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Remembering \textit{Values}  \footnotesize{Franciscan}

\textit{What happened to ‘Dignity of the Individual’?}

\textbf{by Angela Hatem and Dawn Duncan}

"Marian College, rooted in the ongoing Catholic intellectual and liberal arts tradition, which embraces academic freedom and critical analysis, commits itself to the intellectual, spiritual, moral and social development of a diverse student body. Guided by the Oldenberg Franciscan sponsorship values that emerge from creative reflection on the life of Jesus Christ—dignity of the individual, responsible stewardship, reconciliation and peace and justice—our students, as well as the broader Marian College community are challenged to cooperate in the creation of a just and peaceful society."

- Mission Statement from the 1997-1999 Course Catalog

On October 17, posters were hung by Dawn Duncan on all the wing doors in Clare Hall. On Monday, October 20, when students returned from Fall Break one poster remained. This may not seem unusual to anyone who lives in the residence halls. Posters get torn down all the time. Except this time, it wasn’t just a poster that fell down or was pulled down in passing. On Friday, the poster simply read "October is National Coming Out Month! Please join us for a video and discussion on the struggles of being gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgendered in society." By Monday, a few additions had been made to the signs, by either a Clare Hall resident or guest. These additions were as follows: "This is not normal!”, "Adam + Eve NOT Adam + Steve,” "Don’t promote this,” "Take classes on being heterosexual instead!”, "Dignity + University = Diversity = Freaks." This is becoming more commonplace. Dr. William Mirola, professor of Sociology, has had a similar experience with signs and posters he has hung.

According to Mirola, signs he had put showing support for 2000 striking union managed to find there way to the floor. "One poster was taken down from the opposite end of Marian Hall, crumpled up and delivered to the couch outside my office," stated Dr. Mirola. Similarly, there were additions made to his signs as well. These additions included: "Unions are UnAmerican", "Say no to Socialism", "Do NOT Support 2000 striking newspaper workers." In addition to the damage done to the signs and posters, someone in the Marian College community removed a bumper sticker that supported the Labor Unions from Dr. Mirola’s office bulletin board. Although the two incidents vary in content, the pattern is the same.

Dr. Mirola sees this as a sign "that something is wrong here." He pointed out that this lack of respect for diversity issues is something that needs to be discussed. "It is time for the silent majority to speak up," Mirola commented. In both situations, neither Dr. Mirola or Dawn Duncan were confronted to discuss opposing views. "It is easier to take down a poster than to confront a professor," replied Mirola. "It is easier to act anonymously than to have the courage to face your fears and discuss them," stated Dawn Duncan.

Sr. Norma Rocklage, Vice President for Mission Effectiveness, defined the four Franciscan values for us. Dignity of the Individual respects a person’s rights and values. Reconciliation means dealing with conflicts responsibly, not destructively. Peace and Justice honors the rights and respects of an individual even if you do not agree. Responsible Stewardship simply continued on Page 3

\textbf{Alcohol Fines Skyrocket}

\textbf{by Daniel Prybyla}

The Marian College student handbook has two new startling figures for the academic year, $50 and $75. In the spring of 1997, under the premise that "presence constitutes possession", the alcohol policy was revised so that a student in possession of alcohol on campus is fined $50, as opposed to $25 fine charged in the past. If a student has other occupants in the room while alcohol is present, a fine of $75 is imposed on the host resident as well. Based on information gathered from students by Resident Assistants (RA) and Resident Directors (RD), the primary reason for the escalation in alcohol fines was due to students’ cavalier attitude about paying a $25 fine. RD of Doyle Hall Scott Stursa believes the raising of fines will raise the student’s attention.

