

Change of Heart



by Andrew M. Duke

Toronto's Change of Heart was formed five years ago by Ian Blurton (vocals/guitar) and Rob Taylor (bass). Mike Armstrong joined a year later and took over percussion and saxophone duties. After going through a variety of drummers, the band asked Ron Duffy, who spoke to the *Dalhousie Gazette* from Ottawa on Tuesday, to fill in. He has been with the band ever since.

Armstrong recently left the band because he "didn't want to tour any more". The band "adapted really quickly" and now benefits from "more clarity".

The follow-up to their 50 ft. Up debut, *Slowdance*, Duffy said, is a "better recorded record. It is a little more solid because we had toured before we did the record and we actually understood each other. Our next album is going to have a rougher kind of feeling. We're going to spend less money because we don't feel we have to spend more money every time we record. It will be 'live-off-the-floor' with very minimal overdubs, and maybe even live from various venues. You need a rock and roll feel or you'll lose it all, though."

They have already recorded three new songs and a demo since the release of *Slowdance*, and "depending on how the touring goes" they may record in the fall.

Their touring schedule has been rather hectic. "We've toured southern Ontario, Vancouver, and Victoria, and played pretty steadily in various places in Toronto. After a little jaunt down East, we'll try to do more recording if we can. Touring the States could very well happen in the summertime."

Change of Heart will play the Pub Flamingo today, Friday, and Saturday, Jan. 14-16.

Change of Heart have bumped into Halifax's Jellyfishbabies, who are now in Toronto. "We played with them in Halifax, and dealt with them in Toronto. We've actually become great friends, and they're turning into an excellent band in Toronto right now. Scott (Kendall) and Peter (Arsenault) are good songwriters and are very inspirational."

Though Change of Heart have been called "cosmic punk for the '80s", Duffy said, "we just make thoughtful, poetic rock and roll."

Those attending a Change of Heart concert can expect "a good rockin' live show. Because there are three of us now we have a lot more freedom to jam. Our gigs are loose and tight, tight and loose. We enjoy touring and we like to get out and play."

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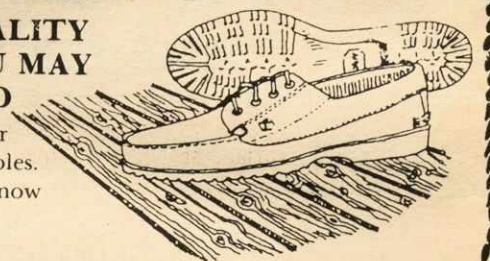
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