# Skamparing to a Special Beat

by Alok Sharma

Fashion: When you're checking out some classic ska, you expect a scene out of *Quadrophenia* — The Who's docudrama on the 1960s mods. Mods wore ties, jackets, and haircuts: that was also the fashion of the '80s mod and ska scene. Surprisingly, there was a mixture of different types of people and fashion at a recent Special Beat.

Many were club regulars, while others were lovers of skamparing. Some members of the audience were 'dressed to the T' and practising their moves before the show. When Special Beat arrived on stage, Finny, one of the singers, was wearing Club Monaco gear. Simple sweat pants were enough for Ranking Roger of English Beat fame. It became obvious, unlike some audience members, the band members had turned in their mod wear for sportswear.

**music**
Special Beat
RPM
Tuesday, September 22

Attitude: The fashion of ska has changed, but the Two-Tone attitude has persisted. By the third song, the band set out the rules — "We don't dig stage diving...this gig is about peace, Love and Unity." Their messages were not lost on the audience, as the anti-racist anthem "Doesn't Make It Alright" was the highlight of their show

A few members of the audience did get unruly. One guy spit on a member of the English Beat, starting an argument during "Mirror In The Bathroom." At one point, the bouncers tried to kick out a fan, but the band stopped playing, ensuring he wasn't thrown out. It was one of the few shows I've been to where the band was concerned and aware of their audience.

Music: The sounds were intense with every guitar stroke cutting into your soul, causing you to skank. People almost seemed to struggle to keep on dancing to the fast paced-rhythms.

The band was tight, unified and seemed to have as much fun as the audience. The 'supergroup' played songs from their respective makeups — The Specials and The English Beat — playing suprising songs like "Much Too Young" and "RoughRider."

The show ended with the best from both bands. "Nightclub," and "Concrete Jungle" from the Specials and "Ranking Full-Stop" and "Twist and Shout" from the English Beat. By the end of this superb set, everyone left exhausted and a few pounds lighter.

# Support campus radio, otherworldy and on the top of your FM dial

by Drew Lidkea

Stumbling into your obscurity of a bedroom, your numbed fingers fumble for the light switch and more importantly, the power button to the infamous soother, the worshipped stereo. At two AM the musical entertainment on the air waves is reduced to Dr. Ruth, and monotone DJ's desperately trying to revive the Christian Slater masturbation scene in *Pump up the Volume*. Nothing really reaches out and tears at your Adam's apple to stop you from your continuing search of dial rolling.

But then again you don't really expect much to top the nights swallowing of barley, hops, water, and the beautiful sights of buxom beauties and squeeky clean, steak-eatin' studs, who swayed to the pounding, rhythmic pulse on the dance floor. Rolling through the dial...104...105...and suddenly an eerie, raspy, voice escapes through the speakers: "This is Earth calling Mars, come in Mars."

Taking a quick double glance at your hands to make sure you're still all there, your attention retreats to the voice, the thought of accidently tuning-in to secret NASA station races around your cerebrum."Greetings Earthlings, welcome to another show of Earth calling Mars, just call me Uncle Martian, and you better fasten your seat belt, cause this first song's going to be a little fast, and prepare for some turbulence."

The station is 105.5, CHRY, and there's quite a few more strange but cool shows other than Mars'. Contrary to popular belief, CHRY provides it's audience with a lot more than ear-drilling, brain-searing, hardcore music. Can you say DIVERSITY?

From on-air interviews with Mr. Bungle to inside stories on Lydia Lunch, CHRY plays all requests, and they play the newest stuff. So show some spirit, support your station and show society that college radio is more than INXS and Bruce Springsteen. Pledge your money for hours of musical pleasure, rather than one CD of two or three hit singles. Remember they are on the air for you, and they need your input and support so that you can enjoy even more, commercial free radio. Don't drop out, just tune in, it may be an "outer world experience."

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