

# Hidden Gems: Blue Boy

by Liam Corcoran

Did You Know?

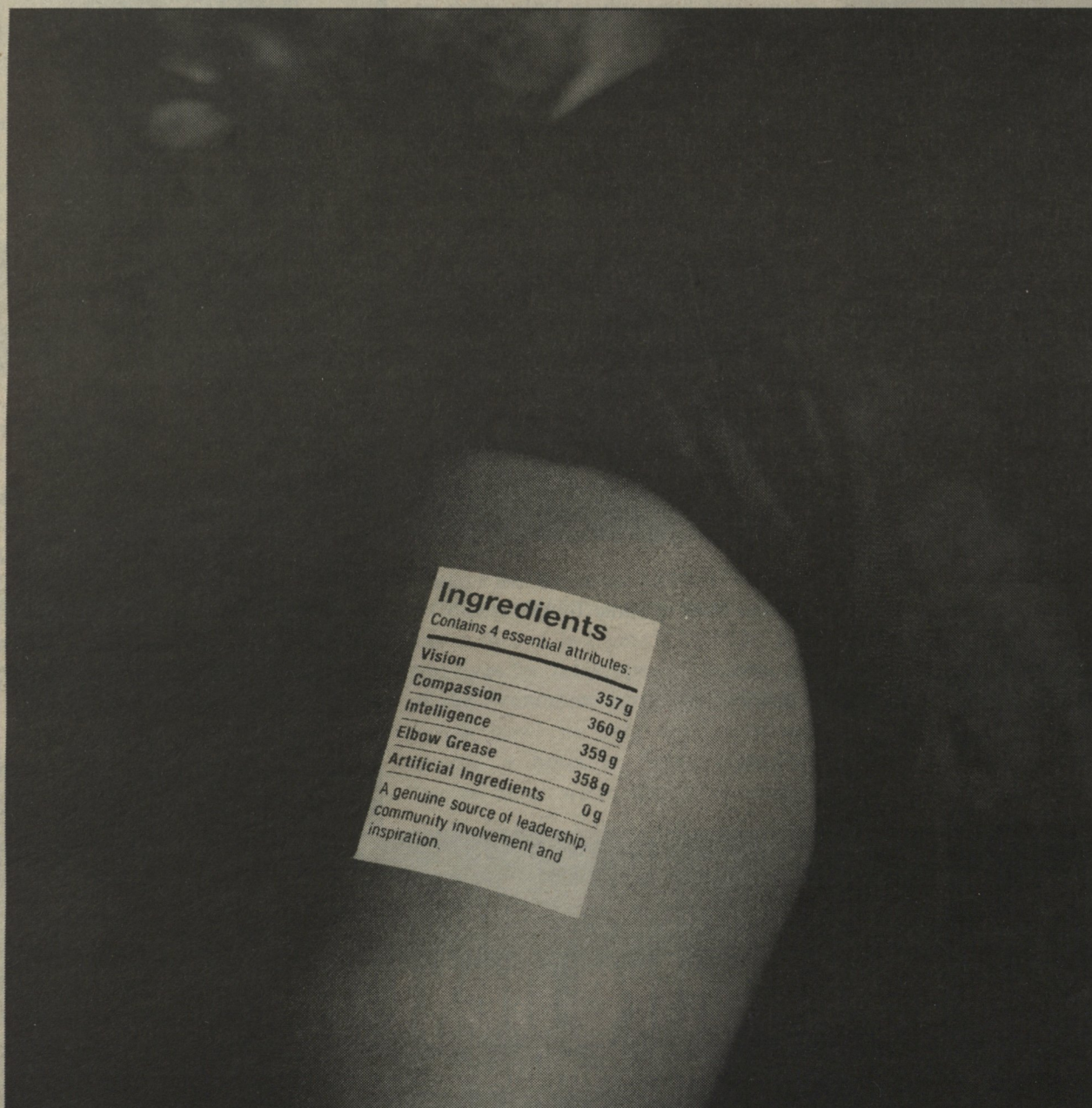
In 2002, Ron Sexsmith released an album, entitled Cobblestone Runway. Having heard only a handful of songs off this release, I would speculate that it is an excellent album. I can only speculate because I refuse to listen to it in its entirety. The reason? - I can't imagine a more touching record than Blue Boy (2001). Excluding two or three weak tracks toward the record's conclusion, Blue Boy maintains a

consistent mood using a range of styles. Songs such as "Thirsty Love" and "Tell Me Again" are expertly concise and flow effortlessly into one another. Ron's thick and humble vocal style might remind the Canadian music fan of a more reserved (but no less brilliant) Gordon Lightfoot. The 3-minute stories woven by Sexsmith can seem light at first glance. However, it takes only a few more listens to see

the heart underneath these melodic ribs. With Blue Boy, Sexsmith creates an album that deems subject matter unimportant and rewards the careful listener handsomely. And to be clear, I am better looking than Mr. Sexsmith.

8.9/10

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