Late Night with Max Weinberg

Drummer making dreams come true since 1974

by Mark B. Thomas
Interrobang

LONDON, Ont., (CUP) — If the road to success is paved with failure, Max Weinberg wants people to know that it's all right to lay as much asphalt as you need to achieve your goals.

Weinberg made his name as the drummer in one of rock 'n roll's most successful acts, Bruce Sprinsteen's E Street Band, and later as the leader of late night television's most respected musical ensemble on Late Night with Conan O'Brien.

Last week Weinberg addressed a packed Forwell Hall at London's Fanshawe College where he played clips of his career with both Springsteen and O'Brien.

But Weinberg wanted the audience to know that his failures have every bit as much to do with where he is today as his successes.

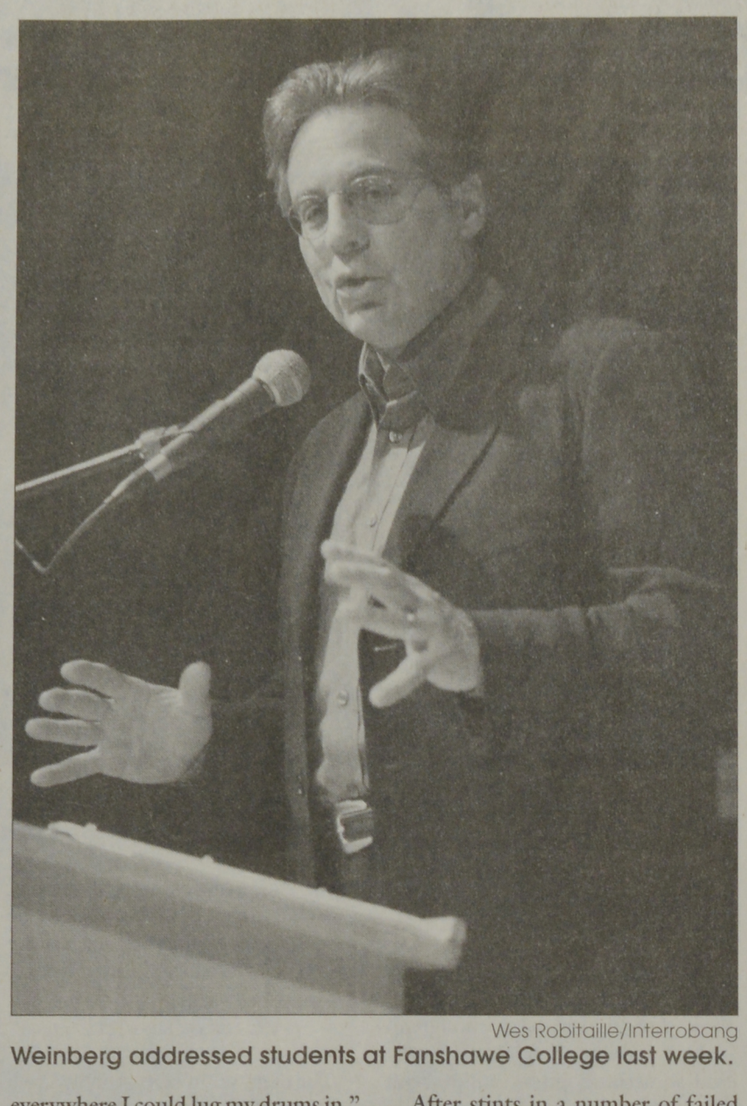
"Over the past 40 years there has been plenty of good and plenty of bad. It is so hard to make your dreams come true but if you look deep within yourself you'll find a hunger," he said. "If you want that thing to come true you can't just dream about it—you've got to keep working at it and believe that one day you'll get there."

Weinberg said his family was instrumental in both supporting his dreams and showing him how to achieve them.

"My dad used to say if you pound the pavement enough you'll get opportunities and that for every door that closes another opens."

Weinberg put these lessons to use early by following his love of the drums to the fullest.

"All I ever wanted to do was play the drums; I felt good about myself when I played the drums," he said. "So I worked anywhere and everywhere I could lug my drums in."



Wes Robitaille/Interrobang
Weinberg addressed students at Fanshawe College last week.

Anywhere and everywhere included weddings, bar mitzvahs, bars and banquets.

"My father wasn't a very good lawyer. He thought the law was sacred and something that was meant to help people," Weinberg said. "He didn't charge people like he should have. Consequently, he didn't make much money, which is why I was allowed to play bars and strip joints when I was 14."

After stints in a number of failed bands the 23 year-old Weinberg answered an ad for Sprinsteen's E Street Band.

