

Rock's haunted, sophisticated ladies

from *Magneta* page 1

school chum French, who plays bass. Lexi recalls, "we used to go to shows a lot, [and] we wanted to be part of the life that we'd always seen and admired, because you do get tired of just being a fan in the audience."

The desire to join the scene prompted the sisters to draw up what Lexi jokingly calls "a master plan," and resolved that through hard work and dedication, they would get to experience life on the other side of the crowd barriers. After playing just four shows in the Toronto area, the band was signed to Paper Bag Records and began production of their debut EP, *The Constant Lover*.

Since then, says Lexi, "it's just been a crazy whirlwind, mentally, physically, emotionally, trying to balance everything." This week, the band heads to Austin, Texas for the South by Southwest music festival before striking out on tour with Tokyo Police Club, a tour that will bring them to Fredericton on March 24. They also recently released their first full-length album, *Dancing With Daggers*.

Lexi is excited about the band's return to the Maritimes - "we love Fredericton," she asserts, but moreover, "the thing I

really love about the Maritimes is that there's a really haunting feel about it."

"In Charlottetown," she recalls, "there's this place called Inn On The Hill, and it's just a hotel, but if you go in and read this plaque that they have on the wall, it's called 'On The Hill' because that's where they used to hang people, on those grounds. That stuff is really fascinating."

Taking the time to explore their tour locales is just one way the band stays sane on the road - which, according to Lexi, can sometimes be a tall order.

"We all have really bad tempers," she laughs. "The best way to deal when people are in a bad mood is just to have silence in the van. I like that I don't have to worry about saying the wrong thing, we're so comfortable around each other now that we can say whatever [we want] and then, if we don't feel like talking to each other, we just won't."

That ease, she says, is the best part about being on tour with "two of your best friends."

Talk of touring naturally prompts a digression about groupies - does Magneta Lane have any, or have they ever embraced that role?

"That's exactly what we didn't want," laughs Lexi. "We don't want to be the groupie girl-

friends, we want to be the rock stars!"

She adds, "the funny thing is, something I've noticed in the last while is that we get men and women that are equally aggressive. We get a couple of characters, from bikers trying to give us shots to girls that jump on you, [but] we're just trying to do music, trying to make a living. We don't get caught up in that sort of thing. We're just trying to live."

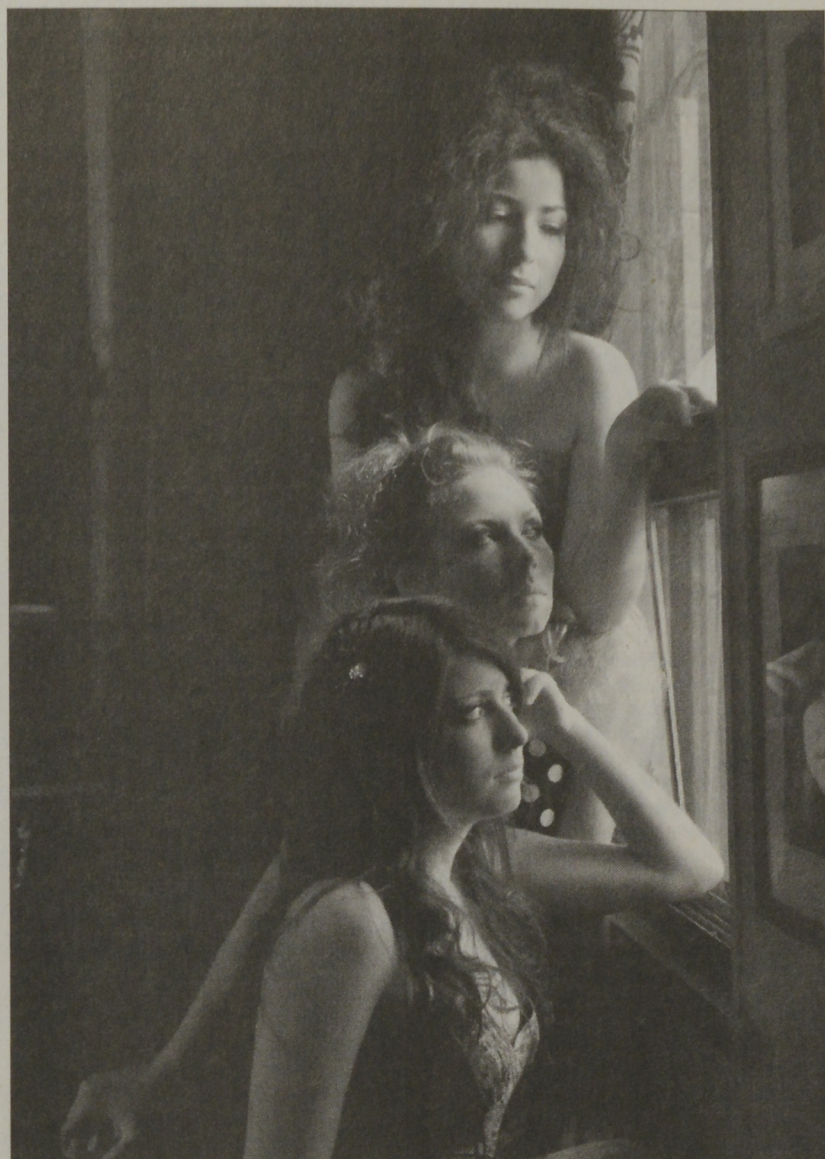
I ask Lexi to personify Magneta Lane's music, guessing from the sharpness of her earlier answers that it's a challenge she'll appreciate.

