

Hush rock... Eeyore groove.

by Tim Covert

It's said that neither rain nor sleet nor driving snow can keep postmen from their appointed rounds. It can also be said that a combination of the three will keep an audience away from its appointed show. This was the case last Thursday when only 20 to 25 people showed up to experience the intriguing pairing of Hush and Eeyore's Tale. Unfortunately for those not in attendance, the down side to dry shoes turns out to be a missed opportunity to hear two of Halifax's most promising bands.

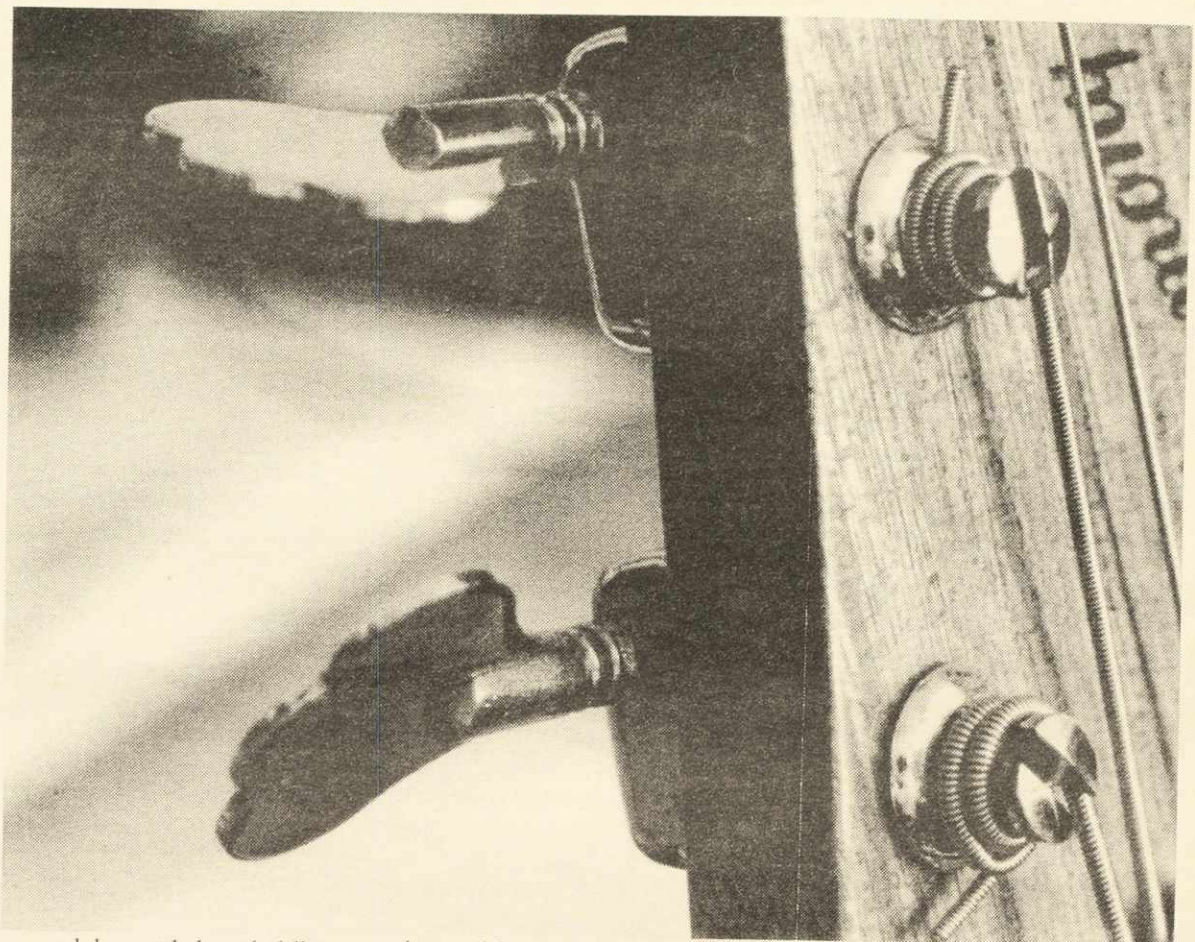
Concert Review
Hush, Eeyore's Tale
Birdland, Jan. 12th

