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Edwin, The Flashing Lights, & Templar

A two part look at the pop, the rock, and the dance of the concert

Sean Patrick Sullivan

The Brunswickan

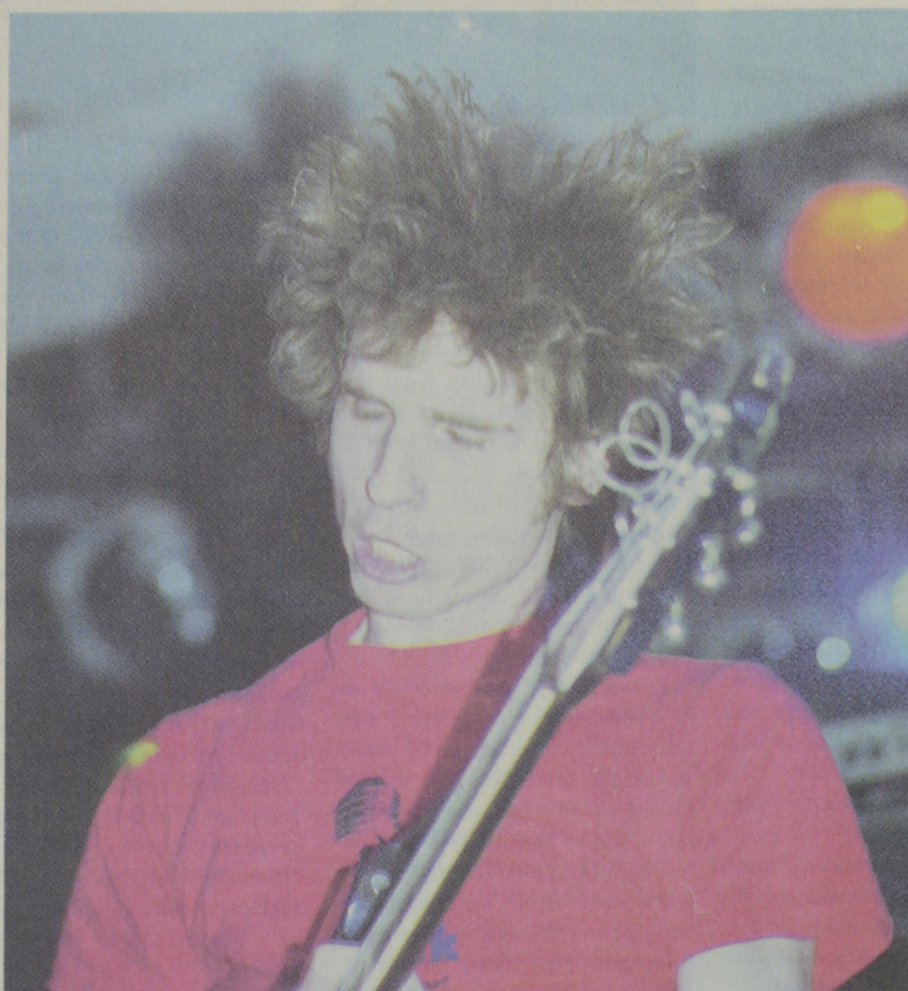
The Flashing Lights' all-too-short set last Wednesday in the cafeteria proved not only are they a quartet of profoundly talented musicians destined for super-stardom (if they want it), but Fredericton folks sometimes just don't know good music when they see it.

Okay, I'll admit that is a bit harsh. Nonetheless, the high ticket price and relatively short set by The Flashing Lights discouraged many fans from attending, and the vast majority present that night acted as if the band was an annoyance they had to wait through until Edwin started his set.

Once they took the stage, however, the enthusiasm exhibited by the band (especially lead singer and guitar swinger Matt Murphy) made up for the disconcerting audience. Opening with the irrepressibly catchy "Highschool" from *Where the Change Is*, the Lights began a furiously energetic half hour that, by the end, had the crowd wanting more. Unfortunately, that's when they had to stop.

Nonetheless, the band strutted their stuff, playing such fan favorites as "It's Alright," "Where Do the Days Go?" and "Elevature." The concert peaked during the closing song, "Same Thing Twice," when Murphy and organist/tambourine player Gaven Dianda (whose Beatles-esque haircut makes him the most authentic 60's member of the band) soloed extensively, while having the audience shout the refrain from the song.

Drummer Steve Pitkin barely broke a sweat during the show (despite his impressive, propelling drumwork) and



Mark McGinnis / The Brunswickan

Matt Murphy of The Flashing Lights as we've never seen him before. Really, the hair isn't always like that.

bassist Henri Sangalang bopped his way through the set, providing the occasional backing vocals (which, unfortunately, never quite made it through the mix).