"She'd probably have a really bad temper," she says with a smile in her voice. "She'd probably be very ambitious and very impatient. She'd probably be us three combined into one person."

Of course, she would know, being the band's chief lyricist.

"I wouldn't be able to sing something that wasn't mine," she explains. "You want to be able to feel your music, [and] I'm a writer first, so lyrics to me are something that's super special and close to my heart. You can do anything you want, but just let me have my lyrics!"

Check Magneta Lane out at Bugaboo Creek on March 24.



MC's Ultra Accurate Horoscopes

Pisces 2/19-3/20

Your world will be reduced to eight bits. Everything will function like it did for the original NES.

Aries 3/21-4/19

You will discover secret messages written in invisible ink on the underside of Kleenexes.

Taurus 4/20-5/20

Your love life will pick up this week when that hideous blue rash finally goes away.

Gemini 5/21-6/21

Politics and gummi-bears will merge into a super bouncy, decision-making, tasty monotony.

Cancer 6/22-7/22

Your nightmares will begin leaking into your waking world. You should probably pack heat.

Leo 7/23-8/22

Your brain is expanding at an exponential rate, and you will soon need to sell the extra bits.

Virgo 8/23-9/22

No matter what the question, beer will be the answer - unless the question is also beer.

Libra 9/23-10/22

Buying your lover plus sized lingerie will not be as hilarious as you think it will be.

Scorpio 10/23-11/21

The police are on your trail. They found the third body, and they are holding a grudge.

Sagittarius 11/22-12/21

Huge feet may attempt to crush you Monty Python style. Carrying a tall pointy stick will help.

Capricorn 12/22-1/19

A shadow from your recent past will reemerge when a passing cloud no longer blocks the sun.

Aquarius 1/20-2/18

You will create your greatest masterpiece yet, using an old toaster and a can of beets.

Who will be the first-ever UNB Idol?

by *Bruns Staff*

Attention students: the first-ever UNB Idol competition is almost upon us, and the Nursing Society needs your help to raise funds for the Fredericton Community Health Clinic by coming out and showing your support for your talented peers!

This Saturday, March 18, at 8:00 p.m. in the SUB Ballroom, ten contestants, selected through an audition process, will compete for an iPod Mini and the ego-stroking glory of being named UNB's Idol. For just \$10 admission (\$7 for Nursing Society members) you will be treated to an evening of fine performances and a semi-formal dance, and will have to opportunity to purchase votes for the contestant you feel is most deserving of the title of UNB Idol.

In order to prepare you with some expectations for the competition, The Brunswick has compiled some biographical information on six of the ten Idol contenders; because it's a busy time of year, we unfortunately weren't able to reach four of the contestants, but hey - you'll just have to purchase a ticket and come out to the event to get the whole picture. That said, we are proud to introduce...

Sarah King

Sarah King is a feisty, hard-partying karaoke queen from Bay Roberts, Newfoundland who wears her heritage with pride. Although preparing to graduate from Renaissance College in just a few months, she somehow still finds the time to represent the staff of The Brunswick on the paper's Board of Directors, write a somewhat regular column

about terrible television called *What Not To Watch*, act as Editorial Assistant for the *International Fiction Review*, and still show up at karaoke every Thursday, pink fuzzy cowboy hat and all.

Before coming to UNB, Sarah spent 10 years singing in choirs, was an accompanist for four different choirs at music festivals for four years, and for three years was the lead singer of Generation, a Christian rock band from her hometown.

Sarah's favourite artists include Alanis Morissette, Amanda Stott, Sheryl Crow, Michael Bubl , and Great Big Sea, and in her spare time, she enjoys throwing dinner parties for friends - she can cook a mean tikka misala! She hopes that UNB Idol will be her chance to sing for more people than just the bartenders at Bugaboo Creek while helping to raise money for a great cause.

Mandy Elizabeth MacLean

Mandy is a first year student at UNB hoping to major in Political Science and minor in Theatre. She attended high school in Oromocto, New Brunswick. Her past singing experience includes six years with the Lintuhtine Choir of Oromocto, local venues, dinner theatres and various events in Oromocto and Fredericton, and she hopes to pursue performing in the future. Her favourite artists include jazz artists such as Billie Holiday and Ella Fitzgerald, and more modern bands such as Feist, Broken Social Scene and Death Cab for Cutie.

