

Prairie Oyster

Three definitions every cowboy must know

BY CHRISTINA ALCORN

For those of you who might not be aware, there are three types of prairie oysters. First, is the cocktail of raw egg yolk dropped into spirits and then gulped. Second, is the testicle of a calf that is eaten as a delicacy at the time of branding. And third, is the Canadian Juno Award winning country band.

I had the chance to see the latter in concert last Thursday night at St. Matthew's Church. It was a toe tappin', knee slappin', hand clappin' good time. Sounds Stompin' Tom-esque, but it was a serious treat. I was brought back to my western roots for the hour and a half Prairie Oyster performed.

Coming from Calgary I'm no stranger to cowboy culture. I have been to brandings and my parents are country music fans. Therefore, it is not surprising to catch myself singing along to

some of the 20 songs they performed. Hits like "Everybody Knows," "Unbelievable Love," "She Won't be Lonely Long" induced many people around me to belt the lyrics out too. After all, some Haligonians are country music lovers too.

In fact, Prairie Oyster's drummer, three month member Charlie Keen, is a native of the city and received an extra warm welcome from the hometown crowd.

The novelty of this show, compared to the other stops on the Eastern Canadian tour, was the location. The church had an eerie air about it; lit up in angelic blue light, with a backdrop of stained glass and a magnificent organ. It was a peculiar place to hold a hoe-down. Yet when the first chords were played, the pews began to rock, cheers echoed through the rafters and the nearly 400 fans got their \$23 worth.

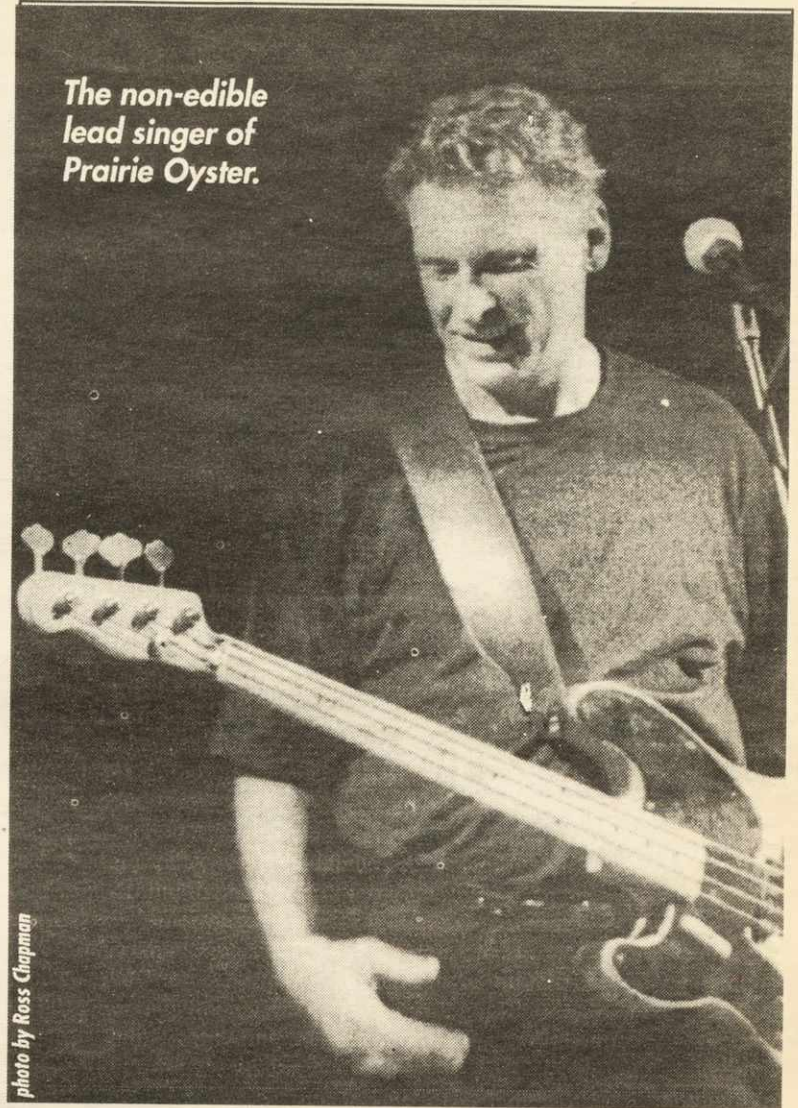
I did not see any cowboy hats, perhaps church etiquette