Apparently students have taken notice, as Dean for Student Affairs Dean Woodman explained. During a normal year, the College Judicial Panel, which consists of twomembers of the professional staff, two members of the faculty, three students and the Dean for Student Affairs, hear and judge issues of student conduct in conflict with College Policy. They handle an average of six to ten cases an academic year. Up to continued on Page 3
Construction Update

by Dan Przybyla

It's still lights out for students and faculty. Not until Dec. 1 will lighting be operational along the walkways and roadways throughout campus, according to Russell Glassburn, Chief Financial Officer. Marian is experiencing manufacturing process delays with the lighting manufacturer, but no reasons were given for the delay. The expected shipment of lighting is to arrive on Nov. 24; however, parking lot lighting will be activated on Nov. 1.

Except for a telephone pole that requires removal along the road east of the Ruth Lilly Student Center, "The roads are pretty well done," said Glassburn. In front of the Apartments Under Construction

Admissions Building, the arch has been erected. In January the limestone will be placed on the structure of the arch, and a respected Hoosier sculptor will then chisel a design in the limestone. As for the amphitheater, Glassburn hasn't set a deadline for construction to begin. "I don't know right now, since things become weather sensitive at this time of the year," said Glassburn.

The apartments located to the west of the gym should be completed by December. Students and faculty will then be able to move in for the start of the second semester. Although 51 trees have been uprooted, 233 trees are expected to be planted within the next couple weeks.

New Professor In Sociology Dept.

by Nealy Deck

This year's fall term has brought a new face to the Marian College Sociology department. Dr. Christine Rack, who replaces Mary Haugh, is the new full-time sociology professor.

Dr. Rack received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology and Chemistry at a Catholic liberal arts college in Cincinnati, Ohio. She then moved to Boston, Massachusetts where she worked for 4 years in medical technology research, while her concentration was in the field of developing ASSAYS, which deal with hormone research.

After leaving Boston, she traveled to South America (Cali, Columbia), and stayed there for 2 years, again working in medical research of hormones.

Two years later, she moved back to the United States working late nights and weekends in a clinical lab part-time. She also got involved in study groups. "I started out as a socialist feminist and currently see myself as esoteric, which is metaphysical physical teachings," said Rack.

In 1986, she moved to New Mexico where she went to graduate school. Her master's degree was in Art Education and Art Therapy. Four years later, she volunteered as a court mediator and started another research project for her dissertation which dealt with race, ethnicity and gender.

How well is she coping with the transition of culture? Weather? Etc.? Rack remarked, "It is an adjustment! I miss the climate, the mountains and there isn't enough sun. Also in New Mexico, the weather allows you to camp till December and then start back in February. I like Indy, the college, and the social interactions among students and faculty."

What are her perceptions of student attitudes and teachings as a new sociology professor? "Logistically, it has been tricky! I am hoping to get a balance based on who students are and what is possible and interesting to teach and learn," said Rack.

Some of her goals and attributes she feels she can give to Marian. "I would like to contribute to an international linkage with Latin America. I am very committed and interested in trying to figure out what justice means in the real world." I feel as though I can contribute to the integration of students with peace and justice and other Franciscan values into our lives, social world, and institutions. "My ultimate goal is to find out where the students are coming from and where I can come from to meet the students needs."
ELS Makes a Move

by Angela Hatem

For the past twenty-two years the ELS language center, English Language Services, program has made its home here at Marian, but soon ELS will be making its home some place else.

The ELS program will be moving to the halls of IUPUI come the first week of January 1998. According to Loni Dutton, office administrator for ELS, "The move has been planned for over a year." Dutton continues, "Moving was a corporate decision; all 23 ELS centers are going to be located on large campus." Dutton also stated that in the past year three moves had already taken place. The reason for the move? More opportunities are offered at larger campuses.

The ELS building, which occupies a part of Fisher Hall, will not go unused. Chief

Doyle Hall Study Room

by Grant McVay

At the beginning of this semester, a long-standing Doyle Hall problem was rectified. Due to the voiced concerns of Doyle residents, a study room was formed for students. The study room is located in the basement of Doyle Hall directly below the lobby. The room used to serve as a recreation area before being transformed into a storage venue last school year.

