

Spine tingles while SOL blows

by Michael Graham

I finally saw the much-hyped Spine and did they ever live up to the "best new band in town" label! They join the ranks with other heavy-weight local bands like Bubaiskull (er... Great Slave), and the currently-in-limbo Horseshoes and Handgrenades. These three bands really pump out the decibels so be forewarned. Oh, yeah, Vancouver's SOL also played. You can't have everything.

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

SOL with Spine
Double Deuce
Friday, March 18

Spine have the "gunkgunk-gunkgunk" metal sound down, but they aren't a metal band. They aren't a grunge band, either. I don't know what they are. NoMeansNo, Big Black, Rush, Anthrax and Primus mixed together and turned inside-out comes close. They are a band that you don't hum along with.

Spine played an impressive and crushing set of songs which would prompt any parent to ask, "How can you possibly like that noise?" The bass and guitar were a loud and menacing combination, and the drummer provided a superfast, thundering, polyrhythmic attack. He occasionally went a bit over the top with his insane double bass drum fills. Lars Ulrich eat your heart out.

It was a great set even though a) the guitarist busted a string, b) the drummer broke his snare, and c) they

had to put up with some metal-head's screams of "PLAY SOME EXCITER!!". Actually, that was pretty funny and the band took it in stride, going into their next song with "Excite this, motherf—er!".

I was offered a drive home after Spine's set and do I ever wish that I had taken it because SOL blew. Now here's a band in need of a serious attitude adjustment. They were the most obnoxious band I've seen at the Deuce, having sold their meagre souls for punk-metal cock-rock crap. It didn't help that the singer and bassist were drunk either (then again, seeing them sober doesn't feel that appealing, either).

The bassist, a neanderthal Ted Nugent look-alike, let the crowd know that he was annoyed that no one was moshing. "Let's see some action down there... every other place we've played (burp), there's been a good pit. Come on!" After this little speech, some members of the crowd actually obliged him and a raucous pit ensued. The drunken singer joined in, but unfortunately suffered no bodily harm. And then, later in the set, he pulled his pants down and then climbed onto and fell off the "thing" bounding the dancefloor. What entertainment. Rawk on.

As for SOL's music, it was instantly forgettable, so I don't have much to say about it except that it was boring. Regurgitated, lame metal just doesn't impress. Maybe I'm still bitter that I had to walk home. Probably not.



Spine kicks out the jams — while sober and clothed!

PHOTO: MIKE GRAHAM

Wormwood's Crush crashes

by Mark Farmer

Yuck.

No really, I can't think of anyone who'd like *Crush*. This is the first time in my life I've ever been angry at a Wormwood's flick for wasting my time. Why? Lemme tell ya'.

1. No movie is going to survive if the lead actress can't act — surprise! That may sound like an overstatement, but it certainly does apply to some scenes in this picture.

Marcia Gay Harden plays Lane, the sexual interloper from America who arrives in rural New Zealand, almost kills her friend in a car crash, and starts toying in the lives of a local writer and his daughter. I found it disturbing that Harden looks and acts vaguely like *Kids in the Hall's* Bruce McCulloch in drag. Unfortu-

nately McCulloch plays a better femme fatale.

2. The film wallows in a sea of retarded sexuality at every turn. It seems to be in part an attempt at the old sexual-coming-of-age scenario for 15-year-old Angela (played by Caitlin Bossley, who can act), but the sexuality depends upon Lane, who just can't pull it off.

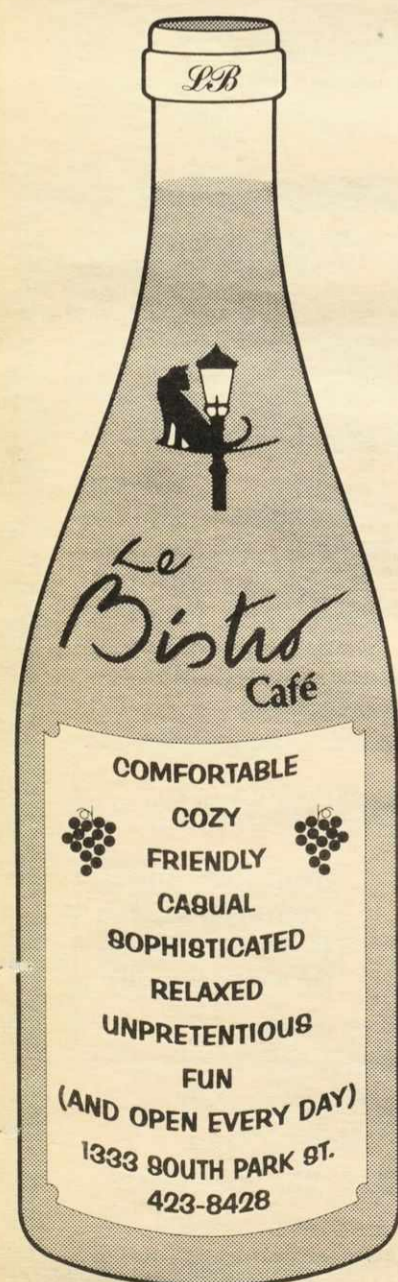
The rest of the film shows how Lane pokes around, screwing people's lives up. The director tries to work in some angst and deeper meaning, but flops. You'd be better advised to sit tight and drink in the rich New Zealand scenery when it pops up. Even the sex scenes drag, and those are the parts of a film you'd think would be hard to ruin.

