

## The bands, the myths, the legends

Glueg, not yet a household name in Canada, certainly made their presence known in Fredericton when they opened up for I Mother Earth at the SUB cafeteria on Tuesday night. Playing their own brand of hard progressive rock, the band was immediately well-received by the very young and enthusiastic crowd. The band seemed to enjoy themselves, as well. New bass player, Chowder, was all smiles as he and the rest of the four piece tore through their set, but sweet set. Aside from their performance of "Heroic Doses," the breakthrough single from their last album, the band performed new material from their upcoming album *Clothopper*, which, judging from the quality of their performance, is going to be a killer. There were too many highlights to note, but memorable songs included "Pistons" (which will be the first single off the album), the '70s sounding "Mrs. Petrie" and the catchy "Dragonfly." Glueg provided a great start to what would prove to be a near perfect show.

• CHUCK TEEB

I Mother Earth are always going to give you a great performance, but the level of enjoyment of an IME show depends entirely on your point of view - quite literally.

No doubt about it, though, the band makes you want to be a rock star. With the opening sounds of "One More Astronaut" spiralling throughout the darkness of the SUB, the crowd's anticipation climaxed and the band exploded into song when the lights came up. Those at the front quickly resembled dozens of atoms, continuously colliding and seemingly creating more energy with each bump. IME tapped the majority of their latest (and incredibly popular) *Scenery & Fish* album, delving into habitually long, ten minute renditions of tunes such as "Earth, Sky & C," "Another Sunday," "Used to Be Alright" and the newest release, "Raspberry."

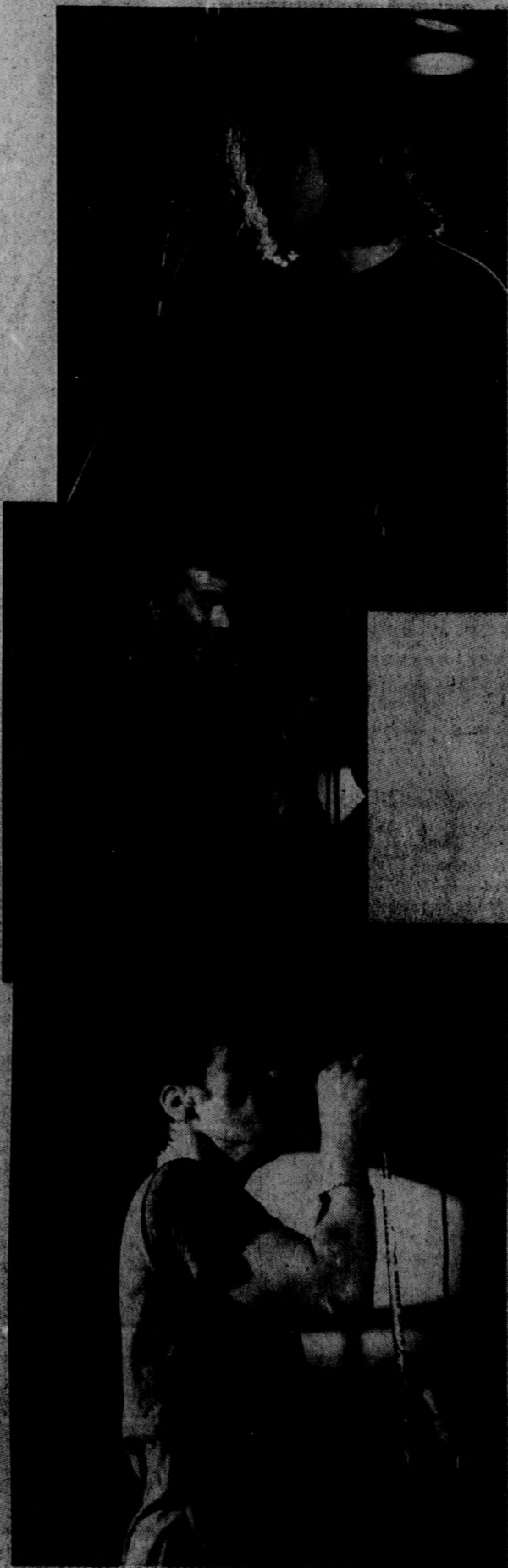
Edwin's voice wasn't at its best, but the crowd loved him, anyway. In fact, his descent into the audience for a quick crowd surf resulted in a torn and soiled T-shirt. But a group would be hard pressed to find a much more efficient frontman, as his body seemed more or less connected directly with the microphone stand.

