

Sardine drug fiends

BY STUART MCMILLAN

Two

Saturday, March 22
Bloomfield School

I had seen the flyer for Two posted upon every second telegraph pole for a while but I found it difficult to understand what was being advertised. Eventually, somebody told me that it was for a big rave, the "sequel" (may we call it that) to the one that was held at the beginning of February. I had never been to a rave, so I was very curious as to what one was like. I had heard many rumours about them, and was eager to uncover the truth in the name of journalism.

This time the party occurred in Halifax's old Bloomfield School instead of somewhere off the Bedford highway. Fortunately, it was less than a ten minute walk to the venue from where I live. For those who lived further away, there was free shuttle bus service picking people up from downtown. This added bonus was sunk into the cost of the \$12 ticket.

After standing in line for ten minutes in the cold, I managed to get in. There were two rooms for people to party, with the main room being the school gymnasium. It was mobbed with people jumping up and down to the music and dancing any way they pleased. In a place like this, you could never look or dance too stupid.

The ages ranged from 14 to 25. The 25,000 watts worth of musical power pumped the air with heavy bass filtering through the ears within damp gym walls. On the stage and behind a net stood a couple of silhouetted DJs who pleased the 1,200 strong crowd with their endless supply of techno music. Carbon smoke was funnelled

into the crowd, accenting the light system dazzling overhead. All of our bodies were packed like sardines on dope, but there were huge blocks of ice with which one could try and cool down.

The other room, smaller in size, also had DJs who pumped out the music. I had the opportunity to act mental to "Firestarter" by the Prodigy, the best adrenalin-kicking song ever recorded (even though the DJ only played the instrumental version). Besides this, it was a more laid back room, with people sitting on couches and chairs, just relaxing.

The party also boasted a non-alcoholic bar, where one could get energy drinks which promised to make one go "on and on and on". However, they didn't do the trick because at five in the morning, I was too knackered to stay any longer — the night sky was beginning to lighten. But those vitamin drinks were sure tasty and even supposed to be good for me.

At 5:30 a.m., I remembered that I was really tired, so I had to leave the party to trudge my way home. The school gym was still crowded with the dancing crowd as I departed.

The only major disappointment about the whole event was the light system. The flyer called it an "intelligent light system" and my mind was boggled beforehand as I tried to think what an "intelligent light" actually was. I went to the rave expecting something like the lights from the spaceship in *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, but alas, there was nothing special about the few lights they had.

All in all, everybody seemed to have a great time, with there being no trouble whatsoever with the sizeable crowd. They were happy to dance and jump about long after the downtown bars had closed.

Rallying against racism



Two young Halifax women speak out for racial unity

BY SOPHIA MAXWELL

Two young local women are proving that one person really can make a difference in the fight against racism.

Bronwen Trim and Yaffa Elling — subjects of the recent National Film Board documentary, *Bronwen & Yaffa (Moving Toward Tolerance)* — are taking their film on a tour of schools in the Atlantic Region until the end of the month. The tour was scheduled to coincide with the International Day for the Elimination of Racism, which was on March 21.

Bronwen & Yaffa depicts the efforts of the two women in organizing a live music gig to raise money for E.A.R. (Eastcoast Against Racism). This event featured local bands and aimed to bring people from all races and backgrounds together for the sake of music.

Both of these women come from diverse backgrounds — Bronwen hails from a middle class family with mixed black and white parentage, and Yaffa is a punk from a rural Jewish family. They also become involved with Scott, a former Klu Klux Klan

member who is trying to shed his ties with Neo-Nazism. The two women shed their initial distrust of Scott and help him find new, non-racist friends.

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I watched the film and enjoyed the segments in which the three subjects discuss their upbringing and their current views on racism. The music, a mixture of hip hop and punk music, was also

very energetic and uplifting.

Some of the other parts of the film seemed a bit staged, such as when Bronwen just happened to run into Scott while the cameras were rolling. These parts struck me as odd, since the film is touted as a documentary. The film also never really explained what exactly E.A.R. is and what Bronwen and Yaffa intend to do with the money raised from the gig.

At times I found myself agreeing with some of the sceptics in the film when they stated that it was naive to think that bringing people together for a music event in the name of "racial unity" was going to promote lasting change. It is also true, however, that the only way to change the world is one person at a time, and I have to admire Bronwen and Yaffa for slowly and patiently attempting to do just that.

To purchase a copy of "*Bronwen and Yaffa (Moving Towards Tolerance)*" for \$26.95, call the NFB at 1-800-267-7710. A copy is also available from the lending library at the NS-PIRG office at Dalhousie University, 494-6662.

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