

Casbys a chance for winners to scream and beg

by Eli Glasner

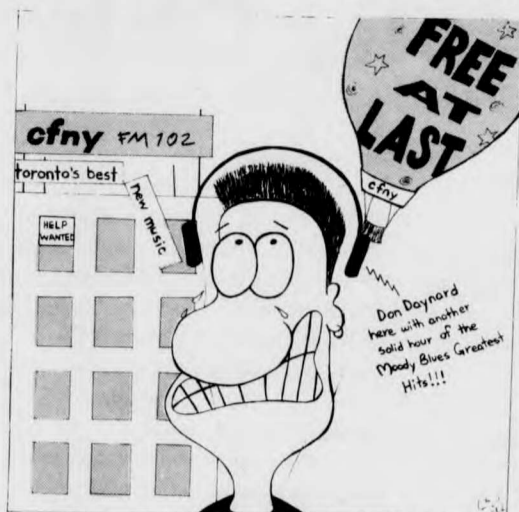
It was just about six o'clock on a cold Tuesday night when my fearless photographer and I had just entered the Showline studios for the CFNY's super-hyped event.

The CASBYs or Canadian Artists Selected By You is a national alternative awards show, with listeners voting for the winners from a select few chosen by CFNY. This results in the show being more of a popularity contest than an actually meaningful award show.

This said, the winners aren't really interesting and primarily predictable. The Barenaked Ladies won 5, with Moxy Fruvous, Sloan each winning best new band in their respected regions, and The Grapes Of Wrath winning two - both for an album that came out in the summer of 1991.

Alongside the tables indicating where the bands should sit, were the COMMERCIAL SPONSORS. If anyone wanted to see the corporate strings tied to CFNY's back, here they were, dressed in painfully expensive leather jackets, loud ties and 40 year-old ponytails. Anyone you've ever heard on the radio during commercial breaks was there. For them and the music executives, this was another chance to shmooze. Few seemed truly interested in the artists on stage, and it was just another day at work for many.

The shmoozing factor was good for the musicians who normally wouldn't get a chance to see other to meet and discuss projects, admirations and shop talk. It was interesting



• graphic by Sadaf Siddiqui

to see the members of Pure talking to guys from Sons of Freedom, or the lead singer of Teenage Head complimenting Sarah Craig, "I enjoyed your stuff. Really intense."

At one point the schmoozing and connecting was so bad that Dan Duran, the flagship station's main announcer had to remind people to applaud when the sign lights on. Speaking to DJ Brother Bill, he said the schmoozing was to be expected when you have corporate people around. He also mentioned that this year's CASBYs was an improvement over last years, but that it should be opened to the public, not by invitation only.

The show itself was not terribly exciting. It made good radio, but it was a little boring for the viewing audience. The format was to present some awards, play one of the band's winning songs, commercial, present some more awards, play some more songs, and so on.

went to the Sons of Freedom, with a politically incorrect amplifier that read, "LICK, SUCK, FUCK, BEG, SCREAM."

Sloan played a one-hour concert after the presentations. This may not be as great as it seems. By the time the band got onstage most of the people had begun to go home. (It is ironic that all the music execs who hyped and screamed Sloan as our answer to the Seattle scene left as soon as it was convenient.)

Jumping around, laughing, talking among themselves and making faces, Sloan acted like the kids they really are. By the end of the set, those who were left were dancing, and among the throng could be seen members of Pure, Teenage Head and Bare Naked Ladies dancing to the pulsating metal rhythms.

Teenage Head was honoured with a Special Recognition Award for their work in the early Toronto alternative scene. They brought some honesty to

the show, thanking their Moms for letting them practice in the garage. Sons of Freedom thanked "Sid, Johnny, and Teenage Head." King Apparatus accepting their award for "Best Ska Group" asked "Where's Fujahive?" (A very good question.)

Steven Page of the Barenaked Ladies felt like sharing the wealth on their overdose of coverage, plugging the new Rheostatics album, *Whale Music*.

So that was it. Some great live groups. A lot of satisfied CFNY radio types, and an awful lot of businessmen and women collecting business cards. Brother Billy's idea of opening the show to the public would have added the greatly needed enthusiasm and energy that was missing.

CFNY should also make up their mind whether they are broadcasting for radio or a live audience, and then concentrate on satisfying their needs. It did not work to be something for everyone.

Perhaps CFNY should just present the bands one night and let them play... Now that would be a show!

More Hits 'n' Bits

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being hypnotized. You are not laughing at these guys. You are going to find their album in the delete bin at the record shop.



Alpha Band - see what I mean?

Why are their arms raised? Shit, does this band think they're going to fly? See the guy on the right? His facial expression looks like my dog when you call her. Trust me. I don't have anything new to say about this former Arista recording artist. I just think the picture is kinda goofy.

Okay. Think you're tough? Survived the Ministry show? Want

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- Government costs are growing, but our income is going down because of the recession.
- Every year, more students need OSAP. The amount of assistance over the last two years has gone up by two thirds.

More Loans, Fewer Grants

- We can give more money to more students if they pay more back when they finish their studies and are earning a salary.
- So next fall, the average student will get more assistance than before, but a bigger portion of

the assistance will have to be paid back.

Making Education More Accessible

- By going to loans, we can help more students and increase accessibility.
- Total financial aid available will increase from \$668 million to \$800 million to postsecondary students.
- OSAP will cover tuition fee increases for 1993-94.
- \$11 million will be available in bursaries that don't have to be paid back. They are for disabled students and for sole-support parents and married students with child-care costs.

- On the average, students who borrow more than \$5,570 a year won't have to pay back anything over that amount for that year.
- Students will still have up to 9 1/2 years to pay back their loans after they graduate.
- These changes will take effect July 1, 1993.

In January, you'll be able to pick up a publication in the Financial Aid Offices of all colleges and universities that will give you more details on the changes coming next fall.

You can also call this toll-free number **1-800-265-8529**

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OSAP helped 137,500 students in 1992.

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