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CLUB CHATTER

By **Toni Ruberto**

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> Raising money

Whenever there is an artist in need -- be they musician, writer, painter, etc. -- you will always find another artist. A case in point is an event tonight in Nietzsche's, 248 Allen St.

A host of musicians, actors, directors and poets are among those donating their talents to help raise money for the "Infringement Festival." The second annual festival, held this year from July 27 to Aug. 6, is a chance for independent artists of all types to showcase their "art below the radar."

Tonight's fund-raiser starts at 9:30 p.m. with a lineup that includes music by the Skiffle Minstrels, Pam Swarts, Z. Mann Zilla and the World's Largest Trio, and Gregg G, plus spoken word by Bonita Z and Mc Vendetta; theater and performance by the Eclectic Improv Company, Soundpainting Orchestra and the Real Dream Cabaret; and poetry by Lea Prentiss and Luciano Iacobelli, along with a contingent of writers from Toronto.

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Ronawanda and Auntie Establishment will emcee.

Admission is \$5 at the door. If you're an artist who still wants to submit work to the festival, move fast: you only have until Saturday. For more info, visit **www.infringebuffalo.org**.

> Up close, in-store

There's nothing quite as intimate as enjoying musicians during an in-store performance. Check it out for yourself when rising young Canadian artist Matt York performs at 4:30 p.m. Sunday in New World Record, 765 Elmwood Ave.

York's music, described as a fresh mixture of acoustic, funk jazz and pop, was forged through coffeehouse performances around his hometown of Oakville, Ont. By 2003, York was a popular force on the Toronto circuit and released his debut CD, "Zero Six," which sold nearly 8,000 copies.

Last year, York released his full-length debut, "Under the Streetlights," a disc filled with his soulful brand of acoustic fun.

There are actually two chances to see York perform in the area this weekend. In addition to the in-store performance, he plays an all-ages show at 8 p.m. Saturday in Higher Grounds Coffee House, 3622 Sheridan Drive, Amherst. Call 836-0046.

> Gig picks

Just like the lifting of the ice boom, the Bob Dylan Imitator's Contest has been a rite of spring around these parts for a long time. The 18th annual event, presented by Michael Meldrum and the Buffalo Song Project, begins at 8 p.m. Thursday in Nietzsche's, 242 Allen St.

Not only is this an event to honor the songwriting genius of Dylan, it's also a chance for young musicians to showcase their talents (who can forget the impression made by Redheaded Stepchild in one of its first gigs) and for veterans to have fun and put together mix-and-match lineups for the evening.

If you want to participate, get there at 7 p.m. to sign up. The show starts at 8 p.m. Admission and the entry fee are \$5.

This year's judges include Tina Peel from WLKK; Joe DiPasquale from Planet Love; Erin Verhoef of Rust Belt Books; Brian Grunert, White Bicycle/Righteous Babe Records; News staff reporter Mark Sommer; Rory Gordon and Jim Duggan.

* In the mood for classic rock and April foolery? Jeez Luweez plays classic sounds for an April Fool's concert at 9 p.m. Saturday in the Clover Club, 367 Oliver St., North Tonawanda. The 21-and-over concert is sure to be a good time since Jeez Luweez never fails to deliver on its slogan of "chick rock band that will take you by storm." Expect to hear more from Jeez Luweez outside of the club scene, too, as the band completes final mixing on a new CD. For info: **www.jeezluweez.com**.

* Looking for all-ages show today? Here's two.

Monster Squad, the City Creeps, Tainted Army, Action, the Ghouls and Premium Benji are among the acts performing at Xtreme Wheels, 356 Hertel Ave. The show starts at 5 today; admission is \$10. For info, visit **www.xtreme-wheels.com**

* Later today, it's a night of metal in a concert beginning at 9 p.m. in the Showplace Theatre, 1063 Grant St. Music is by Darkling, SIN and Heredity Unknown. For info, go to **www.suckloud.com**.

* If you go see energetic hardcore act Death by Stereo on Thursday in Mohawk Place, don't forget that it's a pretty big night for Buffalo metal masters Herod.

The band releases "Rich Man's War, Poor Man's Fight," a CD recorded with producer Doug White at Watchmen Recording Studios. Since forming in 2000, Herod has spent most of its time touring the United States and Canada. The band even performed during a 10-country tour of Europe with label mates Fear My Thoughts. For info on Herod, check out www.herod.cc.

Thursday's concert starts at 7 p.m. and also showcases Achilles and Crimes of Passion in Mohawk Place, 47 E. Mohawk St. Admission is \$10. Call 855-3931.

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