3. The film's jerky and disjointed, there are long pauses of nothing in

between dialogue, there's no continuity and none of the jokes work. The dialogue itself needs a lot of work, such as when Lane coos "I want to be a bad, bad babe tonight." Yikes!

4. Cheesy music. Very distracting. All right, all right. Enough tirade. The movie does have one or two moments, like hearing a death elegy recited in a New Zealand accent, but folks, it ain't enough. The only two actors who could possibly carry the film are burdened with a lame-duck script and bad directing. On the plus side, I did like the opening credits, which featured New Zealand volcanic mud pits — lots of bubbles, and mud squirting everywhere! So just stay for that part. C-

Crush will be playing at Wormwood's Dog & Monkey Cinema on Gottingen Street, March 25 - 31.



HALIFAX
Chrysler
Dodge

"Your Kind of Store"

LEASE ^{as low as}
\$156.†
per mo.

NOVA SCOTIA'S LARGEST CHRYSLER DEALERSHIP

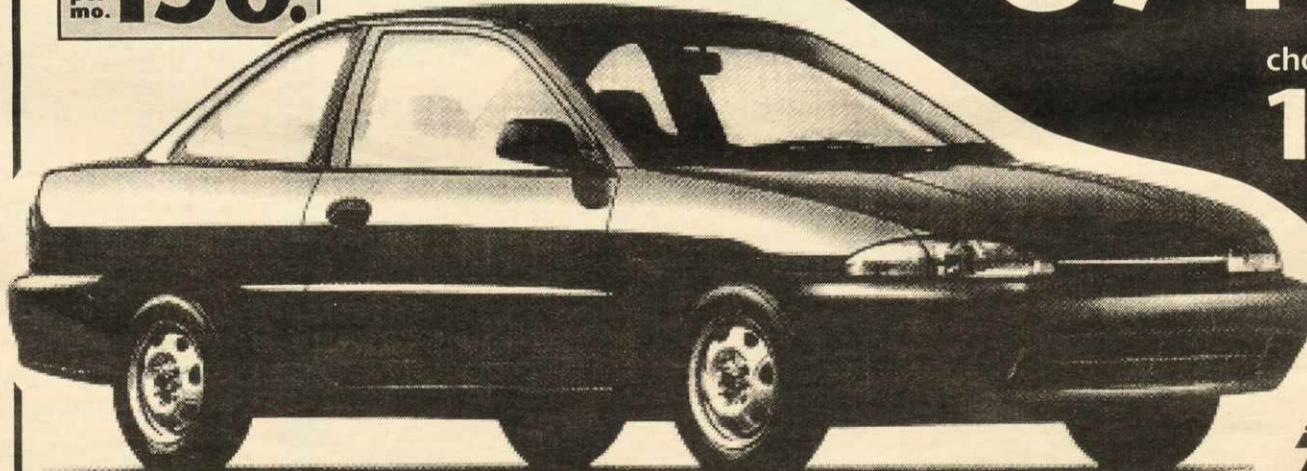
1994 COLT

"SPECIAL GRADUATE OFFER"

\$9494 - \$750 Grad Rebate

as low as **\$8744.***

choose from
100



Standard Features:

1.5 litre, 12 valve MPI engine, 5 speed manual, Electric rear window defrost, High back front bucket seats, MacPherson strut front suspension, Child seat anchor, Power assisted front disc, rear drum brakes, Stainless steel exhaust, Dual outside remote mirrors, Daytime running lamps, Maintenance free battery, High mount rear stop lamp.

Believe
in Halifax Chrysler

7/15
3/60

* Plus freight, taxes & PDE, mfg. rebate to dealer.
† 48 mo. term. Plus freight, taxes and PDE, \$1000 downpayment or trade equivalent, refundable security deposit, O.A.C., mfg. rebate to dealer.
• See Dealer for details. All vehicles subject to prior sale.

3737 KEMPT ROAD HALIFAX

455-0566