"I still can't believe I hooked up with Bruce Springsteen through a want ad. At the first rehearsal he said, 'How ya doing, I am Bruce, let's play.' They were the best band I'd sat in with," Weinberg said. "After all those years of searching for the right connection, I'd found it. I knew when I saw their dedication. So, I joined in 1974 and in terms of career moves, I am glad I said yes. It's more fun than you can have vertical."

After 15 years, millions of albums sold, and thousands of sold out shows, Weinberg received the biggest shock of his career when Springsteen called and told him he was going to go out on his own.

"My whole world seemed to be shattered," he said of the experience.

Weinberg said he resolved to maintain stability in his life, and with a wife and two young children to support he needed to work.

Weinberg decided to return to Seton Hall University where he was only two semesters away from completing his degree in communications. Upon completing his degree Weinberg decided to go to law school.

"At this transition point the last thing I wanted to do was play the drums," he said. "Everyone in my family had law degrees so I thought it would be a good way to stay in the business and help young up and coming musicians."

But in the middle of class one day Weinberg felt something give. He left his seat, went to the registrar's office and withdrew from law school. A short stint working on the business end of the recording industry provided him with an education on the music industry but ultimately led him back to his spot behind the drums, where he said he was meant to be all along.

"My career is proof that if you just hang in there, have faith and a stiff wind at your back, you can achieve your dreams," Weinberg said.

A new look at an old hero

Word Balloons
Stefan Robak

Plastic Man might not be as well known as Superman, Batman and Spider-Man, but historically, he is equally as important. When Jack Cole created the hero he made his series of adventures a mix of super-heroics and comedy, creating the first great super-hero parody. Those classic and fun adventures took the zany cartoony style of art often used for gag comics and mixed it with the dynamic look that made super-heroes so interesting. Now the classic character has a new series, and it's definitely worthy of the character's legacy.

Plastic Man is a rather goofy and malleable hero, but that wasn't always the case. Once he was the tough as nails crook Eel O'Brien, but when he got hit with acid in an accident, he found that his body was now made of plastic. After being rescued by a monk, Eel realizes he's being treated with kindness for the first time and likes it, and decides to help make the world a better place. But now, Eel's past has caught up with him: it seems that a man has been murdered and all clues (uh, actually just one) point to Eel. Luckily no one's looking for Plastic Man, but with a no nonsense partner by his side it won't be easy.

Kyle Baker is writing and drawing this comic and it is utterly fantastic. Baker is used to doing humour books for more mature readers such as *The Cowboy Wally Show* and *Why I Hate Saturn*, but here he brings a comedy that resembles more of a Looney Toons aesthetic. But with this series, Baker creates a series that looks and reads like no other comic out there. The art is a mix of all the classic Looney Toons artists such as Chuck Jones, Tex Avery and Fritz Freling, as well as other cartoonists in the animation industry. Kyle's take on Plas's stretching powers is inspired and imaginative.

But the art isn't the comic's only strength. Baker's writing here is clever and wickedly funny. In one scene Plas's best friend tries to become a superhero of his own, but when he can't find a mask that fits he resorts to a ski mask. When he tries to stop a thug from robbing a little old lady, they both think he's a terrorist and start beating him up for the sake of patriotism.

In the same issue, Plas and his partner Agent Morgan track a lead in the case only to find the lead was a trick by the Red Herring, a talking fish whose evil scheme is to get in a person's way when he's solving a case. And though the book is primarily a parody, the characters also prove strong in a dramatic sense. For example, Plastic Man's origin is explained in a way that makes sense for the character as opposed to the previous explanation of simply becoming a hero once he got powers. Plas actually seems noticeably disturbed when he contemplates his past and we can feel for him.

DC comics has a real winner on their hands here: this book is witty, original and getting better and better with each issue. There are very few really good humour books out in the market today, and Plastic Man is both funny and intriguing. Lets just hope Baker can keep it up for the rest of the series.



Special to The Brunswickan
Plastic Man is revisited by artist Kyle Baker in this latest adventure.

G-Spot & the Special Sauce

The Explicit Edition
Jill Connell

I think you were merely trying to be provocative, but I took the female ejaculate bait anyways. I googled this phenomenon and found several visual aids, which were a little hot but mostly weird. Unless the female is actually ejaculating eggs, then what the hell is this "ejaculate" supposed to be? And what reproductive function does it serve? And why haven't I heard of this before?

Suspicious of Female Ejaculate

Provocative? Please, female ejaculate is merely the tip of the provocative iceberg. If I wanted to be provocative this would be an article about anal fisting. But on to this week's favorite dinner-table topic: G-Spot and the special sauce, the floodgates of veegee love juice, ejaculate, the eighth wonder of the world. Call it what you will, female ejaculation has been documented throughout the ages, from the ancient Greeks through to the Renaissance. Consult your Kama Sutra manual, your ancient Japanese erotic art, consult the internet – female ejaculate may be misunderstood, but it's certainly not new.

