

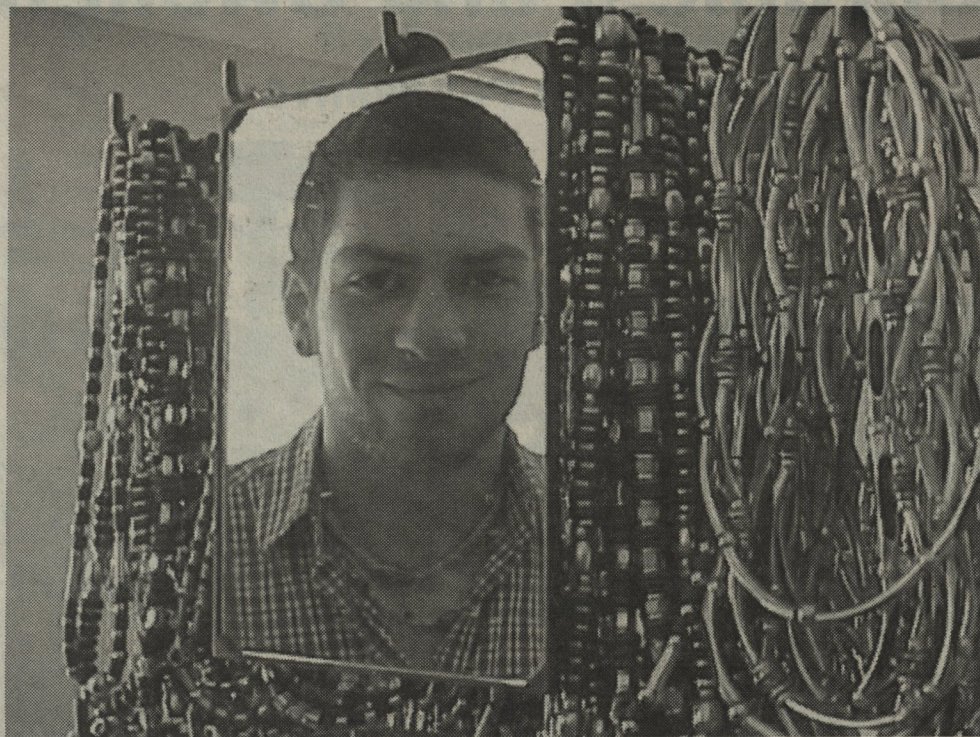
# Concourse Attracts Peddlers; No Sign of Carnies

By Mariève MacGREGOR

Last Sept. 18-19, two fellows by the names of Chris Williams and J.P. LeBlanc meandered into our New Student Centre concourse and set up their display of goods. Sterling silver body jewellery from Thailand, Necklaces from the Philippines and China, tapestries from India, sarongs from Indonesia. But who were these strangers, and where did they come from? Well, their company name is Varsity Crew, and they are based out of Moncton.

LeBlanc, the owner, started up the company four years ago, and he has three crews which manoeuvre from place to place between PEI and Alberta. They especially like to hit universities, since their merchandise is well-suited and priced for students.

"We tried to come to UPEI before, but were told that because of fire regulations, we couldn't," said LeBlanc. "We've had a lot of trouble with the smaller universities, especially those in the Maritimes, because there was no space for us to set up. The breezeway (of Robertson) wasn't safe for [us to use as a] venue, I guess."



## University to soon offer Minor in peddling, selling wares, and disembodied heads.

The fact that Varsity Crew has long since been trying to set up at UPEI suggests that perhaps other entrepreneurial gigs may have been attempting to set up here as well. The New Student Centre may soon enough

be bombarded with peddlers of all trades. Whether this is meant to be a welcome change or a curse remains to be seen. Varsity Crew will be returning, however, come mid October.

# Steel Recital Hall Plays Host to Hot Sex<sup>tet</sup>

By Josh UNDERHAY

SOLD OUT – the Dr. Steel Recital Hall was filled to capacity Sunday evening (Sept 15) for the David Braid Sextet. Although tickets were available at the door, the limited supply quickly dwindled. The crowd was entertained with some great jazz from funky grooves to ballads and blues. After the second set, the audience demanded an encore, after which the sextet received a standing ovation.

The sets included such tunes as a ballad dedicated to astronomer Dr. Stephen Hawking, a groovy number called "Say a Silent Prayer" based on a hymn tune, and a bass-feature tribute to Charles Mangus. Throughout the entire evening folks were tapping feet, nodding heads to the beat, and generally feeling the groove.

All of the group had a chance to showcase their individual talents in

every tune— and there were many outstanding improvised solos. The bass-feature tribute, called "Fishers of Men", had a especially groovy solo from bassist Steve Wallace. Another song was written by David Braid especially for trombonist Gene Smith – titled "Blue Gene" (get it?) featuring Smith in another dazzling solo.

It should be noted that ALL of the repertoire performed Sunday evening was composed by David Braid for the group.

This Canadian jazz group boasts some big names. On drums is Terry Clark, who has played with Oscar Peterson, Ed Bickert, The 5th Dimension, John Handy, and Roger Kellaway. The bassist is Toronto's Steve Wallace, who has also performed with Oscar Peterson, as well as Eddie Lockjaw Davis, Clark Terry, Tormé,


Woody Herman and Sweets Edison. On fugalhorn/cornet was John MacLeod - currently a teacher at Toronto's Humber College - who has previously recorded with Ray Charles, Nancy Wilson, and Linda Ronstadt. The sax was wielded by Juno-winning Mike Murley of Nova Scotia, who has performed with Randy Brecker, Dr. John, John Abercrombie, and Kenny Wheeler. On trombone was Gene Smith, the current chair of the St. Francis Xavier University Music Department, and one-time member of the Woody Herman Orchestra. And of course, on piano, was David Braid himself – Honours graduate of University of Toronto, recipient of the W.O.Forsyth Piano Award, and semi-finalist in the Parisian "Concours Internationaux de Piano Jazz".

Durning the intermission CDs

were made available at \$10 each (the author even decided to splurge and grab one).

You can find out more at [www.davidbraid.com](http://www.davidbraid.com).

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