

Belvedere Rocks Concert sells 850 tickets

BY ERIN FAGAN

Approximately 850 tickets of the 1700 available were sold in support of the Belvedere Rocks concert held in the UPEI Sports Centre on September 23.

The concert, held in the UPEI Canada Games Sports Centre, headlined Big Sugar and featured special guests The Matthew Good Band and Pluto.

Although the final numbers were not yet in, Tyler Dougan, SU Vice President Operations reported that 1050 to 1100 people attended the concert.

The 300 additional people who attended the wet-only event were reportedly radio contest winners, Belvedere tour guests, and guests of the bands.

"I was happy with the turn-out at the concert," Dougan said. "Numbers weren't as high as they could have been, but all in all the show was a success."

During the first portion of the Wednesday night concert, Vancouver's Pluto played a half-hour set of about eight songs, starting with a couple of familiar pop hits from their previous album. They then performed songs from their newly released *Shake Hands With the Future*. In spite of the relatively small crowd in the Sports Center as the set began, the band was powerfully energetic, loud and fun.

"Pluto rocked. That's who I came to see," commented one individual in the crowd.

Another student complained that they hadn't played long enough.

Ian Jones, lead guitarist and the "snarly side" of Vancouver's Pluto, made the following comments on their first visit to Charlottetown during a discussion before their performance.

"It's so clean here, eh? No spray paint. . .and the houses are all old. We like that," Jones said. He asserted, however, that Vancouver had better clam chowder and a nicer ferry service.

In discussing the tour, Jones mentioned that the band loves playing live, but that he personally enjoys recording the most.

"It's more relaxed, just hanging out," he commented.

Jones also spoke of what the band enjoys listening to.

"We enjoy pop music, and we like melodies. We all have different tastes, but we

like seeing live shows...like Jon Spencer [Blues Explosion]...."

Jones did admit that Pluto had been listening to Dwight Yoakam and Willie Nelson quite heavily over the duration of the tour.

With only a couple more dates left on the Belvedere Rocks tour, Jones expressed that with the release of their new album, *Shake Hands With the Future*, Pluto would continue touring for most of the year.

"This is just the beginning," he said. "We want to tour in the states and everywhere we can."

The Matthew Good Band was next on the bill. They made an entrance accompanied by the *Star Wars* theme, and proceeded into their set of lyrical pop-rock tunes from their latest record.

"I hadn't really heard of them before, but they were pretty good," said one spectator the day after the concert.

Owing to a streak of serendipity, our lucky Cadre photographer was able to meet Big Sugar's bassist, Jamaican-born Garry Lowe, in the men's washroom during the Pluto set. When asked for a comment (while washing his hands),

Lowe was enigmatic.

"What? Something stupid? Everybody ends up in the same place so it don't really matter, eh? Think about it."

Big Sugar, the highlight of the concert, came on at about eleven o'clock, and began with a strongly blues-influenced, reggae-infused tune. One prominent feature of their latest CD, *Heated*, is a harder-hitting beat line which seems to result from their new drummer, Gavin Brown. Kelly "Mr. Chill" Hoppe, the keyboardist, also demonstrated his harmonica skills during the set, which consisted largely of new songs and at least one Beatles cover.

In summation, Dougan and SU as a whole seemed please with the event.

"There was limited trouble, no accidents, no damage, the bands all loved playing here," he said. "And above all else, the crowd had a great time."

"The show achieved the goal of creating some school spirit at UPEI, which, when push comes to shove, is what my job is all about," he added.

Inevitably, though, not all students were satisfied with the event.

One first year student, a self-described Pluto fan, wondered why those under nineteen were unable to attend.

"I would have gone if I could," she said. "I know a couple people who are into Big Sugar, too, so it was a disappointment to find out we couldn't go."

News Ed. Note: The Cadre was unable to determine exactly how much the concert cost or how much the Student Union made profited from the event.



Big sugar performing for a crowd of over 1000 in UPEI Sports Centre on Wednesday, September 23

photo by Richard Haines



Big Sugar seen here with members of the 1998-1999 UPEISU

photo by Richard Haines