The main obstacle that Resident Director Scott Stursa faced was a lack of funding for such a project. Working with Cathy Bickel, Campus Operations, and the Doyle Hall Council, Stursa was able to have the project funded. Thanks in part to the money allocated for the study room, the room has new carpet and furniture. Stursa notes that the Doyle study room is open "24/7" and that the project shows that "students can get things accomplished for the betterment of the school if they voice their thoughts and concerns."

Alcohol continued from Page 1

this point there hasn’t been a single judicial panel for the 1997 academic year. Since repeat offenders of alcohol possession are a common case heard at the panel, Woodman believes the upgrade in fines has been responsible for deterring drinking on campus.

The issue of raising alcohol fines had its impetus at a monthly meeting in January of 1997, in which Cathy Bickel, Assistant Dean of Campus Life, discussed the state of alcohol fines with the RA’s. RA’s expressed to Bickel that “students didn’t take fines seriously;” a sentiment repeated by William White, last year’s Doyle Hall RA of second floor and current RA of first floor. With exception to his own opinion on the matter, White was unable to disclose details of the meeting. According to White, Stursa instructed the RA’s not to discuss the details, that were addressed at the meeting with Carbon reporters, but to instead redirect all questions to Bickel’s office.

Bickel then met with RD’s, the Student Affairs Committee, and the 1996-1997 Marian College Student Association (MCSA). Each MCSA member was given a draft of proposed increases in alcohol fines and some time in mid-March (no specific date was known by Bickel), Bickel attended a MCSA weekly meeting “out of courtesy,” where she “entertained any question students had” about the proposal. MCSA was the last official body to discuss the proposal and they approved it, although in Bickel’s words “I didn’t need an approval.” Ultimately the decision-making power to ratify such a policy rested with her office. She continued, “I technically could have gone on with it.” and added, “Would I have done that? Probably not. You are at Marian where they really believe in student input.” Offering his own input, senior and former MCSA treasurer Michael Rusbason, remarked, “I felt that the student input wasn’t taken into consideration in regards to the alcohol fines being raised. I think other avenues should have been considered.”

According to MCSA Faculty Advisor/ Director of Student Activities Sandra Hester, only two MCSA members opposed the proposal. However, when asked to reveal the minutes from this particular MCSA meeting, Hester failed to present the record. According to Hester, “the transition to the new officers during the middle of March and the period following spring break,” caused disarray, leading to a month when no minutes were recorded.

Although on the surface it may appear that the stiffer alcohol penalty is the reason behind the decrease in discipline this year, other supporting reasons are possible. According to Bickel, 44 per cent of the students living in residence halls are new, and she does not necessarily attribute the decrease in discipline cases to the new fine system, but more so to the new group of students. Senior Sarah Garshaw, last year’s RA of second floor and current RA of first floor, commenting that “Every four weeks students arrive and students leave, the new students won’t really notice the change,” said Dutton.
The Land-Mind Dilemma

by Norman L. Minnick, Jr.

I am a rebel, a visionary, a man with a real sense of direction. I walk on the grass rather than the sidewalk, for without sidewalks, I can travel in any direction I choose. Campus is my arena, what better place to wreak havoc? What better place to learn? What better place to find yourself, expand the mind, and outstretch the soul? What better place to become the monster, you have always dreamed about?

Now, those who have the reserved parking spaces are hampering my effort by building more sidewalks. Sidewalks are everywhere, going in every direction but forward, crisscrossing this way and that, so I don’t have to walk on the grass. But, by nature I am a rebel and I can’t rebel when there is no grass left to walk on. I am becoming distraught and I spend my learning years in a jungle. A jungle on its way to becoming a cultivated battleground.

Yesterday I walked on one of these new sidewalks holding in one hand a fistful of dreams and in the other the 2,965 page long Heath Anthology of American Literature, Volume One, Second Edition. I happened to notice the price tag on the cover and wondered why the bookstore’s name was spelled m-a-r-i-o-n. I was not going anywhere really, just killing time, for the sidewalk lead me in a complete circle.

