some of the subjects and paraphrased quotes from the show: discussion of wedding stuff, the \$3,000 wear-once wedding dress ("worth more than any guy's entire wardrobe"), the symbolism of the bride throwing the bouquet of flowers and the wild scramble to catch it, the symbolism of the garter from a guy's point of view and how men scramble to avoid catching the "live grenade", his hilarious analysis of the song "Celcila", comparison of the old and new Star Trek, theorizes that the popularity of the new show is due to the sex appeal of Jean Luc and Troy, men's lifelong fascination with breasts, a women's unique ability to handle the extreme pain of both menstruation and the miracle of childbirth, men's wimpiness when it comes to having a mere cold, men's generic lockerroom conversations and women's graphic accounts to their friends, and his account of having to buy condoms for the first time at age thirty.

He then moved on to the "Sex is like Shopping" analogy ("men know exactly what they want, run in, get it and then run back out, whereas women like to take lots of time to browse and enjoy themselves"). Of course, what recent comedy act would be complete without some sort

of reference to the Bobbitt story. Simon put a bit of a twist on this one by telling a similar 'detachment' story that happened in Toronto where the guy walked more than 15 blocks to get himself to the hospital.

Having said all this, it might seem (to some) as though Simon's act was full of perverse subjects and sexist stereotypes. I assure you that he treated all of these topics with very light hearted humour (he's definitely not the Andrew Dice Clay type). Since it's virtually impossible to recreate the humour and presence demonstrated by a comedian, you'll just have to take my word for it - this guy was funny in a truly non offensive way. I guess you just had to be there.

Later, I managed to catch Simon and have a brief informal conversation with him. He filled me in on what I missed during the first half of his show including: Quebec, the English/French thing, the West Edmonton Mall, roller coasters, making fun of other universities, the adventures of being on the road and poking fun at university life in general. Overall, Simon said that his favourite subject is speaking about university. Since he spent four years at the University of Toronto obtaining a history and political science degree, he seems as qualified as anyone to comment on university life.

All in all, the sparse crowd was extremely appreciative. The people that did show up all seemed to be having a great time. The audience seemed to be split right down the middle, about half were women and about half were men. Everyone seemed to find Simon's exaggerated observations of love and life to be quite humorous and at times, strikingly valid. I have always thought that comedians are really just great laymen sociologists possessing the unique ability to make us laugh at ourselves. Cotter's act was no exception.

Dennis Legere & Byrd's Dilemma

by Carla Lam

In commemoration and celebration of the SUB's twenty-fifth anniversary, 3 bands and a comedian performed at various areas in the Student Union Building Saturday night. They played to a handful of a crowd - about a half hour or so behind schedule due to the turn out (or rather lack of it). It was jokingly commented that the majority of those present were staff. Sad, but true though, at one point it actually did appear that the only attendants were the Bruns staff and numerous CP's, but not to fear, all was not lost - the area to the immediate left of the sub's main entrance better known as the Social Club was densely packed and lined up to the bank machine around 12:30.

What happened at the rest of the SUB or "Super-Sub" was an unfortunate, and costly gross overestimation of student's willingness to dish out twelve bucks on 2 locals, one cover band, and a comedian, when faced with various tempting alternatives [or as someone ingeniously put it - "12 draft-or-1 ticket."] However, whatever the purpose of this article is it is *not* to determine possible factors leading to the failure of Super Sub; that I leave to the members of the Student Union or whoever's job it is to worry about it.

As for the entertainment at hand - the agenda included Dennis Legere & Birds Dilemma, the Hip cover band - Road Apples - plus comedian Simon Cotter who, by the way - in case you didn't make it, will be on CBS this week and - hey guys - it's free.

Dennis Legere, who I had heard and enjoyed at the Social Club once before, was there with his harmonica and the same folksy tunes favoring artists Gordon Lightfoot, Billy Joel, Neil Young - and just for a twist one from Soul Asylum. With all due respect and applause to Mr. Legere, the highlight of the evening was a spectacle that did not take place on stage. One of the Bruns photographers, skater Mark was so inspired as to explode into uninhibited and uncontrolled break dancing during none-other-than a punchy rendition of Mellencamp's "Jack & Diane." Regretfully, the sudden flurry of flailing arms and legs had ceased almost as abruptly as it had begun - and no one was able to get a picture. Sigh... but the show had to go on, and it did following an encore performance by Dennis Legere and a brief intermission which enabled me to catch the ending of Cotter's hilarious routine. When I returned to the ballroom in place of the earthy folk was a more alternative sound characterized by strong female lead vocals. She had personality to spare, not to mention a wide range of playful inflections and stage presence. Birds Dilemma gave a lively performance as all people who attended could attest to - in particular one obnoxious fellow who took up temporary residence at the foot of the stage - if only he could remember.

All in all Super-Sub had all the potential for a great Saturday night; for whatever reasons it flopped, it was no fault of the professionals who nonetheless gave their best.