The four-piece Hush started off the evening with their intense gothic wash of sound, which filled the venue and made an extra percussion instrument out of the ceiling tiles. The growly bass and guitar were augmented by the heavy but musical use of feedback on the lead guitar. The drummer, though not as active as I would have liked, kept a steady drive beating out front where it should be. Everything was brought together by the outstandingly strong vocals of singer/guitarist Kevin Cox. This

band creates tension. What they created when they occasionally leaped into overdrive was an enthusiastic mosh despite the limited numbers. The band could easily succeed with screamed songs à la ridiculously bad metal, but they go beyond that with a tight, head-down sound that screams of well-written music. Hush has a loud future ahead of them.

Eeyore's Tale, also capable song writers, have been getting a lot of attention lately with their highly-rated, self-titled cassette, but Thursday was my first opportunity to hear them. The first impression for me was that these four guys sounded exactly like the Red Hot Chili Peppers. Who could really blame me? Their first song included a nice trumpet line (see the Chili Peppers' bassist, Flea) and was in the same style as what I have come to expect from those now insanely rich and popular Californians. However, as the set progressed, I began to see that not only was this band highly skilled in the style of our beloved briefly boys, but in many other ways as well. I detected influences from Pearl Jam, a ballad that for some reason made me write down Neil Diamond, and a great song that sounded uncannily like U2's "Where the Streets Have No Name."

These guys can play. The bass tightly



grooved along with the wah-full guitar, with its intense Isaac Hayes style. Shaft! I never did actually see the drummer's hands. They were kind of a blur. The lead singer, whether doing the funk rapping of Anthony Kiedis or a Vedder-like vocal style, impressed me greatly despite a disturbing habit of keeping his hands hidden all the time. (Note: Next gig, nix the pockets) He also played keyboard on a couple of num-

bers and for a singer, he's pretty good. What made a lasting impression on me is that the band kept up their high energy and enthusiasm right up until the end of their show despite the lack of audience. Very professional.

If it sounds like I'm having a hard time pegging down this band you're right. I really appreciated the quality of their music but for some reason I didn't connect with it. It might just be that I

wasn't prepared for their style and on second listening I would have a better idea of the band.

Despite the absence of an audience during their set, however, they definitely had one huge fan. Whoever she was, she was in a world of her own, just her and the groove of Eeyore's Tale. A note to the band: guys, if you ever make a video, hire this person. You wouldn't even have to pay her.

Wormwood's Ad Heaven

by Mark Farmer

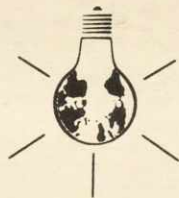
Back by popular demand, it's Wormwood's reviews. Welcome back to another season of lowbrow, highbrow and everywhere-in-between-brow. And please remember, no smoking between shows...

World's Best Commercials 1994
(Cannes Ads)
Wormwood's Jan. 20-26

Yep, it's time again for those zany international ad festivals. For all you people that have been there, done it, seen it, you know what to expect. This



year's installment rates about a B compared to any other ones you may have seen, neither howlingly nor dull. For those of you who haven't seen an ad festival before (we like to refer to you as "ad virgins"), it's a collection of mostly humorous, imaginative, often twisted TV ads from around the world.



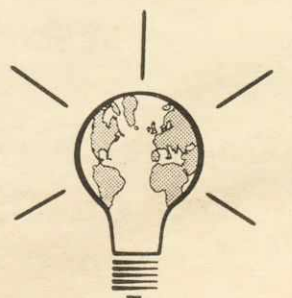
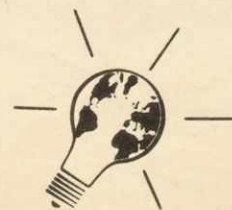
For "twisted" see the Japanese ad for "beauty toilette" toilets, where a super-imposed sea lion walks around downtown Tokyo screaming for beauty toilette and scoping out female tush — don't ask me why. I don't know. Japanese ads are just plain weird.