Alex Pope

From the moment she got her start performing Christmas carols

for her doting relatives at family get-togethers, Alex Pope knew she was born to be a singer. Growing up in the vast suburban wilderness of Mississauga, Ontario, she spent much of her free time in choir practice, first with the Mississauga Children's Choir and then with three choirs at her performing arts high school, where she majored in voice and dabbled in theatre, landing a role in the chorus for the school's production of *Les Miserables*.

Now in her third and last year of UNB's Renaissance College Leadership Studies program, she lives a dual life. By day, she can be found in the offices of The Brunswick, making a living as Arts and Entertainment Editor and a bitingly harsh music critic (her least favourite bands are Norma Jean and Simple Plan). By night - or at least, on Thursdays - she transforms into a karaoke diva and puts her feet up on the tables at Bugaboo Creek, her second home. She has also competed, with no success but much enthusiasm and wicked wardrobe choices, in several karaoke contests across the Maritimes.

When not consumed wholly by her passion for journalism, Alex enjoys painting, reading, playing guitar, walking around aimlessly thinking about the meaning of life, and writing really emotive poetry. Artists like Frou Frou, AC/DC, Afro Celt Sound System, The Notwist, Carly Simon, Lisa Loeb, Def Leppard, Shania Twain, Alanis Morissette, Duran Duran, Ivy, Trespassers William and KT Tunstall round out her "favourites" list, thereby proving that her musical tastes are largely identity-confused.

Shannon Pronk

21-year-old Shannon Pronk was raised in Fredericton and is in her third year of a degree in Nursing at UNB. Her interests include travelling, cooking, teaching piano, and going to concerts, and she loves double-chocolate cookies. She has eight years of classical voice training

to her credit, and has toured extensively with the District 18 Schoolgirl Choir. She's also a member of the classical ensemble VocalEase, is a former member of the Leo Hayes High School Chorus, and is a singer and keyboardist in the worship band at Brunswick Street Baptist Church.

Shannon loves a broad variety of bands and artists including Feist, Metric, Diana Krall, Michael Bubl , Il Divo, Broken Social Scene, Sarah Brightman, Cartel, Imogen Heap, Death Cab For Cutie, The Weakthans, Relient K, Sufjan Stevens and others from a diverse range of genres and background.

Janet Roloson

Janet (Jan) Roloson hails from Prince Edward Island where she graduated with her honours in psychology at the University of Prince Edward Island. Currently, she is enrolled in the Masters of Education in Counselling Psychology program at UNB and hopes to be a therapist in the very near future. When she is not busy studying, she enjoys reading, singing and songwriting, poetry, and creating movies through pictures and music. She is currently working as a student assistant at UNB's counselling services, and is employed with addiction services on PEI. In the past, Janet has performed for the annual music cognition conference held at the University of Prince Edward Island as well as in choirs and a number of music festivals. Her favourite artists include, but are by no means limited to, David Gray, Jewel Kilcher, and Sheryl Crow.

Bethany Vail

Bethany Vail hails from Geary, New Brunswick and is a first-year business student, though she admits that her very wide range of interests made it difficult for her to choose a degree program to spe-

cialise in. Besides business, she really loves the sciences, visual arts, writing, acting, singing, public speaking, volunteering and traveling. You may know her from the wide range of activities she's involved with both on campus and off campus.

Bethany started singing from a young age in church. In high school, she had the lead role

in two of her school's musical productions, *Grease* and *Copacabana*, and sang in the school's variety shows. She was also in a folk band for a year and a half, an experience which took her to different music festivals and charity fundraising events: the band raised money for cancer, veterans, the community kitchen, and for the Oromocto Hospital.

Bethany's taste in music is quite large; she likes everything from opera to heavy metal, classical to rap, though her favourite type of music is easy rock. Some of her favourite artists are the Foo Fighters, Switchfoot, Coldplay, Josh Groban, Hawksley Workman, and Our Lady Peace. Her favourite soundtrack is *Phantom of the Opera*.

According to Bethany, her singing style "has a lot of influences: gospel, folk, musicals, and great female singers like Jewel, Michelle Branch, Nelly Furtado and Chantal Kreviazuk."

Of the upcoming contest, she says, "I think UNB Idol is going to be a great experience and a lot of fun! I can't wait to see you all there!"

Tickets for the UNB Idol competition and semi-formal dance are available now from the Paper Trail in the SUB, or from the Nursing Self-Instructional Lab (Room 112C, MacLaggan Hall). For more information, please contact Jillian Lawson at jillian.lawson@unb.ca. Under-agers never fear - this is a wet/dry event!

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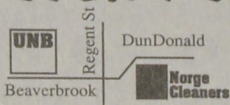
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