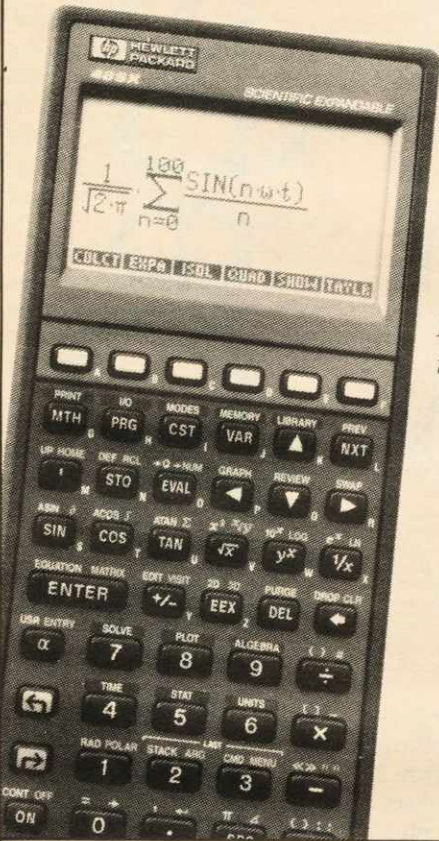


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## ARTS

# Get out the shovels it's time for the Skydiggers

by Amber Creaghan,  
The Lambie Man  
and Mary Littlejohn

IT WAS A DARK and stormy night and the sky was enveloped in inky ink. The *Gazette* wanted, no - needed an interview with The Skydiggers, so here it is. The doors opened at 6 p.m. (the place was jammed in minutes) and the bands didn't start playing 'till 9 p.m., so we had three hours to kill in the Grawood. The Skydiggers played a song for their sound check called "Every night, just another dead beat town" and, another round o' Gins seemed in order.

We caught up with the Diggers and chatted with Josh Finlayson (guitar and vocals) and Andy Maizer (lead singer) after the show.

**Gaz:** What does the band think of Halifax?

**Sky:** We get a really great response here. Its something that we've found indicative of a University town. Playing in Toronto all the time, we often get a lot of the same people coming out to shows, so its

good to break away from that and get some work done.

**Gaz:** Do you have any sort of specific target audience?

**Sky:** You mean consciously? Not really. We do what we do — we get more University students than the general population in most of our audiences. Even at places like The Flamingo there's more of a student crowd. But with our good radio and Much Music support, its always amazing to see the different kinds of people that come out to the shows.

**Gaz:** You've had two amazing videos - can you tell us more about them?

**Sky:** "I will give you everything" was the first and "Monday morning" was the other one — its both incredible and kind of scary that we can get our stuff on a television station that runs coast to coast.

**Gaz:** Why did you open with "We don't talk much anymore"?

**Sky:** Well, for the last six months its the song we've always started with. The three of us sing it - its easy to sink your teeth into and it gets us right into the show.

**Gaz:** You guys incorporate a lot of humour into your act, stuff like covers of Fever and Broadway that seem to go over really well. It's a unique approach, how did you incorporate it into your act?

**Sky:** We started out doing it as something we could do when we had too many busted strings - to give us a chance to change them. Its really easy, and we've never ever rehearsed it before. Its become very campy and its really lost its improv feel now. We only do "Whole lotta love" in Halifax, by the way.

**Gaz:** People have tried to categorize your music as a folk-rock sort of thing, how would you describe the sound you're aiming for?

**Sky:** When you do stuff, you hope that you can combine a million different things and make it work well. To play one type of music would be limiting yourself incredibly. If you grow up listening to the radio, its hard not to be influenced by almost everything you ever hear.

**Gaz:** How do you guys feel about the US market as the making or breaking point of a Canadian band?

**Sky:** Were going to write some of the songs for our next recording with Vanilla Ice...(guffaw). We actually haven't had a release yet, but one of our objectives is definitely to get as many people as possible listening to our music.

**Gaz:** A lot of your act and drive on stage is deeply Canadian in content. Won't you have to get away from that to make yourselves more accessible to the larger markets?

**Sky:** We think we could go anywhere. Its not that hard to find out what's going on. Its particularly easy in North America, because you just have to pick up the local newspaper. Its really just a matter of taking an interest in you audience.

**Gaz:** What do you think of the Canadian music scene itself?

**Sky:** We're lucky to be touring with Blue Rodeo this year — they're a great band. There are all sorts of bands out there we like: The Tragically Hip, The Lesley Spit Trio, The Cowboy Junkies, Grapes of Wrath — we end up meeting a lot of these bands because we get stuck on the same bills. Its pretty interesting to exchange ideas, thoughts and stories with them. It also gives us a good chance to learn more about what these bands are really all about. Its encouraging to be part of the new era of song writing competition. The greatest distinguishing factor of Canadian bands, aside from the fact that we travel further than anyone else does to tour, is that we get to share our writing abilities.

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