The World's Best Commercials will be playing at Wormwood's Dog & Monkey Cinema on Gottingen St, Jan 20 - 26.



For "imaginative" see a witty, tasteful knock-off of *Citizen Kane* called *Citizen King*. For "zany" check out the dancing penguins or the three Norwegian businessmen-parachutists stuck in a mud puddle looking for Lennart. Not all of the ads are so impenetrable, and you'll probably recognize Rowan Atkinson (*Black Adder*, *Mr. Bean*) in a couple, so don't panic. Just sit back and enjoy the 70-odd minutes of insanity



**WORLD'S BEST
COMMERCIALS
1994**

Local band alert

This Week: Plumtree (again!)

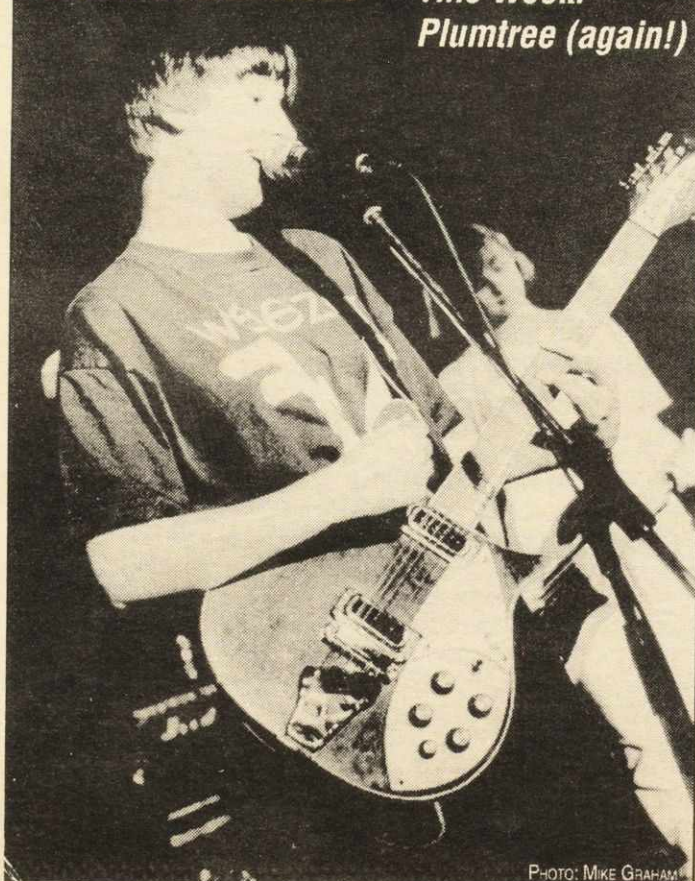


PHOTO: MIKE GRAHAM

Last time Plumtree was featured here, the "feature" was very, very small — microscopic in fact. So, because they are the coolest band in town, I am running this thing again.

I don't really know how to describe Plumtree. They don't "RAWK" per se, but they also don't come across as a "cute 'lah-di-dah' girl group". What they are is FUN. They are a band that will cheer you up after your dog gets run over.

Plumtree have recorded a split single with Strawberry called *Green Mittens* and they have a great six song indie tape, *Flutterboard*. They also have a great t-shirt, which I am wearing at the moment (that's how darn cool it is.) Future plans may include full length cd on Cinnamon Toast. They have their own label (Follow You Home Records), they are going to be touring Upper Canada in March, they won a best band contest at the Pop Explosion, and they have been approached by a U.S. label to release an EP. Oh — did I mention that 3/4ths of the band are still in High School?

They rule and will put a smile on your face, so go see them.

Amanda and Nina also have the best radio show on CKDU — 8:30 on Saturday nights (Donate some money on their show and they will love you)

Mike Graham

