

# entertainment

## O2B Eclectic, progressive

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Entertainment Editor

This year's Winter Carnival Committee is to be commended. Their choice of the new Maritime group O2B as the headlining band for Saturday's Extrava-Ganza was particularly appropriate for the eclectic, often progressive tastes of the UNB student population.

O2B (pronounced "ought to be") is a good name for this five-man group based in Halifax. The name is derived from the language of computers, certainly a symbol of the 1980s. And with a couple of exceptions, all of O2B's material is taken from the past few years, much of it still on the charts.

Lead singer for the group is Wayne Nicholson, former vocalist with Oakley. On keyboards is Todd Clark, while Maurice Nadeau plays drums. Two former members of the Terry Hatty Band (a.k.a. Ram) complete the lineup: the ever-moving Pat Riley on bass and George Antoniak on guitar. Backing vocal contributions from Pat, George and Todd



make for intricate and beautiful harmony arrangements.

Regardless of the talent present, it is ultimately a band's repertoire which dictates their popularity. O2B has managed to pick the best of today's music, choosing songs which possess appeal and integrity at the same time. Artists covered include the Police, Big Country, U2, Steve Winwood, the Tubes, the Fixx, and Huey Lewis and the News. And then there are the originals.

Few words strike terror into the hearts of an audience like an unrecorded band's announcement that they are about to play "an original song". It is a simple fact of human nature that most people attending these type of events—even those who consider themselves more open-minded than most—want to hear songs they know. In many cases, original material by young bands is simply bad; either annoyingly pretentious or so derivative that it is just boring.

But as I said before, this is not a bunch of lads fresh out of the garage; their talents extend to songwriting as well. (Listen to Minglewoods's M5 album,

Ram's *Soundtrack From Pegasus One*, or Oakley's LP.) If you're not impressed by the fact that O2B has already generated interest from a number of record companies, consider this; the song that got Saturday's crowd dancing during the first set was an original, "Two Bit Hero". Other originals include "Forbidden Fruit", "Over Your Shoulder", and the brilliant "Time Enough".

By the way, if you missed it all Saturday, not to fear.

O2B will be at the Chestnut next Thursday through Saturday.

There is nothing sadder than to see talent go to waste, but that is exactly what can happen to bands who have everything but the ability to keep up with the times. O2B is different: they maintain an original style while reflecting current musical trends. Any success which comes their way will be very much deserved.