Although it took a little while, the band began grooving and dancing onstage. Murphy encouraged the

audience to dance along, saying "this is fun...for me anyway."

In all, the Lights put together an impressive show, and if you missed them this time be sure to be there next time they hit Fredericton - they're the hippest Canadian pop you'll ever hear.

Kelly Johnston

The Brunswickan

Next up... Templar, an up-and-coming Canadian band whose music doesn't really fall under any one category. It's basically techno-rock with an air of dance and punk, but the group has as much versatility as a chameleon.

The group's name actually stems from Simon Templar, the character from *The Saint*, portrayed by Roger Moore in the hit television series, and then by Val Kilmer in the 1997 movie.

According to Will C, lead singer and rhythm guitarist, "we've left ourselves open to take any direction we want, whenever we want."

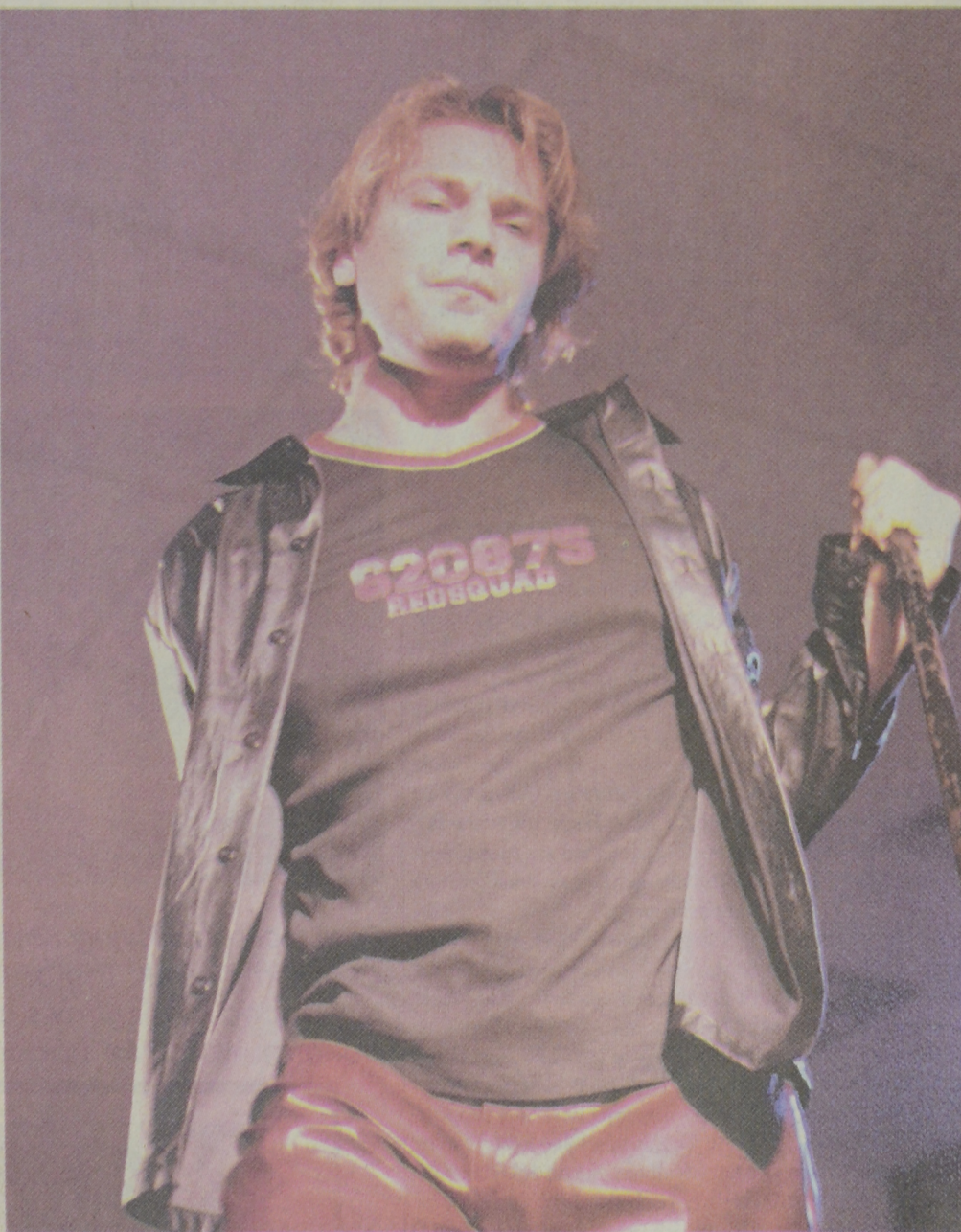
This made for one awesome performance at the SUB last Wednesday night. It was almost as if they were interpreting the mood of the audience and performing according to the feedback. The result? An exhilarating display of pure Canadian talent.