Sitting in an archaic classroom, I looked around to hear the question resounding in the minds of teachers and students alike as bulldozers rumbled the classroom walls. The teacher fumbled with an antique map of the world which was yellowing and hanging on by a mere filament of knowledge diminished by the lack of modern substance. Students pay dearly to sit in row upon row losing time, seeking substance and cultivation, and striving for enlightenment. College is the path for higher learning. Marian College is determined to become sidewalk upon sidewalk of aesthetic campusness—a handsome first impression to the wealthy observer.

Someone failed, however, to specify into which cultivation to invest millions of dollars. But, what matter, as long as there is a beautiful campus to lure in the perspective affluence? Don’t forget to leave plenty of spaces of parking reserved for the heedless, for the heedless do not realize that college has another meaning as well (the Webster’s II New Riverside Dictionary is still available in paperback for $4.99 everywhere paperbacks are sold). It says that college is an assemblage with a common purpose or duties. I do not recall any round-table of students being consulted of their opinions about which form of cultivation to pursue. Perhaps it is because these students would have voted to improve and refine their education first.

Money can easily acquire elegantly meandering sidewalks and glorious fountains, but a sound mind, now that takes diligence, levelheadedness, and hard work. All one needs is a clear mind, an instructor, and a writing utensil; narrow and to the point. The decision-makers have really missed the target on this one.

I begin to falter in the opposite direction and think, maybe it would be nice to sit by a fountain and pore over an absorbing book. I have not seen this fountain of lore yet, but I fantasize of clear flowing water—something else I have yet to see on this campus.

I dreamed once, in cascading color at that, about Marian College investing its well sponged money into the betterment of education by procuring up to date materials, redesigning the classrooms, and updating to modern equipment to catch up with the real-world. Instead, those wearing the suits opted for the superficial aestheticness of the campus; wreaking havoc on our minds and loading us down with aimless sidewalks and talk of fountains.

Marian’s Joan of Art

by Carrie Wise

I was very pleased to see the story concerning the new art classes being offered to Marian students through the Indianapolis Art Center in the latest issue of the Carbon. I am currently taking Figure Drawing and Painting at the IAC, and it is the best class I have taken in my college career. I love going to it and I have really learned a lot and grown as an artist in many ways. I couldn’t wait to see the spring catalogue to see what classes were going to be offered next semester at the IAC. To my surprise, there were none listed in the catalogue. This upset me considering I have heard nothing but positive comments about the program.

The other Marian students in my class agree that this is one of the best classes we have been offered for many reasons. While Marian offers successful art classes, they are limited due to the small number of faculty and an increasing number of students in the department. Therefore the variety of teaching styles and classes are often limited.

My class at the IAC has exposed me to new styles and perceptions. My class is composed of people from the ages of 17 to 80. Some are doctors, students, artists, or people who just enjoy drawing or painting. There is a wide variety of styles that I have learned from of which have helped me expand artistically. The access to the IAC has also made me aware of what is going on in the Indianapolis art community, something I have never felt a connection with before. I have finally been exposed to the Indianapolis art community, something I will be entering next year as a graduated art major. To be exposed to the art community before I get out there is...
by Jim Lekse

I would like to clarify statements found in The Carbon, published Oct. 13, 1997. The article, “Mayberry in a War Zone”, depicts Marian College as being located in an area beset with crime, illegal drugs, domestic violence and prostitution. The area that Officer Davidson was describing in this article is not Marian’s neighborhood but one located several miles from the campus where two men were shot. The assailants were subsequently apprehended at the Carmelite Monastery by I.P.D. Officers and a Marian College Police Officer. The message that Officer Davidson wanted to convey is that serious crime can be carried to any doorstep, even ours, although the shooting incident actually took place miles from the College campus.

Most people who have lived or worked at Marian for any length of time realize that we are located in a well-established and maintained area. Two golf courses and the White River act as a buffer on our south and east boundaries. On the west side of campus we have a wellmaintained and stable neighborhood that includes the homes of several of our faculty and staff. On the north side, Marian adjoins the grounds of a large highly regarded Indianapolis Public Elementary School campus. The Lake Sullivan complex, which contains the Major Taylor Velodrome, is situated across Cold Spring Road to the northeast.

