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Cheeseburger	1.85
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APPETIZERS

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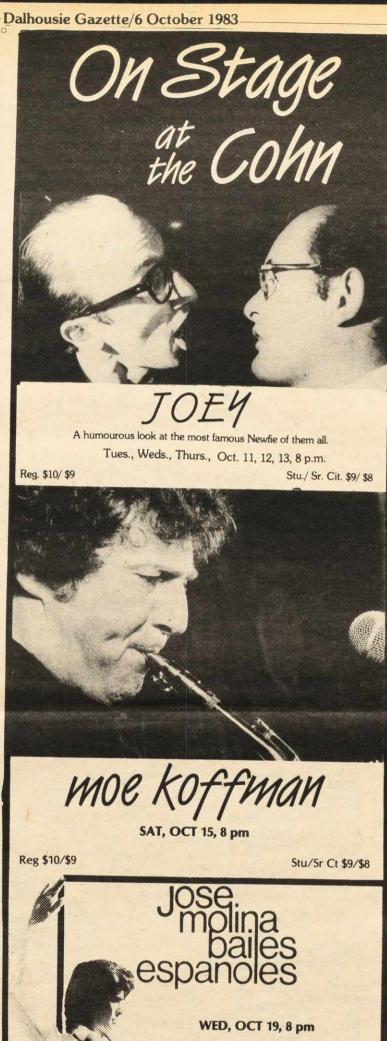
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More garage barrage

by Paul Deagle

What is the point in giving a Gazette review to a rock'n'roll dance concert featuring some of the best (and worst) young bands in Halifax when hardly no one from the Dal student community bothered to show up?

No doubt this will be the question everyone will be asking themselves while they're reading this article. Actually by now I bet nearly half of the people who flick through the Gazette out of sheer boredom have decided to scan the next page for something more interesting.

But for those of you still reading, there is a point to this review and it has to do with the fact that certain people at CKDU and others in and around Dalhousie managed to give three young bands the chance to play in a live audience situation. And, amazingly enough, it happened in Halifax: a city where rock'n'roll by and large is defined by its beer-selling abilities.

Even more exciting is the fact that two of these bands, Registered Vote and The Realists, were very impressive in the context of both their mistakes and achievements. What could be impressive about a young "garage band's" mistakes? Well, in the case of these two bands, it has to do with their intelligence to come away from an audience aware of what went wrong and what needs polish.

This is why live gigs are an obsession with these young musicians. Playing for an audience is their only way of being truly self-critical. At this point in their development, exposure is the only way they are going to mature and become self-confident. As for me, I have only encouragement for Registered Vote and The Realists.

As for the third band, Ted, who opened the evening, they were so stupid you couldn't even laugh at them. They didn't deserve the chance to play. And what's even more idiotic is that they'll probably love seeing my negative reaction in print.

Probably the most encouraging thing I could say about both The Realists and Registered Vote was that their original material sounded damn good. In many cases it stood up well, and even surpassed the covers they performed.

What really captivated me was the energy bot and the respective rhythm sections played with a tightness that was impressive, considering the short time these bands have been together. All vocals were refreshingly sincere and passionate in their own ways. And you could dance to them!

I only hope that the powers that be recognize the potential of these bands and cooperate in giving them more chances to play. After all, Halifax needs bands as badly as they need us.