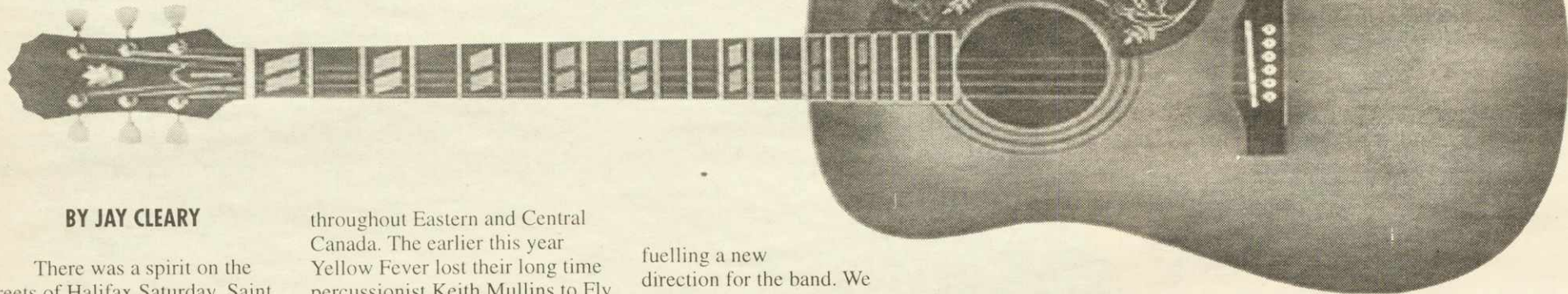


The hardest working bands in Halifax



BY JAY CLEARY

There was a spirit on the streets of Halifax Saturday. Saint Mary's win over Waterloo had Vanier Fever in the air. The Attic hosted another type of Fever that was sending contagious vibes out on the dance floor. Dr. Yellow Fever and the Jive was performing their last show with their long time flutist Alexandra Morrison.

For the last year and a half Yellow Fever and the Jive have honed their sound playing in hometown Halifax and touring

throughout Eastern and Central Canada. The earlier this year Yellow Fever lost their long time percussionist Keith Mullins to Fly Jimmy Swift. As Alexandra made her farewell, the stripped down four-piece was still able to deliver. Charismatic frontman Kamran Abdi put down his guitar and cut up the rug with his 'rhyming and stealing'. Lately the Fever has been experimenting with their sound with the help of Underground DJ John Farrugia. The Farrugia vs. Fever experimentations has been

fuelling a new direction for the band. We can all look forward to a new funk and bass Yellow Fever in the New Year

On another side of town, Fly Jimmy Swift was rockin' the Marquee. The crowd poured out on the streets after Guitartist/Vocalist Craig Mercer soaked the packed bar with his drenching guitar solos. The band, formally known as PF Station, is recording a follow-up to their 1998 effort "Ahh Yeah." Fly Jimmy Swift, who has had their share of with line-up changes, is working with Sloan producer Laurence Currie. "I really feel like we're ready,"

Craig said. "We've got a great bunch of songs."

The real story starts way back in 1992 when freshmen Craig and Kamran formed PF Station. Playing with an ever changing line up, Craig and Kamran developed their talents in student basements. Kamran left to pursue his own musical direction as Dr. Yellow Fever, while Craig reformed his band as the front man and molded his band as the Maritimes' strongest Rock and Improvisational touring group.

Just recently the longtime friends shared the stage on Halloween at the Attic.

These bands have been working hard, playing to packed crowds almost every weekend. They have played consistently great shows, determined for success on their own terms. As the school year winds down there will be much to look forward to in 2000. The Halifax music community is eagerly awaiting the evolution of Halifax's hardest working bands.

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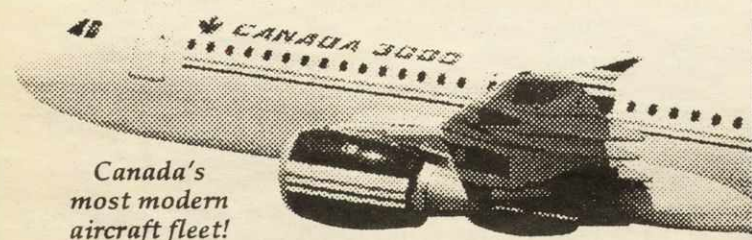
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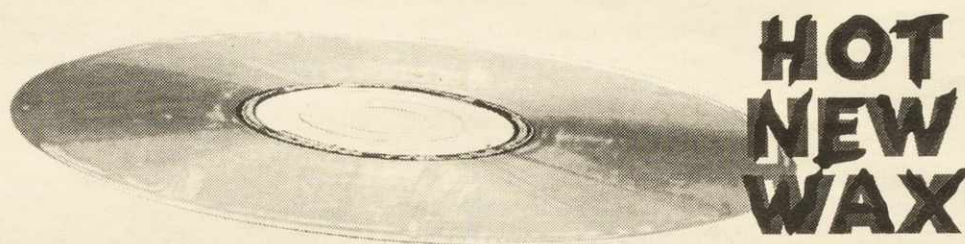
TO	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	SUN
VANCOUVER	18:55 ^a	18:55 ^a 20:45 ^b	18:55 ^a	20:55 ^a	-	-	-
CALGARY	18:55 ^a	18:55 ^a	18:55 ^a	20:55 ^a	-	-	-
EDMONTON	-	20:45 ^b	-	-	-	-	-
TORONTO	-	15:00 ^b 23:25 ^{c,10,11}	13:50	23:25 ^c	-	-	18:05
ST. JOHN'S	-	18:30 ^c 19:55 ^b	-	18:40 ^c 18:45 ^b	-	-	-

^aBegins Nov 8 ^bWeek of Nov 1 only ^cWeek of Nov 8 only
¹⁰Week of Nov 15 only ¹¹Week of Nov 22 only

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The Roots — The Roots Come Alive (Okay Player/MCA)

Timeless. From the extended version of "You Got Me", to the whisper-quiet "Step into the Realm" and even to the Grandmaster Flash dubs, *The Roots Come Alive* shows how great live hiphop can be. You can pick up the record in 1 or 2-disc sets, but skip the second disc. It covers ground everyone else treads on, and is nothing the Roots should be proud of. But the first is golden. — Greg.

Jazzyfatnastees — The once and the future (Motive/MCA)

If the Roots are for the boys, the 'nastees are definitely for the girls. Tracey Moore and Mercedes Martinez belt out jazzy lyrics over deceptively forceful tracks, but even with the Roots' Questlove and Hub on the drum and bass, they just can't summon the magic. It's a good CD, but that's about it. In a year, you'll wish you saved your money. — Greg.

Les Rythmes Digitales — Dark Dance (Wall of Sound)

'Hey you, what's that sound?', it's les Rythmes Digitales — a lyrically hypnotizing, danceable, sing along record. All the tracks are up beat, aerobics ear candy. 'Everyone wants to get down like that.' — Anika

Sprawl — Faster Than You (Imoj)

The Toronto trio shop promise of someday playing great songs. The spirally guitar effects and nasally-whining-Billy-Corgany vocals intrigue the ears, but it just doesn't have any staying power. The songs lack direction and border on indulgence. It's too bad, because these guys could be on to something. — Nicole

SoulWax — Much Against Everyone's Advice (Pias)

A very innovative record, with a jacket that is interesting enough to warrant hours of gazing. With some must hear tracks like "Overweight Karate Kid," "Conversation Intercom" and the title track, this record is certainly listen-worthy. — Anika.