

# Metal musicians and maniacal moshers

**CONCERT**

**Birdland Cabaret**

Friday, January 26

Subspecies/Adrenalin/Voivod

BY NEIL FRASER

I don't care what people tell me I should be listening to; metal still rules my heart. And judging by the crowded Birdland on Friday, I'm not the only one who feels this way.

Subspecies, as usual, put on a good show as the opening act on this night of musical mayhem. They got some audience participation with their Sabbath tribute medley (who doesn't know all the words to "War Pigs?"). Their own songs have some really cool riffs that make it impossible to keep your head still. Hailing from New Minas, these rockers frequently grace our presence and I would recommend checking them out.

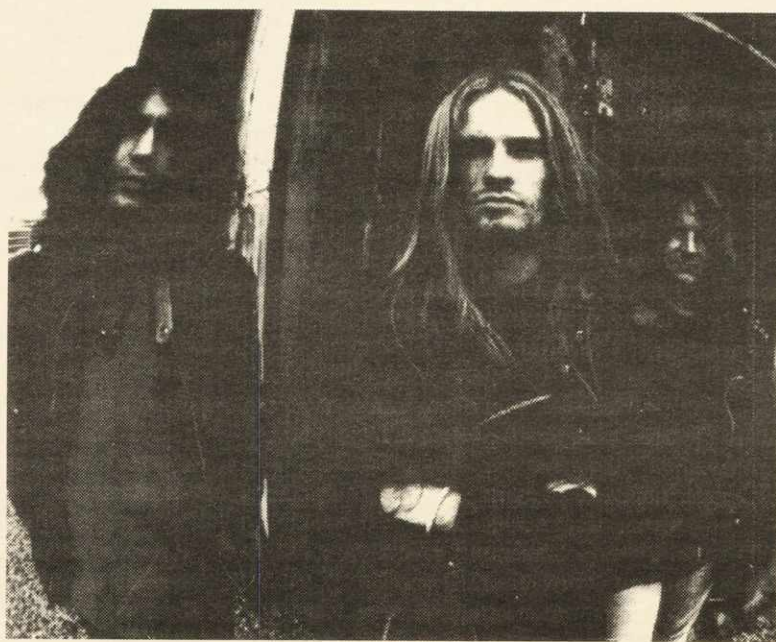
Up next was Adrenalin and they definitely lived up to their name. Their high-speed skater metal with Mike Patton-esque

vocals started the first moshing of the evening. The singer further incited the crowd by jumping from the stage and joining in the madness. This was my first time seeing this band and I was very impressed. I think this is a band to keep an eye on.

With the crowd all warmed up, Voivod came on to further the frenzy. Armed with their new bassist/vocalist, they have returned to their thrash roots with their newest release, *Negatron*.

Voivod, in case you didn't know, are a highly influential Québec band that started in the eighties. Their set consisted of both their new heavy songs and the older spacey ones. The first encore started with an awesome rendition of Pink Floyd's "Astronomy Domine," a cover from Voivod's *Nothingface* CD. They ended the show with a second encore — the campy metal anthem "In League With Satan."

I think that a crowd can make a show almost as much as the band, and Friday's crowd was



Montréal metal magicians Voivod

great. It was nice to see so many people out who were genuinely into the music. As crazy as the pit got, when someone fell there were immediately three people helping him up. All factors in-

cluded, this was probably the best night I've ever had at the Birdland. I hope it paves the way for more heavy bands to come to Halifax.

# Vampires in an alternate vein

**BOOKS**

**Anno Dracula**

Kim Newman

BY STACY DOOKS

The idea isn't new.

You know the notion. After reading a really good book or seeing a cool movie, there's always the question — "What if?" What if the bad guys had won? Or this person hadn't done that thing at that moment? The events of a good plot are like the puzzle Jenga. Fail to stack them the right way and you could have a completely different story. Which brings us to Kim Newman's intriguing novel *Anno Dracula*, which asks the question "What if the fearless vampire killers of Bram Stoker's *Dracula* had failed?" The answer is both frightening and fascinating.

The novel takes place in an alternate past in the year 1888 in the city of London, England. Anyone who has taken a bit of European history knows that 1888 was the year that infamous serial killer Jack The Ripper terrorized the city by killing five prostitutes over a series of months, then vanished without a trace. There is a ripper in this alternate world, and his targets are also prostitutes. *Vampire* prostitutes.

The world has changed in the three years since the death of Van Helsing and his band (save for Jack Seward, who is a nervous wreck on drugs, and Arthur Goldaming, who is an up-and-coming young vampire). *Dracula* has married Queen Victoria and spread his vampire blood throughout the British Empire. Vampires are now out in the open, and are considered the social elite. Anyone who's anybody is a vampire.

But the city is on edge. Jack The Ripper is killing vampire whores

left and right with a silver blade, and the tensions between humans and vampires are thick.

The protagonists of *Anno Dracula* are Charles Beauregard and Genevieve. Beauregard is something of a secret agent, acting for the Queen via the Diogenes Club (fans of Sherlock Holmes will know what I'm talking about) to find the Ripper. Genevieve is an elder vampire (though physically, she looks sixteen) who gets involved in the case due to her status as a kind of social worker near Whitechapel, the Ripper's stalking grounds. Together they team up to find the killer; a killer that wasn't caught in our past, but might be in theirs.

