

Making those ears bleed

by Michael Graham & Bruce Gilchrist

The "Green" room took on a whole new meaning last Saturday night. In case you missed the five hour five band extravaganza we present a recap for your reading pleasure.

Green Room PWA Benefit Gig
Purple Groove Monsters
Thrush Hermit, Jale
Leonard Conan, Bubaiskull
 21/11/92

The show started up at about eight and oh about 250 people were gracing the "Green" room with plaid power (Tom Poston's influence is omnipresent), ripped jeans, noserings, and Doughboys T-shirts. Mind you, this was probably the first mini-Lollapalooza concert that 90% of them had ever seen, coz they were all teenagers. This gig was an all-ages show in benefit of the Persons-With-Aids fund and these teenagers (we're talking 13-17 here!) really knew what was up! Within 1 minute of the PGM's starting up it was

THRASHMOSH PIT heaven. Where'd they ever learn to stagedive into pit crowds?

Gawd it makes my (Bruce here) high-school days seem lame-O in comparison. All we ever did was drink rotten homebrew in the guys locker room and dance pathetically to Mony Mony five times over. Boy Bruce, were you ever deprived. (Mike here). This gig was a throwback to my jr. high days when I was going to punk/hardcore gigs all the time. The mid-eighties music scene was great here. Dogfood, the Nils and SNFU at the Club Flamingo, the Asexuals at St. Andrew's and tons upon tons of bands here at the SUB. Unfortunately I can't remember many names.

Purple Groove Monsters. The PGM's were plagued by problems and didn't put in a very memorable set. Since last term they have come up with a few new tunes, but their set consisted mainly of older stuff. They only played for about a half hour — perhaps recognizing their less than stellar performance. This band is capable of much better, they just had a bad night. Maybe it was the guitar

strap falling off, the dropping of the pick, and the broken string all in the same song that did it. Sorry Aran, no groupies that night...

Thrush Hermit. Thrush Hermit played for about twice as long as the PGMs. Their set consisted of some great thrash-pop and entertaining between-song banter. Their original material was pretty good and they were much tighter than the PGM's. There was a strong audience response and lots of thrashing in the "pit", which is actually about two feet lower than the stage area. The band had fun throughout their set and played well.

Jale. Where did this band come from? They must have just come out of the garage after years of practice because they sounded pretty good, and very tight. I would go as far as saying that they are the best all female band in Halifax (a joke, for the humour impaired). Heck, they were better than all the other bands, except maybe Bubaiskull. They sounded somewhat like a rougher ("greener") version of the Breeders. The similarity is not overwhelming, and it is



DAL PHOTO: MIKE GRAHAM

Bubaiskull redefines tinnitis

meant as a compliment. This band has the potential to progress to Sloan-like status. They also had the most self-effacing stage presence of the night. It was interesting to watch a band who is better than perhaps they think they are.

Leonard Conan. Next up was L.C. They were the most refined and melodic of all of the bands to play. At times they reminded me of a toned down version of The Stiff Little Fingers. Although they played well, they didn't really get much crowd appreciation. This may be due to the tameness of much of their material, or the fact that the band's total age is about 130.

Bubaiskull. Most people left before Bubaiskull took the stage. Maybe they had to catch a bus, or maybe they got fed up with the amount of time the band took to set up. In any

event they missed a great band. They ranked well on the bizarro-insane index (who likes normal?) and they seemed to take pleasure in hurting the audience's collective hearing. Their songs had good bass and drum counterpoint and overall they knew how to break up boring songs and make them very interesting. Mike says they rule! Bruce missed them — whadda lozer.

So all in all, it was a good show to be had. Now, if only some non-CKDU Dal students had showed up, it would have been a GREAT show. But as you know, apathy rules. Seattle status the bands are nowhere near (and I do mean that Messrs. Petersen and Shaw), but it is nice to see that there is support for local talent, even if the majority of us Generation X'ers still listen to Mony Mony dance remixes way too much.

A meeting with Mr. Metro

by Dak Jiordani

"I don't want to sound like a preacher, but I believe everybody is guaranteed three things in life - you're born, you live, you die. So, while you're here, you might as well have a good time."

That Philosophy just about sums up the attitude most people have toward life, especially modern musicians. But, rapper Devon Martin is not just another musician who likes to have a good time with his music. Born in England to Jamaican parents and raised in Ontario, he's a friendly, thoughtful young man who feels that it is perfectly acceptable to mix serious issues with upbeat tunes.

His debut album, *It's My Nature*, has just been released by Capitol Records, and the first single is a song called "Princess," a rap variant of the theme featured in Billy Joel's "Uptown Girl." Not surprisingly, since Devon is a fairly optimistic, average kind of fellow, about half the

songs on the album deal with the standard modern music topics of love found, love lost, dating, partying, etc.

However, it is the other, more serious songs on the album that hold the most interest. These deal with a wide variety of topics, from violence and racism ("Mr. Metro") to safe sex ("Check For Yourself"), and from growing up in modern times ("Back In Time") to day-to-day prejudice ("Call The Cops"). One notable song, "It's Not The Way," is an allegorical tale about the horror of the never-ending cycle of violence, poverty and abuse in the inner cities.

"The lyrics were like a diary of what I was going through at the time and what I was seeing," said Devon. "They were a collection of things - a giving of myself. I believe in trying to keep things peaceful and just trying to live with each other. But, if your gonna waste all that energy creating negativity, what's the sense? You

might as well check out early. That's how I was brought up, and that's what I reflect in my music."

With a music background that varies from jazz and reggae to classical and blues, it's not surprising that the album's other strength is the heavy use of live instruments, as opposed to loops, samples, and sequencers, the usual method of creating a rap/dance beat rhythm.

"We kept sampling to a minimum on the album. We didn't let the sample control the whole song, whereas with a lot of rap now, it's the sample that rules. We didn't let the sample that rules. We didn't want that heavy bass, club vibe kind of rhythm; we wanted to let live sound be the dominant side of the album."

Devon will perform at the Flamingo on the 29th with the Metro Squad.

First Baptist Church Halifax

1300 Oxford Street 422-5203
 (across from Shirreff Hall)

ADVENT-CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Nov. 29; 10:30 am Advent Candle of Hope

Why Advent? - Rev. John E. Boyd

Dec. 6; 10:30 am Advent Candle of Peace; Communion

The Power of God's Future - Rev. John E. Boyd

Dec. 13; 10:30 am Advent Candle of Joy

Sermon: Rev. Adele Crowell

Dec. 20; 10:30 am Advent Candle of Love

A Tree Of Life - Rev. John E. Boyd

Dec. 20; 7 pm. Carols By Candlelight

Dec. 24; 11 pm Christmas Eve Communion

While they were there... - Rev. John E. Boyd

Dec. 27; 10:30 am First Sunday of Christmas

Sermon; Rev. Adele Crowell

Ministers: Rev. Joh E. Boyd, Rev. Adele Crowell

Director of Music: David MacDonald

First Aid/CPR

One-day sessions is scheduled for:
Thursday, December 3

from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Cost is \$40 plus gst. Register at Dalplex, front Information Desk. Ask for "Emergency First Aid/CPR" when registering. Maximum enrolment is 10 people per course. This 6 1/2 hour course teaches the life saving skills: artificial respiration, choking, control of bleeding, shock, and a CPR element (adult), including heart attack and stroke. Dalplex also offers regular CPR courses. For more information, please contact Dan MacKenzie 494-2194 for inquiries or dates and times of these courses. For more information, contact the Safety Office at 494-2495.

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