

Junkhouse and Crash Vegas: Stone Cold Rock and Roll

by Lilith

Hey, if you're the person who vandalized the house at the corner of Beaverbrook Ct. and Regent Street you missed your chance to get a free Junkhouse tape—and you may live to regret it. Frontman Tom Wilson offered a free copy of the band's indy cassette "Here lives Happiness" to whoever spray painted the "I hate Kraft diner (sic)" sign that greeted them on their way into Fredericton. He didn't show—his loss.

Hamilton based quartet Junkhouse opened for old pals Crash Vegas (Junkhouse guitarist Dan Achen and Crash Vegas guitarist Colin Cripps are still roommates) and are looking forward to a September release of an album with Sony. Tireless gigging in the Toronto area has gained the band a wide following and their cassette has hit #5 on *The Record's* indy chart.

The band shows a diverse range of influences, with gospel, soul and grunge prominent. One tune was started up with an acappella excerpt of "Swing Low Sweet Chariot," but quickly evolved into a serious ass-kicking rocker. The band is super high energy—that really has to be appreciated live. Singer Tom Wilson has a distinctive and versatile voice and the best stage yammer I've heard—funny and spontaneous. He commented that the venue reminded him of a cafeteria from "Night of the Living dead," with the spirits of students eating ham sandwiches floating around.

Wilson says the band will be returning to the Maritimes next fall to promote their album—they are not to be missed. In the meantime, you can pick up a copy of "Here Lies Happiness" at

Backstreet Records.

Crash Vegas, in my mind (contaminated by those CanCon impressions), had always been real mellow. That's because their first album *RedEarth* was not really representative of their live act—and the radio was covering only their not-quite-romantic slow stuff. Their new album *Stone*, reflects their attachment to a variety of musical traditions and their tendency to start off quiet and build in intensity. Guitarist Colin Cripps says "it captures the dynamics of the quiet stuff versus the more aggressive stuff" and the range of sounds is from "pot-smokin' country to the really out there heavy stuff. Extremes are great."

Crash Vegas front woman Michelle McAdorey was in fine voice right from the soundcheck. She's a tiny, elf-like, quivering bundle of energy on stage. The band, guitarist Cripps, bassist Darren Watson and drummer Ambrose Pottie gave faithful renderings of the album's songs. McAdorey in the first encore song, "Smoke or Something in my Eyes," was every bit the torch singer, albeit wearing Docs.

Both bands were clearly disappointed by the crowd turnout of about 125-150 polite (read: dead) audience members. It was only when McAdorey asked if the audience had a fear of the area in front of the stage that two brave souls ventured out to dance. However, for a concert held in the last week of classes when everybody's got a million papers and assignments left it was as good of a crowd as could be expected. Anyway, for those of you who weren't there, you want to be coming out to see Junkhouse next fall. I fully expect them to be world famous around this time next year.



Ray Lyell: not even a minor meteorological disturbance

By Mark Savoie

One thing about Ray Lyell, the man knows how to say the right things. When asked about the poor crowd at his performance last Thursday at the Social Club he was at pains to insist that it was not in fact a poor crowd. A small crowd, yes, but a poor crowd, no. Judging from the party of raving lunatics crowding the stage he may have had a point.

Only about 80 people made their way to the Social Club last Thursday to see Ray Lyell and the whaddaya mean he's not with the Storm?. As a result, ol' Ray felt free to wander about in the crowd during a couple of his numbers without fear of being crushed by the mob. That and a

couple of conversations with some pathetic drunk were the extent of interest in this uninspired effort.

Not that Mr. Lyell can be accused of not trying. The problem is that his repertoire is not powerful enough to motivate a crowd as apathetic as is typical of our esteemed institution. The songs that the crowd was familiar with - "Carry Me" being the best example - have for too high a saccharine content for an audience to effectively descend into rhapsodies of air guitar. End result: Snooze City! The scorecard ultimately is: Social Club-good effort; Ray Lyell and the nameless Storm-nice try; the crowd-sucked the big wazoo.

Book Review

Abort, Retry, Ignore, Fail?

