

Halifax pop

EXPLOSION



Change of Heart

Five days of music, hearing loss, & burnout

I never want to see another loud band again. Ever. I have been living, breathing, (not) eating, (not) sleeping, and smelling of the Pop Explosion for six days now. The only reason I am able to type this (at 4:30 a.m.) is because I just sucked back two instant breakfasts in lieu of actual food. I only wanted to take photos, but now I have to write this review at the last minute because one or two slack dirtbags. You know who you are.

What's the point in even reviewing this thing? If you like local, loud and alternativish bands then you would have been there and you already know what happened. If you don't like these types of bands then skip to the next article. If you don't like poor journalism then skip to the next article...who am I kidding?

Wednesday (Brunswick Hall)

Plumtree opened up the Pop Explosion and were greeted by no less than three video cameras and a few photographers. Local media covering the local music scene? Go figure that one out. I can't. Anyway, Plumtree were great. I love them because they are the most precious band around. They have fun, they write fun songs and they have charm. There is more to them than just youthful exuberance (remember that?). Plumtree can write excellent songs that stick in your head. Look for a new tape soon.

Rebecca West was next up and it appears that former Bubaiskull guitarist Allison Outhit has found a niche fronting this new band. Great new tunes. The band rocked, and Allison rules for not playing until the seated audience to get off their collective asses.

Al Tuck played a laid-back, mellow, bluesy set which seemed to last a bit too long. Al's stuff is an acquired taste I guess. His tuning breaks were classic as always though.

jale have been touring (a lot). We're talking UK, Ireland, Germany...they've been getting around. With this touring comes confidence, but Jennifer said that they were nervous. Nervous or not, jale played perhaps their best set ever. I've probably seen them 15 times, and Eve's acoustic slide on River was great to hear live — it really made the song. Every new tune was impressive and proved that jale can have their Dreamcake and eat it too. I don't know what that means. Guitar and drum duo, **The Spinanes**, closed out the night with a few problems (the guitar sounded "like shit"). There were many tuning breaks, but the drummer chatted up the audience. Unfortunately he declined my request for a drum solo. Such is life.

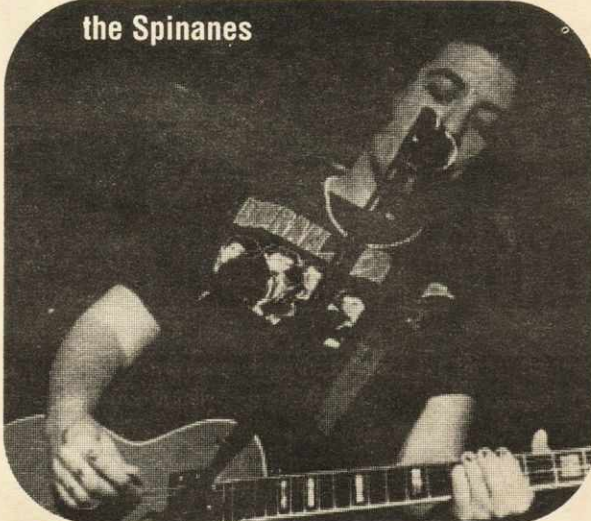
Thursday (Brunswick Hall - all ages) **Strawberry** have changed since I saw them last year. They are no longer the shoe-gazing, low-bud-

get, would-be quasi-new age band. They now have some "umph" behind them — namely a good rhythm section.

Merge were good, but I can't remember why. I can't remember a lot of things. I was taking photos. Someone else should have been taking notes. I just remember that they were better than the last time I saw them.

Blonde Red Head (see below)

the Spinanes



Photos and review
by Mike Graham*

*Thrush Hermit and Sunny Day Real Estate photos by Peter Bogaczewicz

jale



Thursday (Brunswick Hall)

Zumpano reminded me a lot of Redd Kross. This is a good thing. Fun band...nice suits.

Change of Heart ROCKED. Definitely the best punk set I've seen since the mid 80's when SNFU were big. Change of Heart were so great that I am going to insist that the word "rocked" be left in all