

# ENTERTAINMENT BRIEFS

MONDAY NIGHT LIVE  
COLLEGE HILL SOCIAL CLUB  
OCTOBER 7 / OCTOBER 14

BY LUIS CARDOSO

The Social Club's open mike night every Monday has had only two weeks to develop a following and its own groove; while it may be too early to judge, in my opinion, it will become an interesting and successful Monday night happening.

The event kicked off on Monday, October 7. Host Gavin Coughlan of local band the Hype introduced the small but lively audience to the concept of an open mike night. Briefly, anyone in attendance can take the stage and perform acoustic versions of the material of their choice. Microphones, PA, and monitors are provided by the Social Club, and the performers seemed comfortable with lending their acoustic guitars to those who hadn't brought their own.

The performances on debut night seemed boring and often lacklustre: the predictable Eagles, America, and 54-40 songs were played ad nauseum. The performers themselves, however, were all of very high calibre. I guess the material they chose simply lends itself well to the format, and is well known to most audiences. The exception was music performed by Frank Taylor, a veteran of Irish, Scottish, and Canadian traditional folk music bands, most notably Strathclyde.

My only complaint is that the same performers dominated the evening. There was a constant rotation onstage of the same people, and permutations of the available talent pool in the audience, which quickly became tiresome. This will most likely change when more students are aware of Monday Night Live and come out to participate in, and support the event. Once a performer or performers have played their material and left the stage, they really shouldn't return unless they receive an encore from the audience. This would serve to lend the evening a semblance of progression, and prevent the audience from becoming bored.

The second night, October 14, was far more interesting. New host Frank Taylor is a polished stage performer who, in spite of the small group of talent available, kept the evening moving quickly, and the audience highly entertained. The format was somewhat improved. The host's function also seemed clearly defined under Taylor. He kicked off the evening with a number of songs before introducing the first act, then performed in between most other acts, and during lulls in the evening. His vast repertoire of traditional folk music was far more interesting than the material predominant the previous week, and the repeat performers didn't repeat the music they had played the first night.

Hopefully, students will support this thing. Let's also hope Frank Taylor becomes the permanent host.

HIGH DIVING ACT  
LIVE AT THE DOCK  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12

Finally! A cover band worth seeing. I must admit I was somewhat reluctant to show up at local pub the Dock to see this relatively new band, but friends talked me into it, and I'm glad they did.

What makes this band a cut above the rest is both the level of musicianship in the band, and the choice of material: Santana, Three Dog Night, Doors, lots of funk and R&B; not your typical cover band fare.

The rhythm section really cooks: drummer Wayne Blanchard is exceptional, and bass player Dave Cavendish is solid and has his funky chops down pat. Guitar player Ron MacPhee cooks, without being flashy, and has great guitar sounds. Keyboard player John Weaver obviously loves the numbers the band plays, and his organ and electric piano weave (no pun intended) a hypnotic spell around the music. Perhaps what really stands out about this band is vocalist Mike Doyle. Doyle is an exceptional singer, one of Fredericton's great talents, and he is comfortable singing everything in the wide range of material the band performs.

The audience was in love with the band throughout all of their three sets. The High Diving Act was finished by 1 AM, but received multiple encores which kept them on stage until almost 2.

If you haven't seen this band yet, make plans to attend the Conservation Council Benefit Concert at the Playhouse Sunday, October 20. The Elm city's finest will be there: along with the High Diving Act you can check out Reckless Giant, the St. Mary's Drum Group, Thread Assessment, Eve Brown and Daryl Grant, and Ujamaa. The show kicks off at 7 PM, and tickets are \$6 in advance and \$9 at the door. It's all for a good cause. Besides, some of these bands are new, and this should be interesting to anyone who likes to keep their fingers on the pulse of the live entertainment scene in our quaint little city. What else is there to do?

# Happenings

In co-operation with the Beaverbrook Art Gallery and Gallery Connexion, the UNB Art Centre has invited Toronto artist, Kim Adams, to give a lunchtime lecture on his work October 22 at 12:30 pm in the lower gallery of the Beaverbrook Art Gallery.

Adams is known for his full-scale ready-made mobile sculpture and for his microcosmic HO-Scale constructs. The former, like "Mobile Tourist Home" recently purchased for the National Art Gallery of Canada is assembled from heavy industrial machinery while the latter is made from diminutive pieces familiar to model train aficionados.

- "Full-scale ready-made mobile sculptures" and "microcosmic HO-Scale constructs" from model trains? - I'm there.  
-ed

The Student Environmental Society in support of The Medicine Lodge Project is presenting an International Craft Sale in the Blue Lounge from Monday, October 28 to Wednesday, October 30 from 9am to 9pm. "A market place of unique handcrafted clothing, art objects and jewelry from around the world. Interesting selection of musical instruments from many foreign lands."

- "The Medicine Lodge" - sounds like a hip Shopper's Drug Mart.  
-ed

Fredericton is one of the stops on a 20th anniversary cross-Canada tour by NEXUS, the five man percussion group self-labeled as "Master percussionists doing global music." As part of the Onstage series, the program will be held at the Playhouse on Monday, October 21st at 8pm, and will include music from Africa, the Orient, India and the United States. Instruments used include drums, antique cymbals, bells, marimbas, vibraphone, thumb piano and xylophone.

- My press release tells me that this concert is already sold out to Onstage subscribers. From them to you - nyah nyah nyah.  
-ed

The twenty-second annual Media Bowl will be held this Saturday in the slime-infested PCB-laden swamp below the heating plant. Last years debacle that saw four Brunswickan Barbarians pitted against fifteen cleat-wearing, nasty CHSR Bunnies, with an amazing outcome of 21-14 for the Bunnies given that two Barbarians were sent to the Hospital, one with a grotesque cleat-shaped gash above his right eye (requiring eight stitches) and another with a broken collar bone from a cheap-shot tackle after the ball was caught. A word of warning. We're feeling much better now.

# Sweetwaters

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