Although no campus can be described as completely safe, at Marian College we have been fortunate to have had a very low incidence of serious crime in recent years. It is my belief that with the installation of new and brighter outdoor lighting and the continual efforts to equip and train our officers, we will remain successful in keeping crime under control and maintaining a relatively safe environment at Marian College.

In addition, I want to clarify information in the article about the Police Department’s radio communications equipment. Replacing the radio system that is now being used with a system that is compatible with the Indianapolis Police Department’s M.E.C.A. System would cost approximately ten thousand dollars ($10,000). Acquiring such a system is a College priority which will be met as soon as sufficient funds become available.

I hope that this clears up some misconceptions that may have resulted from the information that appeared in the Oct. 13 issue of The Carbon.

Diversity continued from Page 1

means to care for all things. “St. Francis desired to have respect for creatures and all creation,” stated Sr. Norma.

- Marian College Diversity Statement

Lekse’s Rebuttal

by Angela Hatem and Dawn Duncan

As the writers of “Mayberry in a War Zone,” a title which was given through a direct quote by Officer Davidson, we stand by our article which we thoroughly researched and developed. When we began to interview for this article we were under the assumption that the reasons for our security worries were the officers themselves. The angle change of this story was due to the interview with Officer Davidson. Our information printed was derived directly from Officer Davidson’s statements. We read back his quotes to him and allowed him to go over our notes. When we spoke to him he was fully confident in all of his statements; there appeared to be no reservation or any doubt in the facts he gave us. We have clear written documentation of that interview. Nothing in our article was fictitious or editorialized. The article was composed of statements from a respected officer, whose capability and knowledge is being compromised and questioned by this sudden revamping of what he meant, or was supposed to have said.

We completely support Officer Davidson and there is no doubt in our minds that the information that he gave us when we interviewed him was completely true. We found Officer Davidson to be a highly credible source.

Even though golf courses could provide a buffer for the campus, they too are susceptible to crime. For example there was a murder that occurred on a golf course near Marian’s property in the recent years.

We are very pleased that security awareness has risen due to this article and that the administration is taking strides to make changes here on campus.

Mayberry Revisited

by Angela Hatem and Dawn Duncan

As the writers of “Mayberry in a War Zone,” a title which was given through a direct quote by Officer Davidson, we stand by our article which we thoroughly researched and developed. When we began to interview for this article we were under the assumption that the reasons for our security worries were the officers themselves. The angle change of this story was due to the interview with Officer Davidson. Our information printed was derived directly from Officer Davidson’s statements. We read back his quotes to him and allowed him to go over our notes. When we spoke to him he was fully confident in all of his statements; there appeared to be no reservation or any doubt in the facts he gave us. We have clear written documentation of that interview. Nothing in our article was fictitious or editorialized. The article was composed of statements from a respected officer, whose capability and knowledge is being compromised and questioned by this sudden revamping of what he meant, or was supposed to have said.

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Art Continued from page 4

something that I feel is very important. Something I feel would have not happened to me if it weren’t for the classes offered to us at the IAC. The art community has now been exposed to me, a great opportunity for my future.

My point is the classes are a necessity for the art students and a program that I strongly feel should continue. I know there is a lot of “bureaucracy” concerning the program, but I highly recommend to the Academic Deans that they take the steps in providing the Marian art students this successful and necessary program in the future. Please take the time to provide art students the opportunity to learn and grow as artists, and make use of our community’s resources.
Tennis Teams To Nationals

by Tammy Portee

On Saturday, Oct 11, both the men's and women's tennis teams made school history. Both teams defeated conference rivals to win the Mid-Central Conference Tournament. Head Coach Tony Natali commented, "It is nice to win the championship and go to nationals, but it is extra special to take both teams." Coach Natali also added that he believes this is one of the first times that a school has taken both their men's and women's teams to nationals in the same year.

