

Celebrations '75 takes off

Toronto band lively but loud

By SILVIO DOBRI
Tribune Staff Writer

Celebrations '75 took off like a rocket Wednesday, and it was only the sturdy walls and dome of the Winnipeg Convention Centre that kept it from reaching lunar orbit.

Rush, a Toronto-based rock band that opened the five-day festival of entertainment, almost overwhelmed an audience of about 6,000 with its pile-driving rhythm and brute electrical force.

Originally slotted for Wednesday night's warm-up

spot, Rush got top billing when the Detroit band Rare Earth was forced to cancel its appearance after a member fell ill. Rare Earth is scheduled to lead off a special concert Sunday.

There's no mistaking where Rush band got its musical influence. Bass guitarist Geddy Lee even sounds like Robert Plante of the Led Zeppelin, as he assaults the lyrics with his high pitched voice.

The band is raucous, loud, flashy and rough — the ingredients that make it a

contender to the Heavy Metal finals.

While Lee handles bass guitar and vocals, blonde-haired Alex Lifeson churns out some high-powered guitar passages with Neil Peart keeping a heavy and steady beat.

The trio executed a selection of old and new material with enthusiasm, but the music was too loud to make the lyrics audible. Were it not for the fact that Lee announced each song, a listener who was not a die-hard fan would have considerable difficulty distinguishing each tune.

Musically, Rush is a tight-well-rehearsed band, even if its performance scope is narrow. The band's six-year bar-and-lounge experience is paying off because it is giving the fans what they want — metal beating against metal.

Rush is signed to Mercury records, the label which has the New York Dolls and Bachman-Turner Overdrive

in its growing stable of high-powered bands.

The band has just finished recording its second long-play for Mercury. The new record, *Fly by night*, is expected out in mid-February, to coincide with an 83-city tour south of the border.

Next, the Winnipeg band which appeared with Rush, was a little more subdued and lead singer George Belanger a lot more understandable.

The former Warner Brothers recording artists did an hour-long set which had a mixture of blues and hard-rockers. Performing original as well as other artists' material, Next reached its most cohesive peak during a Steely Dan number.

During the long instrumental break contained in *Gold Teeth*, the music and the band fell into place. Lead guitarist Bob White, and James Grabowski on keyboards, displayed strong individual talents throughout the performance.

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Evans rejects trade scheme

Manitoba is unlikely to take part in a trading or export corporation which the Ontario government is considering, Industry Minister Len Evans said Wednesday.

But the provincial government would examine any proposal on its merits, he said.

Ontario industry minister Claude Bennett told a Toronto conference on international trade this week that his government was considering establishing a trading or export corporation which might include other provinces.

It would serve private manufacturing and service companies. Quebec and some of the Atlantic provinces are interested in taking part.

Mr. Evans said the idea was raised at a meeting of provincial industry ministers in St. John's last year.

He said Manitoba was more



Len Evans

interested in an interprovincial trading corporation involving western provinces.

Manitoba has already established a Manitoba Trading Corporation, called Manitrade, which co-ordinates private export sales.

Rare Earth booked for concert Sunday

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with The Great Marty Robbins Show Saturday night, and will conclude with the Rare Earth appearance Sunday.

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The Detroit band cancelled its appearance in the concert after the organist fell ill. The band will give a special performance Sunday.

Last weekend the first ill winds struck the convention centre when Sunday's gala opening had to be postponed until Tuesday because of blizzard conditions.

Promoters of the five-day Celebrations '75 said tickets to Wednesday's concert, which featured Rush, a Toronto-based rock band, will be good for Sunday's performance by Rare Earth.

The Irish Rovers will take to the stage tonight, followed by composer-conductor Henry Mancini and the Winnipeg Symphony Pops on Friday night.

Celebrations '75 continues

with The Great Marty Robbins Show Saturday night, and will conclude with the Rare Earth appearance Sunday.

Firestone

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