Road Apples: Gordon Downie's Evil Twin Brother

by Jason Tremere

First of all, I must preface this review by admitting that although I am a Tragically Hip fan, I have never had the privilege of seeing them in concert. I know, I know, I must be the only person on campus (perhaps the only Hip fan left in the country) that has not seen this great band perform live at least once. I do have a somewhat valid, yet complex excuse for this reprehensible condition but would rather not bore you with the details at the moment.

However, I can honestly say that this review will be devoid of the bias recently demonstrated by writer Al S. Tare. In fact, I did sort of look forward to seeing Road Apples. I mean if you can't see the real thing, the next best thing is a decent cover band, right? Well, maybe. Over the last few years, I have talked to several people that have seen the "real" Hip live, so I did have some points of reference to compare Road Apples to. The people I've spoken with unanimously agreed that the most notable focal point of any Tragically Hip show is watching singer, Gordon Downie.

It seems Downie has a distinctively devilish streak (which is predominant throughout the Hip's lyrical themes). He has been known to stumble across the stage in a hazy stupor-like manner, almost tripping himself with his own microphone cord, introducing songs with cryptic descriptive snippets and including humorous anecdotes between songs.

The singer for Road Apples really had a big part to play in pulling off a tribute to The Tragically Hip. Surprisingly, he pulled it off quite well. The first thing I noticed is that the singer for Road Apples bears a striking resemblance to Downie. He really did look like Gord; the hair, the clothes, everything. He did the stumbling, haziness, microphone stuff and the story telling all quite convincingly.

He started off "Locked in the Truck of a Car" by saying "this is a song about dead people" and included some strange demented story during the bridge section of "At the Hundredth Meridian". As far as the microphone stand antics go, it appears as though the singer for Road Apples has successfully completed The James Brown Seminar on Advanced Microphone Stand Manipulation. He even body slammed the

thing a couple of times.

The other task for the singer was to faithfully reproduce the unique wavering and mellow quality of Gordon Downie's voice. For the most part, he did achieve the wavering but not the mellowness. The singer for the Road Apples sang in an audibly higher range than Gord does, sort of like Downie with an edge.

As far as the sound quality goes, the midrange was almost unbearable. Even at an appreciable distance, whenever walking past the sound gear, my ear canal was screaming for mercy. Other than that, the sound was well mixed and very true to The Hip's straightforward sound. In fact, the drums actually sounded better than they do on any Hip recording. Then again, live drums almost always kick recorded drums.

Eventually one excited fan (by the name of Nancy), joined Road Apples on stage for the duration of a song. Shortly after that the audience became visibly fewer and increasingly sedate. At that point, I left the show early to join the more lively festivities at the Social Club (plus I was really looking forward to augmenting my ink stamp collection). Sure enough, the majority of the people in the SUB where already located in the Social Club. This was evidenced by the huge gathering of people attempting to dance on the non-existent 'dance floor' (seems more like a multiple lane freeway to me).

The Road Apples' sets included virtually every great song from The Hip's vast repertoire including: "Blow at High Dough", "Little Bones", "Courage", "Fully Completely", "Lionized" and the list goes on. The audience eagerly participated by dancing to almost every tune.

In the end, I didn't get to see whether or not Road Apples trashed their equipment (chances are they did not). I was neither extremely impressed nor extremely disappointed with their performance. One additional thing that did impress me was the lead guitarist's skill at both emulating The Hip's guitar tone and accurately executing the guitar solos note for note. Aside from that, I think I'm ready to see the "real" Tragically Hip anytime now.

UNIVERSITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

ATTENTION: STUDENTS AND FACULTY

THE AWARD is dedicated to the late Dr. Allan P. Stuart and is to honour persons who are representative of outstanding teaching achievement at the University of New Brunswick.

ELIGIBILITY: A candidate must teach at least one 3-credit hour undergraduate course, and at least one 3-credit hour course each term, during the academic year in which the nomination is made. It is not expected that the nominees should excel in all criteria listed on the nomination form, but they should be qualified in most categories. Individuals are not eligible if they have been previous recipients of the Award.

NOMINATION: Candidates for the Award are proposed and recommended to the Senate Committee on Quality of Teaching by students and faculty of the University.

The basic information required is contained on the Nomination Forms, which are available from the University Secretary, Fredericton; the Vice-President (Saint John); the Student Council, Saint John or Fredericton; and Faculty offices. No one may nominate or support more than one candidate. The form must be signed by two nominators. The Committee places little value on long lists of signatures supporting a nomination. However, signed letters or paragraphs of support from a variety of sources (current and former students, faculty members, Department/Division Chairs or Deans) can enhance a nomination.

Send nominations to the University Secretary, Room 110, Old Arts Building, UNB Fredericton, or to the Vice-President (Saint John), Room 111, Oland Hall, UNB Saint John.

ON OR BEFORE 4:00 P.M., ON FRIDAY, 18 MARCH 1994