

Bustin' out with jale, some Inbreds and a Cub

by James Covey

If you missed the memorable triple bill of jale, Cub, and The Inbreds at Birdland last Saturday night, you should kick yourself — hard. All three bands played excellent sets in what turned out to be one of the most enjoyable nights of music in Halifax in recent memory.

Concert review

jale with The Inbreds and Cub
Birdland, March 25

The evening started with Cub's first Halifax appearance since the release of their latest album *Come Out, Come Out*.

There was a good mix of new tunes ("Isabelle," "Flaming Red Bob-sled"), and older ones from their previous release, *Betti-Cola*. Cub are more musically accomplished now and can whip off their earlier, simpler songs faster than ever. It may not be evident from their recordings, but live, Cub can really rock!

And their newer material shows a definite progression away from fluffy lyrics (although you'd never know that by their current video for "New York City").

Lisa, the lead singer (to be distinguished from Lisa, the drummer) was in fine form and the band moved quickly from one song to the next, putting in a noticeably smoother set

than their last Halifax gig at the Double Deuce. It's a good bet that Cub made some new friends and fans, and that they may win their struggle to be taken seriously despite their cuddlecore reputation.

Next up were The Inbreds, the unique duo from Kingston, Ontario,

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featuring Mike O'Neill on bass and Dave Ullrich on drums. You'd think that with just those two instruments a band might get boring after a while, but the lead vocalist is a talented, versatile bassist who knows how to get the most out of his instrument and his pedals. Personally, I wouldn't have minded a little less chorus pedal, but that's only a minor reservation.

This unique bassist is also obviously a gifted songwriter, and had little trouble winning the crowd over. At one point O'Neill stopped and said, "I just want to say, that we had to say no to Sub Pop... There's no way we're going to get a guitarist — no way!"

I'm sure his comments will only add fuel to the rumour that Sub Pop

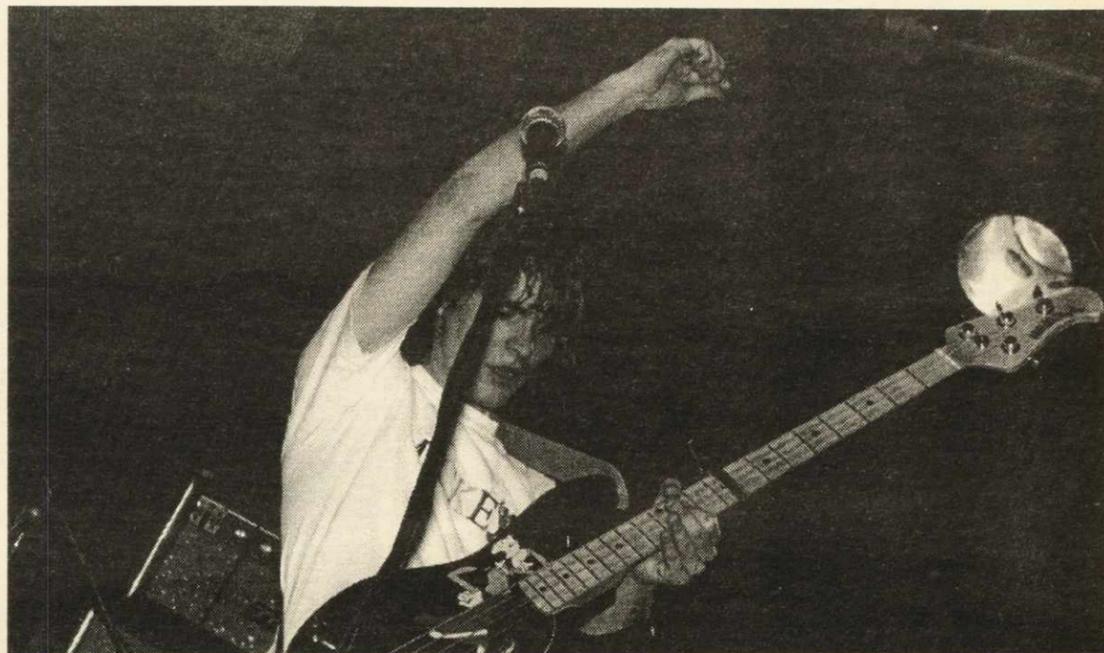


PHOTO: MIKE GRAHAM

offered to sign the band to a contract on the condition that they round out their lineup with a guitarist. The statement got some cheers from the crowd but it was hard to tell whether he really meant it to be taken seriously.

Finally, jale hit the stage, and only a few songs in, pandemonium ensued. The dance floor filled with boneheaded moshers and crowd-surfers, and I didn't know whether to laugh or to be concerned for people's safety. At any rate, the band seemed to be enjoying them-

selves (and the crowd reaction), and they delivered a very confident set, reminiscent of their stellar performance at last fall's Pop Explosion festival, but featuring some new material, as well as covers of Giant Sand and, believe it or not, Jesus Lizard ("Horse" from Down).

It seems that jale have recently recorded a five-song session for CBC Stereo's Nightlines, to be broadcast in the coming weeks, that includes the Jesus Lizard song as well as covers of Tom Petty and Black Sabbath.

(During jale's two-song encore, the band either didn't hear or ignored fans shouting out their requests for "Paranoid.")

The band have an EP-length recording coming out on Murderecords this summer, and if the new material that was presented at Saturday's gig is any indication, it should be excellent. Their next full-lengther, their second for Sub Pop, is scheduled to be recorded in Memphis in September for release next April.

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