

FEATURES

The Duquesne Duke

My little collection

KRISTINA ROHALL
THE DUQUESNE DUKE

Who has never had a collection? We've all had some sort of conglomeration of random items that we thought was interesting. Just think back to childhood days when we spent endless hours with trolls, baseball cards, GI Joes or American Girl dolls. This urge to collect hasn't diminished although we have entered the semi-sophisticated world of college.

Elinich jokes with friends and family that she wants a special room for her My Little Ponies when she has her own house and a mini coffin for each pony at her funeral.

Freshman Rae Elinich continues to expand her precious childhood collection. In 7th or 8th grade, she jokingly typed the words "My Little Pony" into an Internet search and discovered "an entire culture of collectors," she said. Six years later, she owns 425 ponies and has become an active member in the trading community.

Elinich uses the My Little Pony trading post and eBay to acquire ponies from America and all over the world.

"I told myself I would get all the American ones first, but then I got the UK

pony Tutti Fruitti and it was all downhill from there," she explained. Although she has these exotic choices, she still praises her first pony, Twinkle Eye Sweet Pop, as her favorite.

Where does one fit more than 400 miniature ponies? Elinich said she had to make some sacrifices.

"I actually got rid of some of my clothes to make room in my walk-in closet," she explained. According to her plans for the future, she'll have to make more space very soon.

"I'm hoping to go to the Northern Pony Community Meeting this summer," she said. This gathering draws pony collectors from all over. It gives them an opportunity to showcase their collections and trade for rare ponies.

"Now I'm looking for more specific and harder-to-find pieces," Elinich said. With an estimated 50,000 My Little Ponies circulating in the world, she has many to choose from. Right now, she has her sights set on Scribbles and Dabbles, two ponies with horizontally striped manes.

But most of these rare ponies are not cheap. Mimic, the most expensive pony in Elinich's collection, cost \$87. Some ponies can even sell as high as \$600, she said.

Other college collectors can relate to the high cost of their hobby. Senior Abigail McCullough, an avid Dave Matthews Band fan, spent \$200 on a concert ticket in London.

But it was worth every penny to her. She acquired her most prized possession there: Dave Matthews's guitar pic. It is now proudly mounted next to his picture in a black frame on her television.

"It's my pride and joy," she said, smiling.

This bright smile never faded as she excitedly spouted off facts about the band and their lives as she presented her Dave Matthews Band collection. The most recent addition is a newspaper clipping about Farm



Courtesy of the Elinich Family

Freshman Rae Elinich loves her ponies!

Aid.

"I just can't bring myself to throw it away because it has Dave on it," she said.

McCullough has attended about 30 shows. She first saw him in 1996 in a small venue in New Haven, Connecticut. Since then, she has traveled all over to watch him perform.

"If he has a show in the northeast, I go," she said.

She saves all of her ticket stubs to keep with her other memorabilia. This includes two Rolling Stone covers, all talk show interview tapes, Time articles and concert videos.

"I'll just watch the videos intently, studying them," she said. Originally, it was the lyrics that sparked McCullough's interest in the band.

"Lyrics like that just hit me," she said. Now she can hear them in all different forms. Her CD cases hold each of his 11 released albums and more than 100 unre-

SEE PONIES, Page 8

Weekend EVENTS

Midnight Madness

Pittsburgh Center for the Arts teams up with the BridgeSpotters Collective, a Pittsburgh-based group of hip, urban artists, to present the fall 2002 "Midnight Espresso Series." This Friday female artists will be honored through an array of theatre, spoken word, visual art, fashion and music. The exhibit will also include solo works of art including Art of the year: Adrienne Heinrich, Service to the Arts Award: Thaddeus Mosley and Jeremy Boyl. For more information visit www.pittsburgharts.org.

Hip to the music scene

Oakland

Emo invades Club Laga with The Juliana Theory Thursday night. They are promoting their newly released album "Love."

Strip District

Bob Mould will be appearing at Rosebud on Saturday.

Mark Farina is spinning a special three hour set at Metropolis on Friday. Don't worry there will still be plenty of time for Ted Zelch and Mike Moran later on.

Downtown

David Robertson makes his conducting debut with The Pittsburgh Symphony this Friday in the always beautiful Heinz Hall.

How Gross

On Sunday words like "diarrhea" and "vomit" will literally fill the air as The Carnegie Science Center presents GrosFest. Patrons will get the opportunity to discover the impolite science of the human body. It is all part of National Chemistry Weekend at the science center. On Friday Gerry Lewis will host the Great American Science Show at noon and 2 p.m. Then on Saturday the Cosmic Chemistry Adventure will be held in the Works Theater at 1, 3 and 7 p.m.

That's WHACK

Mystery of the "Farvanator"

The Duke is attempting to solve a mystery after a strange letter appeared on the Duke server last week. All letters to the editor are usually sent via e-mail, but this one was personally placed on the server without anyone's knowledge by a person named Rod Farva. Farva, who refers to himself as the "Farvanator," posted a letter to the editor concerning David Jakielo's Sophomore Humor column. In an e-mail sent to Opinions Editor Amy DiFiore, he claimed to be a freshman at Duquesne. However, his name is not in the student directory, and when the Duke called the Registrar's Office, they verified that he was not a Duquesne student.

The Duke encourages readers to write letters, but we prefer if they are sent via e-mail, and they have to be verified by the author or they will not go to print. The "Farvanator" appears to be quite open of heart, writing "Farva rules," on the Duke schedule board in the office. And he should be proud because his letter was well written and made a good point. However, we cannot and will not print the letter until the "Farvanator" tells us who he really is. "Farvanator," the ball is in your court.

MUSIC REVIEW

Petty takes shots at music industry?

TONY CAIRNS
FOR THE DUQUESNE DUKE

Recently being inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers have not changed their sound since they released their first album in 1976. With a 26-year history, Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers have received 12 gold and platinum records. Songwriting may be difficult for some artists, but for Tom Petty it seems to come naturally.

On his latest album, "The Last DJ," Petty expanded his classic rock sound to a new level. While taking shots at the music industry, Petty also expresses his views of society. The album is what Petty calls, "a little story."

You need to hear the whole thing to really understand it. The album shows similarities to Neil Young, with its aggressive lyrics backed with strong instrumental power. The title track on the album reveals Petty's view of the radio industry and how money is controlling music. The same idea is relevant in the song, "Money Becomes King," where Petty conveys his feelings about outrageous ticket prices and marketing in the music industry.

While some songs make Petty seem like an angered rock star, such tracks like

"Have Love Will Travel," show that Petty's music still has a soft side. This can be heard in such lyrics as "If perhaps I lose you in the smoke down the road, I want you to know you were the



Internet Photo

If Tom Petty is over the hill then he must have found some great music on the other side.

one." Perhaps these lyrics are dedicated to his wife, Dana York, to whom he recently married in June 2001. Petty's hard rock sound returns on the track "When A Kid Goes Bad," which contains lyrics about corrupt adolescents in today's society.

The album welcomes back, on two tracks, former bass player Ron Blair, who left the Heartbreakers after the "Hard Promises" album. Blair replaced his replacement, Howie Epstein, on the current tour after difficulties with the band. The album also features backing vocals from Fleetwood Mac's guitarist, Lindsey Buckingham, on the song "The Man Who Loves Women."

"The Last DJ" offers Heartbreaker fans their classic sound with a new beat.

Petty and the Heartbreakers dedicated the album, "to everyone who loves music just a little bit more than money." Even though Petty may be over 50 years old, he continues to rock the stage and won't back down.