

Gambling on a night at the Casino

by Chris Lambie

DTK promotions gave five local bands a chance to shake Gottigen Street over the weekend. The heavy rain didn't stop over 150 people from crowding into the old Casino theatre on Saturday night to hear what new sounds Peter Rowan's record label, "Dressed To Kill", had to offer. The Aimless, the Screaming No No's, Coffee in Madrid, Happy Co. and No Damn Fears provided an exciting and diverse evening's entertainment for the low low price of only four dollars.

Maybe the floor was a little greasy from years of spilt popcorn. So what if the average age of around 18 obviated the fact that there was no beer to be seen on the premises. Here was some real music, stripped of all the hype-video garbage and discotechnical accoutrements that accompany so much of today's mainstream mulch.

The Aimless, a super baby-faced bunch of nasties, started the proceedings around nine o'clock. Their hardcore thrasheteria sounds had an eclectic mix of overfed and anemic skinheads bouncing off each other for about twenty minutes. While it wasn't exactly my idea of a fun time, they were very tight, and the guitar (once it finally reached a sufficient volume) was very slick.

The Screaming No No's followed the Aimless with an inferior version of the same stuff. The guitar was much more primitive and dull, and the band gave a seriously lackluster performance. Even the skinheads

looked bored.

Coffee in Madrid provided a much more entertaining sound; heck, people even started to dance... A combination of their fresh rhythms and angst-ridden lyrics, not to mention their groovy haircuts, sparked a real crowd interest. They took a variety of promising and distinctly alternative directions, ranging from latin to almost funky.

Happy Co., however, initiated a serious upswing in the night's performance levels. These speed-drivers jangled the whole stage with a noise that lies somewhere between the Sound Asylum and Husker Du. They had great vocals, accompanied by some really serious bass. The sound problems seemed to clear-up by the time they hit the stage; Happy Co. hooked into a wide groove and held on tight until the end of their set.

...Seduce the audience with an abundance of brilliant energy.

Now comes the highlight of the entire evening, No Damn Fears. These guys are no damn slouches. Even though the five-member band has only been together for less than eight months, they seemed linked in a metaphorical musical chain.

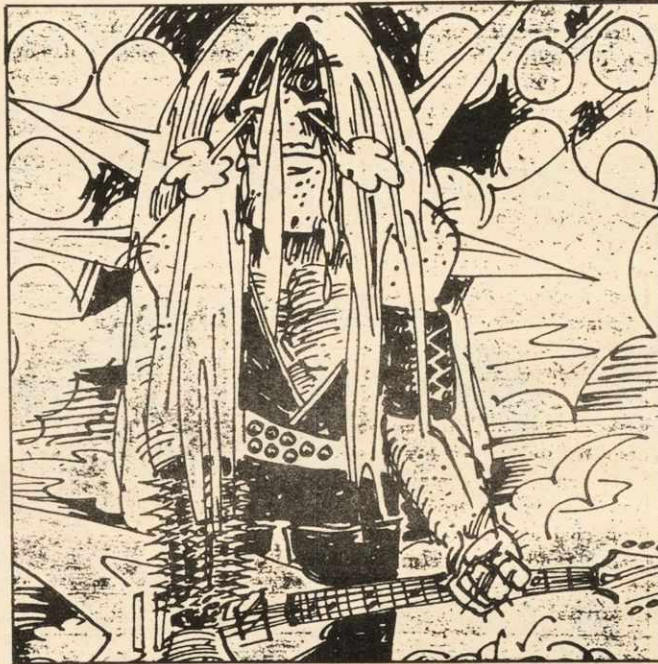
Dave Marsh, driving creative force behind the group, writes most of the songs and shared a cool lead guitar with Mat Murphy. Jenny Pierce, a Dal mathematics wizard,

crooned to the audience with a plastic cup of whiskey in one hand and an ever-present cigarette in the other. She cut her way through the maze of rhythm that bassist Doug MacDonald and drummer Pete Digesu slide, almost hesitantly, underneath the clean guitar sound.

however, and as the set neared a spectacular crescendo, he even forced a smile as he and Murphy shared in some harmonizing duties. The relaxed and right-on delivery of the band wins your mind while Pierce steals your heart with the buoyant clarity and ecstatic joy contained in her voice.

They all looked extremely happy, and moderately surprised that people were really groovin to the music.

Murphy claims that he is "aiming for that Big Star/Alex Chilton sound", but he does admit that that there are some serious creative differences in the group. "We're no Fleetwood Mac or anything" he says, "but because continued on p. 13



They wound their way around some very specific style changes, ripping through their original songs with an overripe confidence. Murphy and Pierce seem to dominate the onstage presence, with the former laying down some perfectly placed and awesomely controlled blue solos, while the latter attempts to seduce the audience with an abundance of brilliant energy.

Marsh was not to be outdone,



Paperback, Hardcover and Rare Books Bought and Sold

BACK PAGES

5214 Sackville St., Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 1K6 423-4750

SMITH CORONA

\$999
SAVE \$100
OR
\$99 MONTH (X 12)
7000 LAP TOP AND PRINTER
- WORD PROCESSING, SPREAD SHEETS
AND COMMUNICATIONS INCLUDED

PWP 1000 WORD PROCESSOR
\$525 SAVE \$70 OR \$53 MONTH (X 12)

XL 1500 ELECTRONIC TYPEWRITER
\$179 SAVE \$50 OR \$35 MONTH (X 8)

ROBERTSON BUSINESS EQUIPMENT LTD.
5514 CUNARD ST. HFX. 423-0386

THE GRAD HOUSE
6154 UNIVERSITY AVE

Presents
from Vancouver
BABAYAGA
STRING QUARTET
"A Jazz Adventure"
FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 21st
5 PM

(Just look for **THE GRYPHON**)

LEATHER

\$539

NEW FALL GARMENTS ARRIVING DAILY
Colours include: Rust, Taupe Hunter, Peacock, Red, Black, Chestnut, Olive, Burgandy, and many more.

FINAL REDUCTIONS ON ALL SUMMER LEATHER GARMENTS
BUY ONE GET ONE FREE !!
or
40% off 1 ITEM
Choose from men's and women's leather jackets, and women's leather pants and skirts
Hurry while Quantities last!!

THE TANNERY
by D.J.'s

5472 SPRING GARDEN ROAD, HALIFAX 429-4934