Swollen Members pull it out at the Khyber

BY JONN-EE KWEST

Well, for all of you that thought this event was happening at the Electropolis last Saturday, you were wrong. Rumour has it that the good ol' boys at the 'lectropolis asked for \$5,000 at the last minute, so the whole crew moved over to the Khyber Klub. Shazaam! Hip Hop thunder ensued.

The show started after a screening of Scott Doucette's East Coast skate video (Phat!) with Skratch Bastard spinning heads with his quick cuts, followed by the Ground Squad. These local boys know how to spin tales and I had the spit on my face to prove it. Such are the joys of standing in front of the stage with the acts in my face. These emcees are tight and weren't afraid to show it.

Josh Martinez, Kunga219 and Tachichi busted up the stage next, with Gordski on the twistin' tables. Martinez held his own, although he was a little off, but Kunga219 and Tachichi blazed the crowd with some old favourites, superbly delivered. "Choplifter " and "Booze Hounds" were tunes that everyone could chant along with. It made up for the mic-chord whipping the crowd got from Kunga219.

The Sebutones (Buck65 and Sixtoo) set the crowd's dial on "shut up and listen" and dropped some sweet science. Rich and Rob always have something clever to say, and Saturday was no exception. Smooth rockin' beats and Scratch Bastard on the tables kept the crowd in check.

At around midnight, the Swollen Members hit the stage and blew everyone to pieces. Prevail and Madchild know how to rock a venue. DJ Science seemed a little bored in the background, but nobody noticed, for those Vancouver emcees kept dropping free styles and phat joints so hard that no one had a chance to stop bouncin'

Hand shakes and screams were plentiful between songs. The sweat was wet, and the beats were crazy enough to have you knocking your head against the wall. The night was over too quickly, and I stepped into the rain, drenched in sweat (The Khyber gets a little warm when you cram over 200 people in it) and walked home beatboxin' the bass line to "Ventilation."





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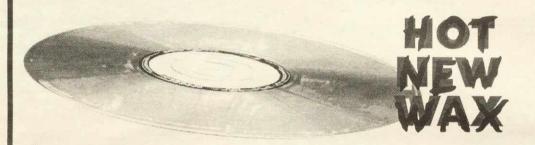
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Make Up - Save Yourself

(K Records)

Hailing from Washington DC, Make Up are back with their sixth full length album, Save Yourself. Although it is hard to describe their sound, they have been described from everything from garage soul to gospel punk. This album is the band's strongest offering yet has it perfectly blends the bands 60s influences with singer Ian Svenonius's spastic shouts and whispers. From the heavily psychedelic influenced "I'm Pentagon" to the funk-driven "White Belts," this album is one of the great records of the millennium. The only problem with this record is that it is too short with only nine songs, but if you hit repeat on your CD player 9 turns into 18 and 18 turns into 27 and... — Matt

Jon Spencer Blues Explosion — Xtra Acme

Usually when I hear that a band is putting out a CD compiled of outtakes and re-mixes, I think they must just be trying to earn a little extra cash without going through the trouble of recording new songs. However this is not the case with the new Jon Spencer Blues Explosion album Xtra Acme. The CD is composed of 19 outtakes and re-mixes from the last JSBX studio album Acme and features a number of guests including Gregg Foreman from the Delta 72, Beastie Boys organist Money Mark and the legendary rhythm and blues singer Andre Williams. Amongst loud guitar's and wild screams, the Jon Spencer Blues Explosion sometimes stumble upon pure genius. This CD is the definition of rock and roll. — Matt

NOFX — The Decline

(Fat Wreck Chords)

Despite an alleged break up, Fat Mike and the kings of punkly angst have returned with a one track CD, The Decline. This is a far more serious and intense creation than past songs like "Please Stop Fucking My Mom" and "Kill All The Rock Stars," and a definite reminder why NOFX have been a vital element in punk in the last decade. It is just as bitter and cynical as anything they've ever put out, and the album is a potent 18 minutes of solid music. It sums up the legendary punk-rockers career in one burst of madness. Just like doing line after line of coke from a prostitute's partially exposed breast. — Pat (would've given it a 10, but Jon put the kybosh to it).

Dr. Dre - The Chronic 2001

(Interscope)

The Doctor is back and he has brought some of his drug-abusing friends with him. Dre is joined by Snoop Dog, Eminem and Exzibit, among a slew of others, for the response to his last album, The Chronic. The Chronic 2001 is filled with good beats and good rhymes, but is not a particularly different creation from the good Doctor. He has succeeded in making a good hip hop album, but spends too much time asserting that he is still a key player in hip hop, and less time embracing his misogynistic roots. Not to encourage misogyny, but let's not fool ourselves about our physician friend and his personal views. — Pat

