Radio York's rock revivalists



WAKE UP, YOU DEADHEADS! Lead singer of The Dundrells (above) attempts to stir the crowd into action. Earlier, the Screaming Lizards (far right) flicked their tongues at the apathetic crowd.

ANDREW VANCE

t may have been cold and rainy last Friday night, but in the depths of Vanier college, the Open End Pub was definitely hot. The high energy, high decibel music of the Screamin' Lizards and the Dundrells pulsated through the distinctly mixed audience of pub regulars and rock revivalists. If FM radio licenses could be granted upon musical taste alone, then Radio York would deserve theirs just for sponsoring this concert.

The Screamin' Lizards kicked off the show with a blistering set of raunch and roll ranging from well executed cover tunes (Iggy Pop's Stooges' "Loose," Velvet Underground's "Waiting for the Man," and Madonna's

"Burning Up") to some striking originals. Lead singer and guitarist Don Payjack's charismatic stage presence was evident throughout the act, which culminated in a medley of such R&B gems as the Doors' "Gloria" and the Kingsmen's immortal "Louie Louie."

Offstage, Payjack, a systems engineer from Calgary, is affable and low key, dedicated to spreading the gospel of 60s revivalism to those brainwashed by the current proliferation of electro-dreck. "(We're) just a good party rock and roll band," claims Payjack. Yet the Screamin' Lizards' tight and energetic show was unfortunately received by a rather stagnant crowd.

While the Lizards exuded energy, the Dundrells exploded on stage with freneticism bordering on musical anarchy. They managed to get a rise out of the audience, thanks to some hardcore Dundrells fans in the crowd.

The Dundrells have been on the Queen Street scene for about two years, coming together after the demise of vocalist Gary Welsh's previous bands: The Living End and The Outer Limits. Comprised of Welsh, guitarists Peter Hudson and Ashley Thomas, bassist Richard Higham, and drummer Terry Kelly, the Dundrells are a tight, hard-working band with an edge. They possess a raw minimalist sound with minor influences from the Stooges and possibly the Ramones.

Their set consisted of mostly originals, including "Nothing on TV" and "Still, I run" from their current single, and some obscure covers (such as the Ugly Duckling's "Nothing") delivered with a lot of polish and power.



With his bright purple blazer, soprano voice and inspired bouncing about, Welsh conjured images of a paperboy who has just discovered the joys of amphetamines. His enthusiasm was curtailed somewhat only upon being ordered off a table by Open End security.

Terry Kelly's drumming was appropriately forceful, providing a backbone for the power riffs of Hudson and Thomas. Kelly admits that although their witty and often sarcastic style is essentially their own, they are apt to draw inspiration from whatever they are listening to at the time

When asked where the Dundrells' name



Standells, one of those stupid Motown names."

The Dundrells have recently produced their first single, "Mr. Nasty," on Ankh records, an independent label. They will be showcased in an up and coming independent Wednesday series at RPM. The Screamin' Lizards, meanwhile, will return to the Toronto club scene in January

The Radio York concert was a treat for those who were there and a loss for those who weren't. More bands like these would enliven York's pub scene and lessen the necessity of trekking downtown for live, danceable music.

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