I found *Anno Dracula* a fascinating read. The novel starts a bit slow, but gradually Newman draws you into a world that is both scary and appealing. There are dozens of unique touches and details which jolt the reader and gain their attention. Sherlock Holmes, Bram Stoker, and George Bernard Shaw are considered "malcontents" for resisting the new vampire regime, and are placed in concentration camps.

Inspector Lestrade of Scotland Yard is on the case to find the Ripper, and Dr. Henry Jekyll has become something of an expert on vampire anatomy with his colleague Dr. Moreau.

The characterization in *Anno Dracula* is good, and Newman has a feel for the constricting dialogue of the Victorian Age.

You might think you would have to read *Dracula* to understand what's going on in this book, but Newman skillfully explains the plot of Stoker's novel without losing the beat of her story.

If *From Dusk Till Dawn* left you with a bad taste in your mouth, try *Anno Dracula* for something with more bite.

## At Wormwoods

# Big-Up to Soul Survivor

BY GAZETTE STAFF

One of the hits of the 1995 Atlantic Film Festival, Stephen Williams' *Soul Survivor*, is making a return appearance to Wormwoods this week. The Gazette's Mateo Yorke said in October that the film is, "an insightful look at a part of the Canadian mosaic from the inside of the Jamaican culture of Toronto." The Canadian-made *Soul Survivor*, "felt more like a Spike Lee joint," said Yorke. He rated it better than half of the top ten summer films of 1995.

Remember, if you buy a \$10 membership at Wormwoods, you will make the money back in savings within 2 movies. Go...see...love.

## the trusty ten

CKDU 97.5 FM

tc	lc	wo	cc	artist	title	label
1	21	3		Various Artists	Saturday Morning Cartoons...	MCA
2	12	4	◆	Download	Furnace	Cleopatra
3	1	4	◆	Eric's Trip*	The Road South	Sonic Unyon
4	3	4	◆	Four the Moment*	In My Soul	Atlantica
5	23	5		Scorn	Gyral	Earache
6	-	ne		Mojave	Ask Me Tomorrow	4AD
7	2	5	◆	Ashley MacIsaac*	Hi™ How are You Today?	A&M
8	14	4	◆	Various Artists*	Murderfest	Murder
9	19	3		Ben Folds Five	Ben Folds Five	Passenger
10	-	ne		Björk	Three	Warner

\*: Local Artist  
cc: Canadian Artist

re: Re-Entry  
lc: Last Chart

tc: This Chart  
ne: New Entry

## the box

◆ **The Dalhousie Theatre Department** opens its first show of 1996 with "The Good Woman of Setzuan" by Bertolt Brecht. The play asks the audience to "reflect on the question of identity and the moral implications of a social action." The play runs Wednesday, Feb. 7 through Saturday, Feb. 10 at 8 p.m. in Studio 1 of the Dalhousie Arts Centre. Tickets are \$5 for students and are available at the Theatre Department Office in the Arts Centre.

◆ **"Madly Off in All Directions,"** the new CBC radio comedy show hosted by big-haired comic Lorne Elliot, will be taping a show in Halifax on Thursday, Feb. 8 at the Rebecca Cohn. The taping will feature Elliot, Bette MacDonald, Nancy White, Bill Carr, General John Cabot Trail, Mary Colin Chisolm, and Maynard Morrison. Tickets are \$15 and are available by calling 494-3820. *Madly Off in All Directions* airs Saturdays at 10:35 a.m. on CBC Stereo and Sundays at 1:08 p.m. on CBC Radio.

◆ **Deep Nine Recording** is having its first Performance Show this Saturday from 9-11 p.m., featuring **Lesley Choyce and the Surf Poets**, Christopher Robin Device, Stan Carew and Friends, and DJ Knob Head and his Films. The Surf Poets consists of Stan Carew (vocals), Hal Harbour (samples), and Stephen Outhit (fretless bass). Choyce's group is releasing their *Long Lost Planet* album while CRD is releasing *Waster*.

◆ **Halifax-based No Records** has secured a national distributor for its artists. Montreal-based Ozone Distribution now distributes material from Original Records, Rightwide Records, No Records, and Zoobone. No Records artists include Madhat (new EP soon), Cool Blue Halo (full-length at end of month), Coyote, and The Grace Babies. No will also be releasing a Len single in June.

◆ **Murderecords** are also preparing to release some new material. Look for a Zumpano 7" soon, a full-length Local Rabbits album by the end of March, and a possible Superfriendz 7" in March or April.

◆ The Dalhousie Art Gallery is screening its first film for Black History month next Wednesday, at 12:30 and 8 p.m. **Speak It! From the Heart of Black Nova Scotia** and **Black Mother, Black Daughter** are two 1/2 hour films directed by Sylvia Hamilton which examine the strength and continuity of African-Canadian communities in Atlantic Canada.

◆ **Dartmouth Players** production of *There Goes the Bride*, a farce by Ray Cooney and John Chapman, runs from January 31 to Feb. 17 at the Crichton Avenue Community Centre in Dartmouth. The nights are Wednesday to Saturday, at 8 p.m., with a ticket price of \$8 adults, \$6 students and seniors. Call 465-PLAY for more info.