

THU
THURSDAY

11

"No peeking." Geez, we hated when Mom said that, as she tried to hide our Christmas horde. We couldn't help it though. We're precocious. We liked peeking, at least when we were younger. Now we like the surprise. And of course, **THE PEKING ACROBATS** both peek and offer surprises. Why, it's the best of both worlds. That is, if one of those worlds consists of stacks of spinning plates, human pyramids and flaming knives. Now you know why those Chinese acrobats prefer to keep their eyes open. No peeking at flaming knives could prove hazardous to your health. (See Onstage.)

SAT
SATURDAY

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In terms of crime, Cincinnati certainly isn't New York, New Orleans or Washington, D.C. But we have had our share of heinous behavior in the Tristate. Author **GEORGE STIMSON** has given an overview of the more despicable acts in *The Cincinnati Crime Book*. We're pretty sure the brutal brawl over Broadway Commons will get its due, as well as the immortal Robert Mapplethorpe controversy. A future edition is rumored to include the debate over the mayoral electoral process and the corporate naming of certain riverfront landmarks. Foul play, indeed. (See Literary.)

SUN
SUNDAY

14

Love a parade? We don't have many here in Cincinnati. With one notable exception — the **ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE** — our marching fiestas sort of fall flat. Maybe the Tristate should try some of the tricks that make Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade so darn successful. Who wouldn't come out to see an inflatable Roxanne Qualls floating along the downtown skyline? Or how about The Naked Cowboy singing atop a float that resembles a flying pig? And to cap it off, perhaps Charlie Winburn dressed as Santa or even a leprechaun? If you build it, they will come. (See Events.)

Silver Arm is comprised of Matyi, her husband Steve, Susan Cross, Carla Dundes and John Armstrong. The band recorded a five-song CD last spring, *The Beech Tree*. Through a bit of the luck of the Irish, the band had one of their songs included on an Irish compilation album.

"Through a mutual friend, we met some young Irishmen who were driving through the area on their way to the Redwood Forest (in California)," she recalls. "They had very little money and a beat-up old car. Their car broke down while they were here, and we helped them out with money and repairs.

"We played some of our music for them, and they enjoyed it. They said they wanted to include a song on a CD compilation they were in the process of recording. I thought, 'Oh, OK', not really believing them."

The young lads, however, surprised them by sending for a recording of their version of a Celtic stan-



Craobh Rua

ILLUSTRATION: WOODROW J. HINTON III

dard, "Bonnie Portmore" for their CD called *Trees are Life*. "The CD was a benefit for an environmental organization in Ireland," she said. "We were happy to offer our music as part of a worthy cause."


Silver Arm has played numerous concerts throughout the Midwest. The band is eager to open the Patrick's Eve show on Saturday evening for Craobh (pronounced "crave") Rua from Belfast.

"We've never seen them perform, but we have heard their music, and we're impressed," she says.

Bryan Connolly, banjo player and vocalist for Craobh Rua, says the earthiness of Celtic music is a prime reason it is enjoying newfound popularity.

"Celtic music tells stories about life as it is," Connolly says in a telephone interview from his Belfast home. "It's about love, passion, beauty, tragedy. It encompasses a wide range of emotions,

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