

Suburban social a forgettable garage event

by Michael Brennan

I finally got to see two young punk bands, **Zeitgeist** and **Suburban Rebels**, over the weekend at St.

Pat's Center on Brunswick and I wonder now why I cared so much about seeing any sort of garage band resurgence in Halifax.

I was looking for a serious musical commitment or some spark of real rock and roll passion. All I got was kids' stuff. It was high school punk rock made for high school kids, sounding more like a rehearsal than a dance and quite serious minded in its social comments. God beware, these anti-establishment punks are a real threat! I usually overlook such silliness if there's a hint of rebellion to it or real sexual freedom to the music but the whole show was basically a high school social which I really didn't care to be a part of.

However, I appreciate the crudeness of an amateur band beyond any vain adolescent punk sentiments so it wasn't a total waste of time. There were a few things I did like about the groups. **Zeitgeist** came on first and I missed the first half hour of their performance. I now regret that a bit.

They played a variety of material from the Who to the Sex Pistols and for the very fact they did that I liked them. They like all great pop music. Of course they were rough and often their timing was off, but

they had a bit of honest fun. Their bassist was wonderfully energetic, doing his best to bounce around punk style as much as he could.

The second band was **Suburban Rebels** and I believe they were the principal attraction. These guys were tighter and more together both musically and stylistically but it was their baby punk act that turned me off. I'm so bored with this meaningless Johnny Rotten act, especially when it's so insignificant and inconsequential coming from these kids. They certainly need lots of improvement too.

They play recent British punk called Oi! (which isn't much of a variation on the Sex Pistols) but without the same power and energy of the originals. They just don't slam at their guitars the way you have to. However, the drummer was great -- tight and sharp, hitting his drums strongly. If the rest of the band played with the same rhythmic strength as him, they'd be alright. They're just very ordinary middle-class kids however, so I

doubt they'll make much of a wave outside their classmates.

Maybe the most interesting thing of the night was the slam dancing (where dancers slam against each other) which a certain bunch of males went at very determinedly. It's another new punk trend, of course, and the spectacle of this was silly. The dancers would have had the same experience at a football practice. People have been slam dancing since Elvis, but it's not violent aggression, it's sexual and has no calculated intention or name attached to it.

I don't want to be too hard on the show because it's of no great importance. The music was good for a garage and that's actually where I might have enjoyed it -- without high school cliques or punk pretenses. But on their own, the bands are very plain and easily forgettable so I can't recommend them. I was going to go see Minglewood the same night and I think I should have gone. Where are the Matt Minglewoods of Halifax anyway?

"Shoot the Moon" leaves in life's raw edges

by Anya Waite

Shoot the Moon, playing this Sunday at the Dalhousie Film Theatre, follows Faith and George Dunlap, a young American couple, through the crisis of their separation and the anger, confusion, and torment which accompany it. It is a fine film, charged with energy and emotion, poignant without being sentimental.

In this, it outdoes **Kramer vs. Kramer**. **Kramer vs. Kramer** is polished, smooth, focused, and barely escapes being a tear-jerker. **Shoot the Moon** portrays the same sort of conflict in direct attack, leaving in the raw edges. There is no escaping

the relentless reality of this film. It does not smooth or idealize, and thus retains its emotional impact without romanticizing its subject. It is not without laughter and humour, though some of the latter is slightly tragic in scope.

The film is about 10 minutes longer than necessary, though.

Shoot the Moon features excellent performances by Diane Keaton and Albert Finney as Faith and George, and an outstanding portrayal of their daughter by Dana Hill. This is definitely a film worth seeing.

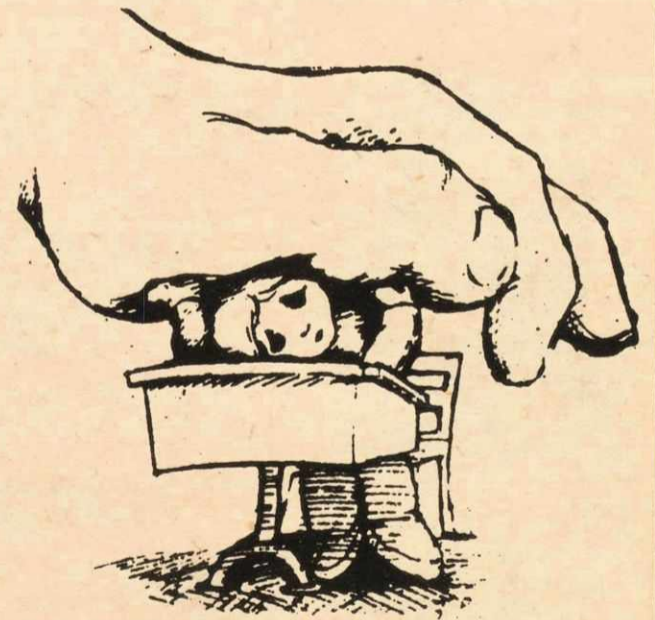
Shoot the Moon starts at 8:00 p.m.

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