requires one to remove any headwear. But it still felt like a little bit of Nashville right in the heart of Nova Scotia.

The band made jokes about the location which gave the show an intimate feel. "They sure are a friendly lot — they're obviously churchgoers" said the band's bassist.

I thoroughly enjoyed the twang and rock mix, the sweet harmonies, and the sound of that cute little electric ukelele. As I sat in my pew, my mind began to wander, and inspired by the musical background, I was drifting over golden Alberta pastures dotted with grazing cattle. I saw little bulls romping around unaware of what awaits them at the branding, and cowboys sitting on the fence enjoying an interesting drink.

So remember this. Prairie Oyster — a great band, a risky beverage and a tasty dish. Thankfully, I've only experienced the first. And that's no bull.



The non-edible lead singer of Prairie Oyster.

photo by Ross Chapman

Fortune's hand deals out winning tunes

BY ALISON CAPSTICK AND AMY MACDONALD

The wafting sounds of Celtic music lured people into the Split Crow on a quiet Tuesday night as Fortune's Hand, a young local band, kept the crowd entertained with lively, foot-stompin' music.

Although most of the band members spend their days attending class at university, night finds them trading their pencils for guitar picks as they frequent venues such as The Roadhouse and Fife and Drum.

Having only caught the second set, it is still evident that Fortune's Hand is a group we would like to hear more of. Lead singer Mark d'Entremont has a deep voice analogous to the Barenaked Ladies' Andy Creegan, and can skillfully manipulate his voice to suit the song. Fellow musician Kevin Bohaychuck is extremely versatile. In a single set, he played three different instruments — tin whistle, fiddle, and guitar. Other instruments the band tackled included bass, mandolin, and, of course, drums.

Four members of the band attended Prince Edward high school and have been playing together for four years. Surprisingly, most of the band members are just 19 years old.

Although d'Entremont claims to have no Celtic heritage, he fooled us Cape Bretoners with his renditions of such traditional pieces as "Farewell to Nova Scotia" and "Sonny's Dream." In addition to well-known favorites, they also performed some of their original tunes, like "Rhythm of the Wind."

With an energetic stage presence, Fortune's Hand has the crowd clapping along when they cover Great Big Sea songs like "Black Rum."

Between touring, studying, and gaining a new band member, Fortune's Hand has had no time to

make a CD, but we hope they will someday. These guys are a must for any fan of Celtic music.

**C'mon Mikey,
gimme a deal man!**

You get it! Present this coupon at any Mikey's location and receive \$1.00 off any pizza and smoothie combo.

The usual conditions apply...yada yada yada

mikey's

462-MIKE 425-MIKE

PITAWRAPS&JUICESMTHIES

URGENT NOTICE To All Students Planning to Travel During Christmas



Owing to the Millennium New Year, reservations for air travel are heavier than normal. All students are therefore urged to book their Student Class™ airfares now to avoid disappointment later. Student Class™ airfares, between

Canadian cities, are available exclusively from Travel CUTS, Canada's national student travel bureau.

TRAVEL CUTS

3rd Floor, SUB

494-2054

Owned and operated by the Canadian Federation of Students.

The Big NEW YORKER PIZZA

DINNER TONIGHT, LUNCH TOMORROW!

EXTRA LARGE 16" PIZZA

Call for Delivery or Pick-up Today!
For All Locations

Call: 310-10-10

\$9.99
One Topping

Pizza Hut
The Best Tasting Pizzas Under One Roof