

**Elevator to Hell, Rome Plows,
Earth A.D.**
Birdland Cabaret
Saturday, Nov. 9th

It was a misty Saturday night when Elevator to Hell hit the stage at the Birdland. It was the largest crowd since the Sloan show way back in September. Unfortunately, the opening act — Earth AD — did not have too many people to perform for, which was a pity. Made up of thick heavy riffs,

thumping bass and fast drums, this heavy trio was a perfect start to the evening. I asked the guitarist if they had any dates coming up but unfortunately they don't.

But a band that is playing a lot of shows around town, and quickly making a name and reputation for themselves, are the Rome Plows. Mostly playing songs from their self-titled independent CD, they steadily made their way

through the forty-five minute set. The band's sound reminds me of lounge music, but over a very large PA system. All three guys took turns with the singing, but what the band really needs is one singer; someone who is good on vocals. Much of the rhythm is lost by changing singers after every odd song. But the Rome Plows can only progress and get better from where they stand now.

Friday night was the first occasion Elevator to Hell have headlined at Birdland and all credit to them for the large turnout. The dance floor was pretty full, but it wasn't an insane pit with people jumping into each other constantly. Rick White led the band, singing all of the songs and playing all guitar. They sound much like Eric's Trip with some cool Black Sabbath-style riffs thrown in.

As Elevator to Hell progressed through the set, I found that there was a major problem. I've never seen a band before and thought that the sound quality was bad, but that night it sounded terrible. The guitar was turned up way too loud and sometimes you could barely pick out the drums. The

vocals practically went unheard. It sounded like White was mumbling all of the time. This hindered the band's performance throughout their set. Hopefully next time they will get a proper soundcheck.

**STUART
MCMILLAN**

3 for 5 tour
Birdland Cabaret
Friday, Nov. 15th

After a mind exhausting week jammed with midterms and a body filled with caffeine, I was ready to go listen to some angst-filled music at Birdland's 3 for 5 show last Friday night.

Who would be working off my caffeine high? The bands were Molly's Reach, Smoother and 1000 Mona Lisa's. With my partner in crime (Erinn) being out of the country, I made my roommate follow me downtown. We arrived a little early and decided to order some food. Kids, I encourage you to have a meal at Birdland sometime, the prices are more than reasonable and the food is yummy (we had soup).

So there we were sipping on soup and listening to Molly's Reach from Edmonton. The only thing this typical garage band had

the Gazette November 21, 1996

going for them was their blonde haired cutie-boy guitar player. This band should go back to their garage, except for blondie — he can come and play in my garage.

Then came Smoother, from Hamilton. This band has their own sound, although the lead singer's voice sounds like Hayden. I couldn't quite make out the lyrics; I think one song might have been called "Go to Sleep". Their music was heavier than Molly's Reach, but still couldn't get rid of my caffeine jitters.

Last, but certainly not least, was 1000 Mona Lisa's from sunny California. These guys have been in the business for a little while, producing a funky sound. The lead singer is like a male Vanessa Daou. This isn't stocking-stuffer-for-mom material, their lyrics harbour coarse language. I would also advise not using the lyrics of their shallow ballads to try and win over your sweetheart. Despite the lyrics, their sound was acoustically pleasurable.

These three bands have been touring across Canada together. They finished their tour here in Halifax with all three bands on stage singing "Hey Jude" — I was glad when that ended.

To sum up, don't put these bands on your Christmas CD wish-list. But if 1000 Mona Lisa's ever hit Halifax again, go check out their funky sound.

KAREN DENSMORE

SNFU and Adrenalin
Birdland Cabaret
Sunday, Nov. 17th

Messy guitar, bouncy bass, and quick hitting drums, what does it all mean?

None other than a punk show. It is not too often that the Birdland gets a good sized crowd on a Sunday night and for the relatively expensive price of \$8, but there was a decent sized crowd there for punksters SNFU.

Touring on their latest release, *Fyulaba*, they were back in Halifax. This was SNFU's second show on following an all ages show earlier at Cafe Ole. But all punks of legal age were down at the Birdland to watch this band.

First up, however, were blast beat local kings Adrenalin. Coming on stage at half past eleven they played for forty-five minutes of pure, fast hardcore music. Led by vocalist Todd, guitar wizard Jake, drummer Nick, and bass player JC they spat out a furious set.

Probably the most talented band in Halifax, Adrenalin catch your full attention. Todd jumps about and does rolls and flips, Jake makes weird muscle movements with his face, while JC quietly headbangs off to the side of the stage. Most of their songs are short, and you probably won't like them if you are not into this aggressive style of music. They seem to crucify any Sloan-style music. Their best songs were "Unplugged", "Failed Again", and "Pulling". The great thing about this band is that they are not afraid of being original. Todd says what he wants to say in between songs, but nobody in the crowd actually has a clue what he's talking about. If you want to see a band who knows how to play their instruments, then check these guys out.

There was a loyal group of fans out for headliners SNFU. With a total of seven albums behind them and several world tours dating back to the eighties,

Cont. p. 14: "SNFU"

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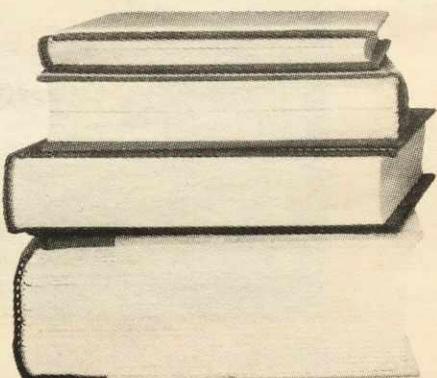
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