After the amazing opening bands, Edwin had to deliver quite a performance. But where was he? It's not a smart idea to place hundreds of crazy university students in a room for an hour, with alcohol and recorded music, especially when you can't get back in if you go outside for fresh air. But that's exactly what happened. We waited for "the main event" for the better part of an hour. I was almost ready to go home without having had even a glimpse of the headliner!

I'm glad I decided to stay because Edwin proved to be worth the wait. I don't mean to sound cliché, but he's even better live. It was clear that the boy loves to

perform. He sang all of the songs from his solo debut CD, *Another Spin Around the Sun*, and even some classic I Mother Earth tunes. The crowd almost wouldn't let him

finale was the classic Steppenwolf tune, "Magic Carpet Ride" which, in my opinion, perfectly described the overall experience of the evening. Two amazing bands plus



Kevin Forneris / The Brunswickan

Interpret this photo as you wish. Edwin looked cool and rocked out during his show last week in the SUB Cafeteria

leave. He did encore after encore until every fan was satisfied. No one left disappointed. His grand

one rock superstar equals one fantastic night of Canadian entertainment. Rock on!

A brief Q & A with Templar's Will C.

Sean Patrick Sullivan

The Brunswickan

Just before last week's show with Edwin, I had the opportunity to sit down and talk with Will C., guitarist and co-founder of Vancouver-based Templar. The impeccably dressed musician graciously accepted my apologies for being completely unprepared and, relaxing in his chair, comfortably answered by totally spur of the moment questions.

S: How did everyone meet?

W: Murray (Yates, lead singer) moved to Vancouver from Red Deer and auditioned for a band I was in but didn't get the part. Then I ended up playing guitar for a band Murray was in and Murray had written a couple of songs...he had an idea for this band called Templar, and asked me if I wanted to help him get it off the ground, get it going.

S: Did you go the usual route of playing club shows, building up a fan base?

W: No. We started writing really good songs, recording and demoing them, and sent them out to record companies and radio stations, getting a lot of interest before playing live. We had some labels interested before we even had a band together. From the early feedback we really thought it was a project worthwhile pursuing. We focused on it, got a whole bunch more songs, got a band together, rehearsed, and got a really great live show together so that when we actually did come out on the live scene we'd come out with a bang and really get noticed. By our second show we were showcasing for major record label and a year later we got signed.

S: And now you....?

W: Have one single and one video for "Here We Go," and are shooting a video for "The Need."

S: How did you get on the tour with Edwin? Who else have you played with?

W: We did the western leg with Edwin. It went really well and he asked us back because he really likes the way we pump up the crowd and get it going. Some of the bigger acts we've played with are the Matthew Good Band, Big Wreck, and DDT.

S: Do you generally get to play a long set?

W: Forty-five minutes...that's about all the live material the band has worked out. We've got ideas, but until we've worked something out to the point that it's as good or better than anything of our other songs we're not willing to present it to the audience. There are songs on the album the band hasn't even learned yet because of the recording process. Murray and I write and record everything and demo ourselves. Although the band records a song with us, we don't know how to play it live; we have to go back and learn how to play our own songs as a unit.

S: Your future plans?

W: We'll be touring through the fall and again in the spring. We've heard rumours about possibly playing the second stage of summer festivals like Edgefest and Summersault.

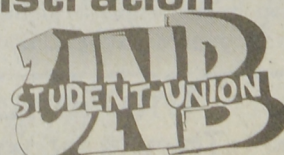
S: What are your influences? What do you guys listen to?

W: Funny you should ask...a lot of things you might not think of. A lot of 80's music because groove and melody is very important to us. Depeche Mode, Duran Duran, groups like that. As for modern stuff, electronic groups; Prodigy, Propellerheads, Aphex Twin, Garbage. My rock influence mostly comes from two bands: Black Sabbath and Metallica. Because we have such an eclectic sound, I don't really feel it's necessary to draw any influences from modern rock. Those bands...that's it.

REMINDER

The Student Union will be holding a clubs & societies meeting on Friday, October 27, 2000 at 5:00pm in the SUB Room 103. ALL CLUBS & SOCIETIES are asked to each send a representative, preferably the Treasurer or the President. Thank you kindly.

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The Brunswickan Annual General Meeting is Friday, November 3rd!
12:30 in The Bruns office (Room 35 SUB) Reports from the Editor-In-Chief and Managing Editor will be presented and proposed amendments to The Brunswickan constitution discussed.

Who knows...Dexter might even show up! Why don't you?