13th GEN: *Abort, Retry, Ignore, Fail?*
by Neil Howe and Bill Strauss
Published by Random House of Canada
\$12.50 (Canadian)

by Allan Carter

When I first saw the book *13th Generation: Abort, Retry, Ignore, Fail?*, I thought I was going to have to review a computer manual for a program written for one of those foolish DOS machines. I was pleasantly surprised to realize that the book was actually a fairly impressive analysis of people who were born between 1961-1981, the 13th generation (of the United States).

The authors Neil Howe and Bill Strauss have compiled charts, quotes, facts and observations in an upbeat book which I think most 13er's will find quite insightful.

The book takes a look at a broad range of issues ranging from television and music entertainment, sports, music, fads, the "open education" system which began in the 1970's, sex and the work force. While the book contains some great information, it moves quickly with an attractive layout where on each page interesting quotes, cartoons and statistical charts are displayed.

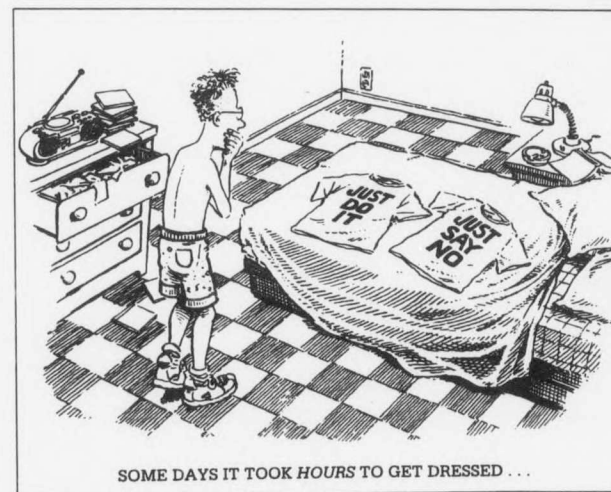
Yet, the greatest highlight of the book is the fact that Howe and Strauss decided to put the text of their finished product on the computer bulletin board, USA-TALK. Needless to say, many computer users, mostly 13er's, read the text and responded to Howe and Strauss. Both men, who are in their 40's, were criticized and praised for the text and many of the responses which came from the bulletin board are in the book. Thus, while the reader is reacting to some of observations or facts put forth by the writers, they also have the unique opportunity to see what others

were thinking while reading the text.

Howe and Strauss do not make any great discoveries about the 13th Generation. What they do, however, is bring together all the studies, all the comments and quotes, and all the opinions together into one concise and well edited book. It is a book which holds a positive outlook for those born between 1961 and 1981. Further, while the book points out how 13er's are weaker in some areas of social and educational skills than past generations, it also emphasizes their strengths.

The biggest drawback for Canadian readers

is that the book is an American one. Many of the facts and observations which the authors present are ones which Canada shares with The United States. Yet, in some cases, the Canadian reader needs to be careful in



SOME DAYS IT TOOK HOURS TO GET DRESSED ...

how he/she interprets what is said when considering the 13th generation's situation in Canada.

The two Boomer writers hold much sympathy for the 13th generation and do not hold back in pointing the finger at themselves and at other generations for the problems which the 13th generation has to face in today's society. They feel that the 13th generation is a generation with a PR problem. With books like the 13th generation, it may be a PR problem which will disappear as quickly as rugby pants and great games like Galaga.

Speaking of Galaga, for those who still can't keep up with the games that have been manufactured in the last few years for those born after 1981, Galaga can be found up at the Regent Mall in the arcade room. It's way in the back, and don't worry, chances are nobody will be playing it.

Heal the Planet Concert a Success

by Janet McGeachy-Hansen and Chris Crawford

Friday night's presentation for the Heal The Planet - A Vision for Change resulted in over 300 people from the community being exposed to various artistic, musical, and verbal presentations at the local Boyce Farmer's Market. The Social Action Committee, students from the local B.S.W. Programme at St. Thomas were pleased with the overall flow of the programme and the receptivity of the audience to the various themes and presentations.

Various groups from within the community were represented. Topics ranged from such issues as alternative lifestyles, sustainable agri-

cultural practices, impact of pollution on ground water, and the effects of consumption and capitalism on both a local and global level.

Concert organizers were impressed with the generous contributions received from the public for the local Food Bank and the Conservation Council. As well, consideration will be given to organizing this type of a presentation on an annual basis.

Organizers would like to extend grateful appreciation and thanks to all involved who made this concert a success. The collective spirit within the community made this event possible. THANKS TO ALL!