

# Entertainment

## The Tragically Hip

### WITH SONS OF FREEDOM

Grandma: How was the Hip dear grandson?

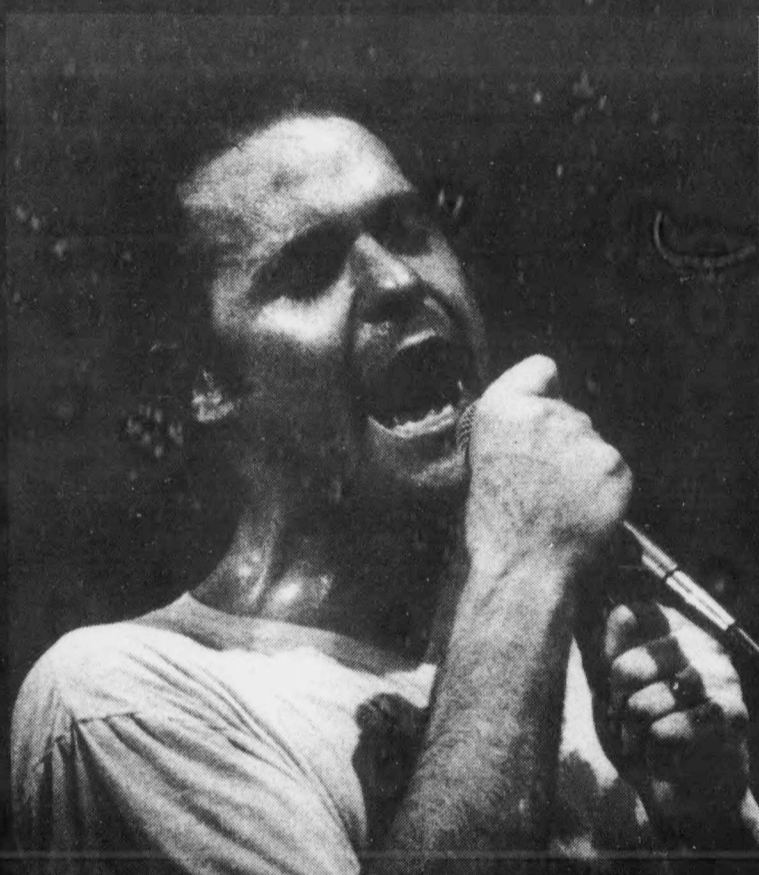
Grandson: It was a wonderful display of musicianship.

Grandma: The band sounded that good did they?

Grandson: Well, dropping a hit of acid and the results there after really made the band sound good!

Grandma: I can certainly see your point. Yes, I'm afraid its true. Although I would never advocate the use of such illegal drugs, that is exactly

what was needed to really appreciate the sound in the Aitken Centre Wednesday. Now from my understanding of the idea of acoustics the more soft surfaces on the interior of the venue, the less echo there would be. What does this all mean? Well aside from possibly taking mind altering drugs and maybe a few martinis to perceive the illusion of better acoustics, it would have been better to pass out thick and fluffy Jacelope coats to everyone. Maybe a letter should have been placed in the Gleaner to advise all prospective concert goers to bring toucques, crochet ear muffs or just to completely outfit yourself in flannel. I can just see it now, "Ladies and gentlemen please eat marshmallows during the concert to improve the acoustics." You might be getting the idea by now that I thought the acoustics bit the big one. I have actually experienced the same barrage of sounds before but that was from a Motorhead concert and that's what you expect when you go to see them. Please, don't get me wrong, I love the Hip. All of my drool covered copies sit in a shrine I've built for them. But the Wednesday concert did not do them justice. Remember the good ole' days when the Hip played in the cafeteria and everybody played the Parker brothers version of stage diving. Now that sounded alot better and at least there you could enjoy the show and lingering scents of Beaver grease to boot. I think the Aitken Centre was spe-



Gord

cifically designed by some insidious engineer to sound great only for those wild country and western bands that play. I mean if I ever went there on Kenny Rogers night, I'm willing to eat my own stool that it would sound like Kenny Rogers. Please be warned that I am by no means advising that you attend a Kenny Rogers concert to test my theory out. I think you could be expelled for doing that. All else aside the band looked into it. I was impressed by the use of the large pieces of toilet paper with holes cut in them. They weren't actually made of TP but the effect was really neat. Standing as far back as I was from the stage and only because a band of junior high school girls threatened to beat me up if I didn't let them in front of me to get a closer view of the gods, the lighting effect on the hanging things made them look like pillars or something. And we know our little boys are getting all grown up when we see a light display like that. I actually wanted to see if I could light a cigarette from the raw physical presence of the Hip, but my proposed experiment failed because Sons of Freedom melted my coat from their antics. My cigarettes were molecularly bonded to my inside coat pocket. Did anyone notice that the Sons smoked. Not the most active band on stage but they really kicked. For many years to come I will lay in bed and wonder what they really sound like live. I think there is much recognition



Don

left to be given to the Sons except that what has been given has been from the non-traditional music listeners. Lord help us if they get to the CIHI top spot but by then I'm sure they would have changed into something closer to easy listening. For those of you unable to attend the show, my prediction that the Hip will be much heavier live came true I am pleased to say. The one good thing that can only come from this is that everyone goes out the next day and buys the album. They played some old favorites like "New Orleans is Sinking" as well as some newer favorites such as "Cordelia" and "The Last of the Unplucked Gems". Those tunes that were meant to be heavy, were that night. The difference in the new material was slightly audible but difficult to say exactly what was different. Was it more rhythm oriented from a guitar perspective or did it just sound like six guitarists were all playing at the same time. I'll leave it up to you but I'm voting for the latter. I think the focus for the band had to be the new album. In which case it would become a test to not only try to change Hip fans into Hip concert goers (for those who aren't) but more importantly to try to drill into the heads of existing Hip fans that buying the album is a good deal. Although I believe it is, if I just saw the band for the very first time, playing the new material that night I might not be so convinced and might just go home and slap in my well used copy of Up to Here and fantasize

about the good old sounds of yesterday. I think two good tunes off of the new album really came through Wednesday night though and they were "Eldorado" and "Wheat Kings". Again this was probably due to subdued nature of these songs that forbade any kind of harsh echo or reverberation.

I certainly hope that the Hip don't change their musical style because a little butt kick-

ing is good for the goose and gander. If you listen to the Hip this is what your after so don't even try to deny it. The hope that they don't change comes some what from a patriotic view that Canadian bands usually sound Canadian. There is definitely a Canadian flavour or something. My personal opinion is that there is something in the water. My second hope is that if the Hip ever came back to play the Aitken Centre again, by that time all of the unused whoopie pies are hanging from the ceiling to improve acoustics, that we find that damn country lovin' engineer and throttle him and that someone invites the Michelin Man and all of his relatives to just be helpful. Or maybe if we pray hard enough we can get a good band, well suited for the Aitken Centre, like Kenny Rogers or Motorhead. I say we go for Motorhead.

by  
Primal  
Boy