Both teams will head to Tulsa, Oklahoma in May to compete for the NAIA Spring Championship Games. Other teams competing will be all other NAIA division schools who win their conference tournaments. Since there is only one NAIA Conference in Indiana, Marian will be the sole representative of this state in Oklahoma.

Tulsa is also the host for other sports nationals during the same week in May. Other sports that will be competing are golf, softball, baseball, and track. Since all of the sporting events will be occurring at the same time, the coordinators are treating it as a small Olympics, with a modest Olympic-type parade that all of the different sports teams will participate in.

Both team's seniors were asked how they felt about their accomplishments, and outlook on nationals. Amanda Wilson states, "It's great to be a part of making school history, and after four years of hard work, going to Nationals is a great reward". Heidi Hancher added, "The women's team is very close and worked hard. We finally did it, and we are making a name for our team and college and getting recognition in the community".

On the men's side, Cade Stockwell said, "It's great because all the hard work we put in is paying off. We're really looking forward to competing in Nationals because we think we can do something with the caliber of our team." Brad Pearce commented, "It is a tremendous accomplishment for our team and school and we could not have done it without being a unit. Our biggest asset was the team focus and it carried us throughout the year. It is especially nice for me because I am a senior."

Dominating The Court

by Carly Steinborn

The Marian College volleyball team boasts an outstanding record of 25-2. Overall, their season has consisted of solid performances and steady improvement.

At the recent Paoli Invitational, the Knights annihilated the competition. They faced Brescia, Martin Methodist, and I.U. Southeast; heating each of the three squads in three quick games. To top off their flawless performance that day, three Marian players were named to the AllTourney team: Sarah Welehr (Sr.), J'nai Le Fevre (Fr.), and Jackie Sides (So.). Sides was also named Most Valuable Player of the tourney.

The Knights also played well at the recent Purdue Calumet tournament held on Oct. 24-25. The Knights defeated squads from Cardinal Stritch, U.I.S., Purdue Calumet, and Anderson, but suffered a loss to Michigan Dearborn. One member from each team was chosen to be on the All-Tourney team. Marian's recipient of this honor was Jackie Sides.

The Knights presently hold a conference record of 4-1. They've defeated Goshen, Indiana Wesleyan, St. Francis, and Huntington. Their only conference loss was to Grace (11-15, 14-16,17-19). They have two more pivotal Conference matches left against Taylor and Bethel. They hope to defeat both squads to gain momentum as they enter into the MCC Tournament, which begins on November 13.

CC Stamina

by Daniel Przybyla

Amid injuries to the women's and men's cross country team, both have competed well. Two-time NAIA Academic All-American Amy Crews leads the fleet of women. Crews, a senior, has won three meets and set two course records this year and hopes again to make it to nationals. Carrie Scott, Julie Goodspeed and Vanessa Johnson have contributed their running abilities for added depth to the squad. The NAIA National Championship for Cross Country will be held in Kenosha, Wisconsin on Nov. 15.

On the other side, the men's squad is primarily young. Sophomore Fred Clark has been running in the number one spot most of the year, followed by freshmen Eric Neuhaus and Jay Garshaw. At the Asbury Invitational the team celebrated its high point of the season by winning the meet.

Hanging Tough

by Daniel Przybyla

An unimpressive start to the men's soccer season has the Knight's coach baffled. An 8-9 mark this season has been frustrating for this fifth year head coach. Of the nine losses Marian has outshot their opponent seven times. "We haven't been able to put it in the net when it counts," said Nirrengarten. Unlike the past years where a few programs dominated, 1997 has shown more parity in conference play. "It's been the most talented team I've coached here and yet we have trouble executing," said Nirrengarten. The team is comprised mostly of underclassmen, with only four seniors on the roster. Senior Joe Oleksak, a potential all-conference selection said, "This year has had its ups and downs but all in all, the guys have stuck together and worked hard to make this a good season." Several freshman have contributed greatly, which thrills Nirrengarten for the 1998 season.