The music itself was glorious - due primarily to the band's strive for perfection and the dedication of guitarist Jag Tanna - but the effect was lost for those at the back of the crowd, especially due to the flat floor of the cafeteria which limits vision. In terms of music mastery, the group ranks among the top touring acts from the past few years. But the instrumental virtuosity just glosses over those in the back.

The band returned for two encores, the first eliciting DJ's big hit "Not Quite Sonic," and the second was a decent rendition of U2's "Exit." Although it would have blended beautifully with IME's "So Gently We Go," the crowd wasn't fortunate enough to hear it. However, most people probably couldn't have taken much more, as the band pumped out over two hours of music.

For pure energy IME is second to none, and musically and they're improving all the time. But in the end, it all depends on where you stand.

• PETER J. CULLEN



FROM TOP: Glueg seemed themselves some very fine jazz prior to the release of their new album. Jag of I Mother Earth jams in on the chorus he built with his guitar. Edwin walks out lyrics at the start of the IME set.

## An update on the Mothers

PETER J. CULLEN  
THE BRUNSWICKAN

Bruce Gordon has the honour of being one-quarter of what is perhaps Canada's most popular act right now: I Mother Earth. The bass player and the band's three other members - Edwin, Jag Tanna and Christian Tanna - played at the SUB cafeteria last Tuesday night and the audience loved them. But how could they not expect such a response?

The band has been riding high on the

success of songs such as "Another Sunday" and "Used to Be Alright," but it was the radio-friendly "One More Astronaut" that caused *Scenery & Fish* to become a permanent fixture in thousands of CD players across Canada. However, the daunting success of that one song didn't worry the band. In fact, they were actually overwhelmed that the song was a major hit at all. "I was actually surprised it did so well," Gordon says. "I was definitely surprised. I wasn't thinking it would do poorly, but I'm happy it did as well as it did. Everyone kind of had a feeling that 'Another Sunday' would be the one. That did twice as well. It was all over MuchMusic. All our friends were sick of us. 'If we see that video of yours one more time...'"

But Gordon doesn't regret the overexposure the band has received from The Nation's Music Station. He feels that MuchMusic does a good job in promoting many bands, not just forcing one or two down the listener's ears. "The whole deal in America is basically MTV. They hold all the power and they kind of decide who breaks and who doesn't. It's very arbitrary and fickle. It's really sad that one industry has that kind of monopoly over the whole industry."

Once the first release from the album assaulted the airwaves everywhere, the band set out with a non-stop touring

schedule. The exposure from touring boosted their popularity, but the band doesn't really sacrifice anything. The group was originally signed on the basis of their live performances. "Your personal life does kind of suffer [from our level of touring]. It can be hard, but it's what we do. It's second nature, and we all want to do it. There's no other way to go about it, really, for us, because that's what kind of got us as far as we are. We don't feel we're in the position to have the luxury to take the time off."

Because of the effort IME elicits, Gordon didn't even have a place to call home when the group first started out. "I have an apartment now, but I didn't on the first record, what with all the touring," he says. "So I stayed with friends, and I only had a couple of bags. The rest I just kept in storage."

But with the minute amount of time the members have to enjoy free time, the living accommodations aren't a huge problem - the band simply doesn't have time for anything but the music. "I have other things I do with my life, but the music is the main focus. It's always there and I'm always working on it... I think we'd all like to mess around with different things, kind of get away from each other and try some fresh stuff with something else. But as I was saying before, that's kind of a luxury thing that we can't afford just yet."

The band does have some time off in a couple of months, but they'll spend it - how else - making music. "Things are going really well. You still can't sit back and rest on your laurels or anything. We have a big stretch of time coming up where we're going to be working really hard in the summer. We're looking forward to it."



"Hail, Hail": Bruce Gordon, bassist for IME, salutes the gods of photography.



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