

CJSR celebrates birthday with hard-core rock



Slam dancing was *de rigueur* at the CJSR birthday bash last Friday night at Dinwoodie's

by Warren Opheim

CJSR turned one whole year old last Friday. Goodness, so big, so soon! Why, it seems like only yesterday when that brand new bundle of joy came into our home and...

Okay, enough of dumb analogies, already. Your very own radio station is one year old and put on a party, featuring three local acts.

Local hardcore favorites S.N.F.U. opened the celebration with a bang, and kept the energy high throughout, in what was the first hardcore show for many an audience member, myself included. The set included their hits "Real Men Don't Watch Quincy," "Strip Search," and the thrash classic "The Womanizer." Despite a pair of "minor" setbacks, (a broken snare drum, and, later, a bass guitar) the momentum never slowed down. Much of the credit for this goes to leader Chi Pig who made the most of the

little stage room available—sprints, some-rsaults, high kicks and riding on shoulders were dished out unrelentingly. A huge bag of popcorn was the highlight, though, sprayed on many unsuspecting victims by the main grunter/groaner/ranter/raver.

As well, a couple of dozen of seasoned thrashers added to the visual effects with lots of slam dancing and stage diving. Wheeee!!

Alas however, all good things must come to an end. S.N.F.U. finished off their show with a cover of Linda Ronstadt's "Poor, Poor Pitiful Me," no doubt a major influence on their sound.

"Facecrime's gonna be a real letdown," predicted a friend. I guess I'll have to listen to her more often. They were, to be polite, disappointing. They led off with that moldy oldie "More," which set the tone for the evening: slow, sweet, 'n' sappy. "Cable T.V." was the only song included from the days

included the line, "She's more than a woman to me." Yep, son, I remember when face-crime didn't resort to cliches...

Perhaps the biggest fault in the new lineup involved the addition of backup vocalists Diane Donovan and Rob Lennon. More

when the group was a trio. One song often than not, they danced about half-heartedly for lack of anything better to do (hasn't anyone ever heard of *choreography*?). When they did sing, they proved to be adequate, but all this did was bring attention to the fact that lead singer/songwriter/guitarist Moe Berg should stick to writing and playing, and let Donovan and Lennon take over the singing chores.

Bassist Brent McKee and drummer Dave Gilby combined to form a solid rhythm section, the closest thing to a highlight all set long. Berg appeared somewhat nervous which hampered his presentation as did his use of profanity when a fan referred to them as "facecream." Ignore 'em next time, Moe. The heckling will stop eventually.

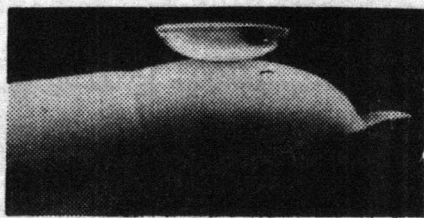
Last on the bill was NEO A4. They were, well... NEO A4. This is a band at their best when they are a supporting act, as their openings for Men Without Hats and Ian Siberry can attest. When they're headliners, however, they seem to only go through the motions. As usual, they were technically proficient, but who goes to a party to appreciate technical proficiency? It's hard to groove to a band that seems as though they'd rather be at home doing something else. They were never terrible, but there was certainly nothing to get all excited about, either.

In the end, the party was for CJSR, so dropping seven or eight dollar son a ticket wasn't a total waste, even if you didn't like any of the acts. The station needs your money (and help) almost as much as a student who didn't find a summer job. So support alternative radio, okay?

Photo Bill St. John

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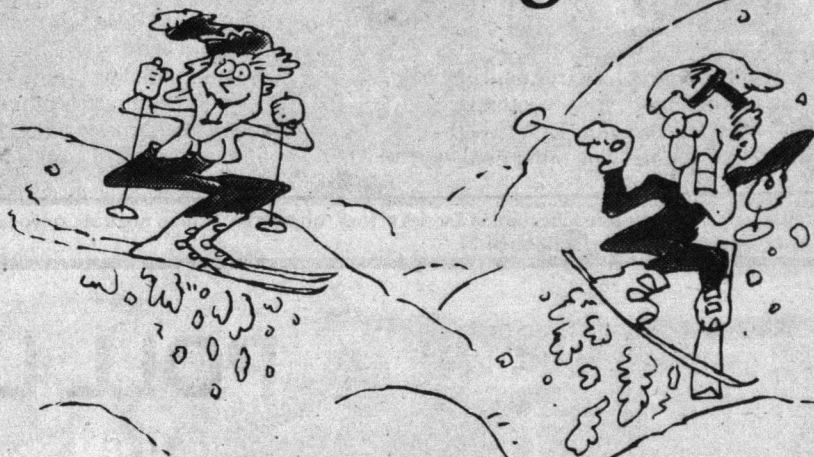
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