Knights soccer has made striking improvements since its sluggish start; including a victory over twenty-first rated Goshen.
Students Travel to Stratford

by David Wolske

Early on the morning of October 16, 1997, while the majority of Marian students were probably sleeping off the effects of celebrating their first night of Fall Break, a group comprised of students and faculty loaded themselves and four days worth of luggage into three vans and a few miscellaneous cars, and embarked on a nine hour journey that would take them through Northern Indiana, most of Michigan and into their ultimate destination, Stratford, Canada.

For forty-five years the Stratford Festival has been celebrating world class theater. This year was no exception. Twelve shows, covering the entire range of human emotions, were performed in three different theaters from May through November. The fortunate few from Marian who were able to make the trip saw four performances: Equus, Romeo & Juliet, The Taming of the Shrew, and Camelot.

Equus was the first of the plays attended and by far the most powerful. For those unfamiliar with the plot, it delves into the relationship between a child psychiatrist and his seventeen year old patient with astounding profundity. The doctor, in trying to “cure” the young boy, is forced to evaluate his own motivations and the passions that direct his life.

The two plays written by William Shakespeare, Romeo & Juliet and The Taming of the Shrew, both dealt with the pursuit of love, and both were performed on the same day, emphasizing to great effect the contrast between the romantic tragedy of the “star-crossed lovers” with the hilarious attempts at subduing a sagacious woman. While Romeo & Juliet was done quite traditionally, The Taming of the Shrew was modernized in accordance with the contemporary ideals of femininity.

Camelot, a musical based on the legends of King Arthur, was a perfect conclusion for an extended weekend of stunning performances and wonderful fellowship. The lively music, fantastic scenery and optimistic ending put everyone in attendance in the mood for celebration. And celebrate they did, with good cause. Stratford is the perfect backdrop for anyone who enjoys the theater. Great restaurants and unique shoppes are abundant and worthwhile in that city that was repeatedly and fondly referred to as “quaint”.

The Why Store Lives up to its Reputation

by Jennifer Beck

Indianapolis’ best-known local band proved itself worthy of all the attention recently in two sold-out performances at the Vogue Theatre in Broad Ripple.

With a mix of both old and new material as well as new songs that are included on the band’s upcoming release, the concerts reflected the Why Store’s growth from a low-budget local attraction to a band on the cusp of stardom.

A talented group of musicians whose material transcends categorization, the Why Store blends elements of hard rock, disco, alternative music, and pop to create a distinctive sound seldom heard on mainstream radio. As a result, the Why Store is most often played on stations that shun playlists and avoid strict formatting classifications, such as Bloomington station 92.3 WTITS.

As usual, the band’s performance was full of edge and energy—and perfectly suited to a small-club venue like the Vogue. Chris Shaffer’s smokey vocals were hypnotizing, while Greg Gardner (bass), Charlie Bushor (percussion), Mike Smith (guitar) and Jeff Pedersen (keyboard) roused the audience to a fever pitch. Crowd pleasers included such Why Store classics as “When You’re High” and “Lack of Water” as well as newer material like “Father,” “Surround Me,” and “So Sad to Leave It.” Throughout the 120-minute set, most of the audience remained on its feet and dancing.

The band’s return to the Vogue demonstrates its commitment to regional fans at a time when it has embraced a more national focus. The Why Store’s entrance onto the national music scene came with its 1996 self-titled release, which was produced in conjunction with Way Cool Music, a division of MCA Records. However, as lead singer Chris Shaffer acknowledged during the second show, the band owes much of its current national success to the Indiana “Whomheads” who throughout the years have supported the Why Store by attending its concerts and buying its first two independent releases. As long as the band continues to make great music and perform like it has in the past, it seems unlikely those fans will be abandoning the Why Store anytime in the near future.
GRAFFITI HAS PLAGUED OUR STREETS OF THE INNER CITY. NOW IT HAS FOUND ITS WAY INTO THE CARBON. WE HOPE YOU ENJOY OUR TAGS AND TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHAT THEY SAY. ANSWERS NEXT WEEK.

From the

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