

# arts

## In cod we trust

by Michael Graham

I almost didn't go to the Double Deuce this last Saturday. My friends, who had said that they would probably be there, were unreachable, I was running late anyway, and it was -26 degrees outside! Then I decided to call GoTime and get a bus. I ran to catch it. Hopefully I could avoid the half hour walk downtown. Not only did I miss the bus, I had to suffer through the cruel joke of watching it drive away, leaving me in the cold. To make a long story shorter, I ended up walking/running down to the Deuce with all of my camera equipment on one of the coldest nights in history.

**Cod Can't Hear Concert**  
**Leonard Conan, Cool Blue**  
**Halo, jale, Bubaiskull**  
**Saturday, February 6th, Double Deuce**

Was it worth the effort? Yes! I have been going to local Halifax gigs for about nine years and I can't remember any being as great as Saturday's show. The crowd was large and enthusiastic, and all four bands played extremely well. Even the "intermission" music was great.

Leonard Conan was first up and...let me take a look at the notes I took as they played: "Heavier Stiff Little Fingers/Replacements", "Good on own terms", "Crowd was into them - odd for a first band", "Maybe the new cd has people hyped - GREAT!", "Some dancing and alcohol consumption", "They have it together. Played really well, had fun and were appreciated". Although this was only the second time that I've seen the band play, Leonard Conan are definitely starting to grow on me.

Cool Blue Halo is a band which I know next to nothing about. I've seen them before, but the bassist was also playing in Chaz Rules or Merge, I forget. There are far too many bands around here to keep track of!

The first thing I noticed about Cool Blue Halo was the fact that the bassist was playing a five stringer. Even though I couldn't tell if she was playing with a low B or high C string, this made me happy as I am a big time bass affectionado.

After fixing some guitar amp problems, the band dove straight into their great, original, slightly raunched up pop material. Especially catchy was their song "Sheila" (?) or "SHEEELAAAAA". Cool Blue Halo had good fun on stage and they also got the crowd jumping around and dancing. They played a terrific and all too short 45 minute set. With their good pop material and their two and even THREE part harmonies this band may be destined for international popstardom. You never know...

Jale. I keep hearing rumours about jale. I am totally confused about what they are up to. Did they sign to SubPop? Are they on some compilation? What kind of deal do they have

and with who? Hopefully someone is taking notice of this band, because they are very good and keep getting better. (I have a feeling that the answers to these and other probing questions will be revealed in an upcoming issue of the Gazette - watch for it)

Saturday night's set was the most powerful that I'd ever heard and seen them play. Apparently they hadn't played live for awhile and I guess that they just bashed out with more abandon and energy than usual. Jale also mixed in some new material which sounded great and went over very well.

I have to say that jale sounds a bit like Sloan. Maybe it's the power drumming, possibly the vocal harmonies (up an octave or so), but there is a resemblance somewhere between the two bands' sound. This isn't a slam - just a relatively worthless and subjective observation. And of course, this comparison is completely mute when you are up front and immersed in the band and in the moment.

It is now past one in the morning and Bubaiskull are setting up. People are moving toward the front. It is getting crowded. Bubaiskull do not fit into any musical categorization so here are a few adjectives: harsh, original, bombastic, loud, diverse, intense, tight, dangerous, destructive, GOOD, etc.

Those words may conjure up an image of a death/thrash metal band. Well, Bubaiskull certainly isn't that (thank god). They are so difficult to

describe. While the above adjectives fit their sound in most cases, there are many exceptions. Imagine late Joy Division crossed with Black Flag or even better - SEE THEM LIVE!

Bubaiskull begin their set and within a minute it is slamfest central. I felt oh so safe standing near the front of the stage with my camera pressed to my eye, cutting off all peripheral vision. Thoughts of the camera being knocked to the ground and stomped on filled my head. But it was not to be. I managed to avoid any grievous bodily harm. Next time...no camera - I wanna have some fun too.

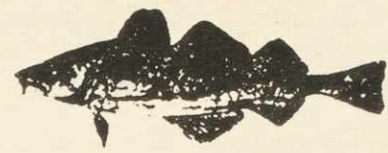
What can be said about their set other than "They smoked!". I can't really describe their music. There is, however, more of it, as they played some new material. Hopefully the band will preserve one of these shows with a soundboard recording and use that as a debut album (hint hint).

One thing I noticed while Bubaiskull were playing was that they seem to have a hardcore following. Many people came in just to see them and no one else. Someone was videotaping the set as well - to induce motion sickness in the viewer perhaps?

Bubaiskull ended far too early (2 am) but I walked home happy to have seen a brilliant live show, and freezing because it was still -26 degrees outside! At least I was safe in the knowledge that the Halifax scene was stronger than ever and only shows signs of improving. Now, to get that Cod Can't Hear CD!



Bubaiskull: stirring up a slam-fest at the Double Deuce



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