These days people are alternately embarrassed, freaked-out or turned-on by the phenomenon of female ejaculate, but most often they're just downright confused. The general consensus of research thus far: female ejaculate does exist. It is expelled through the urethra during orgasm/arousal and is the result of pelvic muscle contractions and/or the paraurethral glands overfilling. Although it comes out the urethra - this thin, watery, generally transparent, slightly sugary liquid - is not urine. You have not peed the bed, you have not pissed on your lover's face.

What the hell is it? No, women don't ejaculate eggs, although female egg jissom would be cool. Most researchers agree it's a fluid from the paraurethral glands (a.k.a. Skene's glands), not unlike that produced by the male prostate. All fetuses – male and female – are ostensibly female until the seventh or eighth week of gestation, when the Y chromosome starts to kick in for the boys. What turns into the prostate gland in boys, turns into the paraurethral glands in girls, and voilà – ejaculation equipment for both males and females.

Female ejaculate is most often associated with the stimulation of the urethral sponge, a.k.a. the G-Spot - a term coined in the '80s after the German gyno Ernst Gräfenberg. The Big G deserves another column entirely, but essentially it's an erogenous zone about one-third to half-way up the front wall of the vagina (think back-door of the clitoris) – a ridged area around the size of a quarter. If all women have a G-Spot, then can all women ejaculate? Possibly. Recent research indicates that all women produce ejaculate, but it's hard to say for sure. Women are reported to release anywhere from a couple drops to a couple cups of ejaculate – so you can understand how it might sneak out unnoticed, while other times it might be a sheet-soaking experience. Either way, I can't vouch for the mega-ejaculators found in pornos.

As for its reproductive function, who knows. Similar to the clitoris, perhaps the process of female ejaculation exists for sheer pleasure – which certainly serves the reproductive function of getting women into bed. Release of paraurethral fluid, boosting your lover's self-esteem, a good bar story? Your guess is as good as mine. You haven't heard about female ejaculate because people either don't know about it or they're too embarrassed to talk about it. The relative lack of research and the strange societal notion that women's fluids are disgusting have not been helpful to the cause. Undoubtedly, it's pretty hard not to love male ejaculate. However, it's possible female ejaculate is even more formidable, merely on account of its mystique – the market value is higher because it's harder to attain. Although by no means a goal for every woman or every sexual encounter, men and women across the nation are getting into the sauce, so it's certainly worth doing some research: www.the-clitoris.com.

Send questions and/or comments to j.connell@unb.ca.

Students to present Dario Fo play

by Bruns Staff

Students of UNB's Theatre Fine Arts Minor program having been preparing for four performances this week of Dario Fo's *We Won't Pay! We Won't Pay!*

As two working-class couples struggle to make ends meet in very tough times, hunger forces some of them to take a hard look at their cherished beliefs, and all of them to ever wilder tricks to cover their trail.

The play is a rollicking slapstick comedy with clever dialogue courtesy of Nobel laureate Fo, and antics and belly-laughs courtesy of Chin Flick productions through Theatre UNB's Fine Arts Minor program.

We Won't Pay! We Won't Pay! can be seen from February 18th-21st at Memorial Hall at 8pm each night. Tickets are $8 for the general public and $6 for students.

UNB Fredericton
The University of New Brunswick
presents
the 2003-2004
W.C. Desmond Pacey Memorial Lecture
by
Dr. Victoria de Grazia
Columbia University
The Market Empire: American consumer culture's irresistible advance through twentieth century Europe
Tuesday, February 24th, at 5:30 pm
J. Harper Kent Auditorium
Wu Conference Centre
Fredericton Campus of UNB
Free Admission

Thinking about a career as a professional accountant?
Think CGA
As a **Certified General Accountant**, you will have a career that will open a world of opportunities. Our distance education program offers options in the career direction you choose – whether it is industry, finance, government, not-for-profit or public practice. For further information, call 1-800-561-7110 or visit us at: *www.thinkcga.org*
Today's CGA. Total Accountability.
CGA Certified General Accountants / Comptables généraux accrédités



Dr. T. Wayne Lenehan / Dr. M. Michele Leger
Optometrists 512 George St., Fredericton, NB
F P 2
T O Z 3
L P E D 4
P E C F D 5
E D F C Z P 6
F E L O P Z D 7
D E F P O T E C 8
L E F O D P C T 9
Eye Examinations
LASER Vision Evaluation & Management
Contact Lens Fitting
Children & Designer Frames Available
New Patients Welcome
Please call 458-8986
Office Hours: 8am - 5pm Monday-Friday, 8am - 8pm Thursday