



# Housequake rocks this joint

by Michele Thibeau

If you're looking for an alternative place to dance in Halifax, where there's no cover charge or dress code, try Scoundrel's. Every Monday night from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m., CKDU-FM helps host the Housequake, Halifax's Alternative Pop Dance Party!

"People kept complaining to me that there was no place to dance," says DJ Libby Baxter. "The Housequake fills that void and will hopefully get the spirit back into the alternative pop community."

Monday night was chosen in memory of Cabbagetown's

CKDU night before its unfortunate demise.

The Housequake features a big-screen video system, no cover charge, midnight Happy Hour, and most importantly, the best alternative pop music, old and new. You can also hear your requests for favourites like the Cure, Depeche Mose, Front242, and The Smiths.

"This is the music I love and people want to hear it," says Libby, who does a dance show on CKDU as well. Obviously a few of us agree with Libby's tastes. The first week the dancing peaked around 11:15; last week it peaked all night. It's a great atmosphere to hang out in, full of familiar faces and music. Rumour has it that the latest poster design floating around Halifax is on its way to a T-shirt, in black, of course. Check it out!

in the science fiction/fantasy/horror genre (that is, five worthy of note) will be available in Metro this fall: *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, *Friday the Thirteenth: The Series*, *War of the Worlds*, *Quantum Leap*, and *Beauty and The Beast*. A pretty pathetic number when you consider that we are standing on the edge of new millennium, a new age that is filled with the promise of more wonders than we can imagine, a new era that is going to require people who can quickly adapt to a rapidly approaching future and not

*Friday, the Thirteenth: The Series*, a show that has nothing to do with the machete wielding adventures of ex-goalie Jason, will be back on for a third season this fall. Although nothing has been confirmed, there is a possibility that the show will get a bit of a face-lift and a new name: *Friday's Curse*. The show is one of two syndicated horror programs (*Freddy's Nightmares* is the other) and is one of several American-backed, Canadian-produced programs airing this season (*Wiseguy*, *MacGyver*, and *War of the Worlds*, among oth-



Critics of Sit-Coms

retreat into the past at the first sign of drastic change. The real power of television lies in its ability to bring new ideas into people's minds through entertainment. Sadly, the educational power of television has been shunted aside in favour of the more financially beneficial entertainment aspect. Well, that's Hollywood for you.

One of the few programs that manages to balance education with entertainment is *Star Trek: The Next Generation (ST:TNG)*. The show follows the adventures of Captain Jean-Luc Picard and the crew of the new *Enterprise*, almost a century after Captain Kirk and company roamed the galaxy. The one thing Gene Roddenberry, the creator of *Star Trek*, wanted to do with a new series is present intellectual stories centered around an optimistic view of the future. Aside from a few episodes that were a bit below par, he has managed to produce a program that shows humanity as a positive, peaceful force in galactic exploration. Entertainment value aside, *ST:TNG* presents an attitude of reason and logic that will be necessary if humanity wants to peacefully explore the galaxy. Many of the ideas on the show are based around the concept of IDIC (Infinite Diversity in Infinite Combinations), a philosophy that essentially states that life, all life, is precious and that sentient life is even more so. By looking at the wars and troubles we have on Earth, it is not hard to see that such a philosophy is far from reality.

The show centers around the spooky adventures Mickey, Ryan and Jack have as they try to recapture objects cursed by Satan before they hurt too many people. Although based around a plotline that allows for thousands of versions of one story (get the cursed object back), the show ultimately succeeds because the focus is not on the gory and sometimes graphic special effects, but on the three characters who would rather be doing anything else. Repetitive or not, the show does manage to explore a great number of themes within the basic plotline, with stories that include time travel, revenge, greed, lust, power or love as secondary elements. While the bulk of the show may focus on the negative side of the human persona, the program usually ends up with the good guys winning and therefore, it is about what happens to people when they give in to their baser urges. All in all, though, the series is excellent and is highly recommended.

*War of the Worlds*, another American backed, Canadian produced series, is just about to enter its second season. Although somewhat campy at times, the show has been unique in that they break one of Hollywood's great commandments "the good guys shall win at least 90 per cent of the time." For *War of the Worlds*, the percentage of wins for the good guys is closer to 60 per cent. This, aside from the fact that aliens are taking over the

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# The best of the worst

by Scott Neily

"Anything good on the tube tonight?" This cliché question has been around since the early days of television. Anyone who watches the TV regularly knows that the viewing scene of the past few years has been anything but good. Aside from half a dozen sitcoms, a few dramas and the occasional miniseries, most programs have ranged from mediocre to downright awful.

One of the most neglected areas of television has been the genre of science fiction, fantasy and horror. Other than *Star Trek*, *The Six Million Dollar Man*, *The Bionic Woman*, and *The Twilight Zone*, programs whose success was based around a loyal cult following, the genre has never enjoyed the mass popularity of shows like *Cosby*, *MacGyver*, and *Dallas*. While certain S/F shows have succeeded, many more have failed. Remember *Holmes & Yoyo*? How about *The Starlost*? Does the *The Fantastic Voyage* spark your memory then? No? Well, these were some of the better known failures, shows that had the potential to be great but for some reason fell short of the mark. Yes, there have been a great number of S/F shows to fall beneath the heel of the almighty

Neilsen ratings, but there have been some who have managed to hold on to some semblance of dignity as the years have passed. Obviously, *Star Trek* is one, but shows like *Space: 1999*, *Battlestar Galactica*, *Buck Rogers*, and *V* have remained perennial favourites in the minds of many S/F fans. Indeed, several video companies have recognized this

potential market and have begun to sell videos of various episodes. Eventually, it may be possible to have every chapter of the *Space: 1999* saga on tape, uncut and commercial free.

In the meantime, however, it looks like S/F fans will have to accept what is available in the new season. Barring the use of a satellite dish, only five programs



Beauty, Beast or both?