

# Confessions of a wannabe scenester

## LETTERS

I was at the Halifax On Music Festival on Saturday, and witnessing probably the greatest mass violation of personal space I have ever seen. Unable to stand the surging mosh pit for Sloan, I retreated to the back of the club to watch the show. I found myself looking around at the people beside me and recognized them as Halifax "scenesters." These are the people who consistently appear at shows featuring local bands, who buy a lot of the indie 7" records, who collect live tapings of shows, and who generally immerse themselves in our "Seattle of the North" as it has been so inaccurately described.

I wondered who all these "new" fans were crowding the dance floor. I found myself getting slightly annoyed. How dare they, I thought, they don't belong here.

What am I saying?

Now, I suppose the appeal of the "alternative" music world was, and sort of still is, that you're listening to something different than everybody else. Somehow that makes you more cultured, or whatever. Making fun of people in cowboy hats going to see Garth Brooks, while stepping down the stairs into the Birdland, makes you somehow superior. But an attitude like that, which I admit to having sometimes, make me just as bad as those who dismiss the type of music I like and me with it.

I wince when my sister listens to Shania Twain at top volume in her room when I go home. Then I shudder when I walk out of the house humming "Any Man of Mine" a minute later. Damn infectious pop!

(By the way, I've just bared one of my deepest darkest secrets so you'd better be paying attention).

It often seems that groups of friends develop around similar tastes in music and culture. And that different groups that you hang out with might have their differences defined by the music listened to in each group. Each group thinks their music is superior and have ready answers for why they, without exception, dislike other types.

"You can't hear what they're saying."

"They don't make their own music, they steal it."

"That's just noise."

"It just doesn't have any soul."

"That's redneck music."

"Man, it's like listening to Kenny G!"

I suppose if you went over to the Dal music Department, good

ence. The pop music tends to have more complex melodies than those in our popular music; a complexity more akin to that of jazz. The native intricacy of our continent is more intricate than our pop music.

So why does what pop music we like become such a part of our

known artists are getting exposure as a result. I should be completely ecstatic.

But somehow I'm defensive.

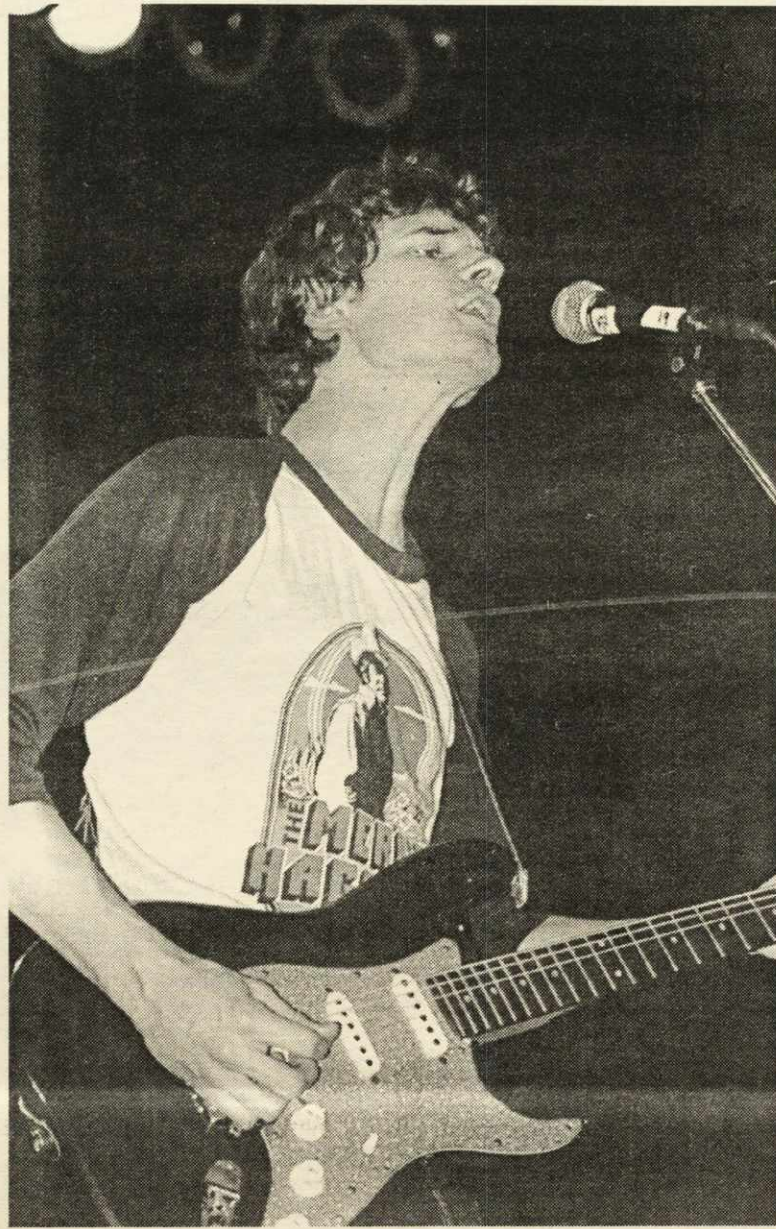
The most important thing should be to get as many people as possible to listen to as much as possible. Your particular musical interests should be for sharing with everyone else. Everyone would benefit if people would be more willing to listen to things outside of their current musical sphere. It enriches everyone's knowledge and the culture as well.

I realize that this is sounding like an "I'd like to give the world a Coke" ad. But the more I thought about my attitude towards the music I consider "mine", the more I realized that it is a mirror image of the attitude that I dislike in other people. I don't want to think of myself as an elitist, scoffing at another's taste in music simply because it's not my own.

Now if it seems that I'm a little off kilter here, editorializing about something as unimportant as musical taste, just stick with me. The argument I've been so haphazardly constructing is still valid when the topic is changed — the issues regarding personal tolerance and openness stay the same.

Of course, it's not logical to say that eliminating musical elitism will rid the world of intolerance. But it's a good place to start.

**TIM COVERT**



music would be divided into two camps: Classical and Jazz. Popular music is likely to be held, well not beneath, but certainly not up to par with the more academic musical styles.

If you look at the popular music of other cultures, you'll likely hear pieces that are more musical, for lack of a better term. Most music outside North America has a greater native cultural influ-

identities?

Now, what's my point? Well, I suppose I'm trying to say that our lack of consideration for other people's tastes are kind of crazy and nonsensical. I should be absolutely happy that so many people are becoming interested in the local music scene who weren't before. I should be happy that artists like Sloan are getting mainstream attention and that lesser

**Dear Editor,**

I am confused and quite upset with the article concerning the fact that the Senate passed a motion to dismiss health profession students (Gazette, Sept. 12). How is it possible that unethically behaviours, the Faculty of Health Professions reserves the right to dismiss a student with a disability? Did this clause pass through the Senate without a second thought?

Did Senate consider the effect that this guideline could have on students with disabilities who wish to pursue health professions? It seems unlikely that many students with disabilities will even be given a fair chance to compete. Now on top of competing academically for a limited number of places in a program, a student with a disability will have to take on the challenge of educating administration that having a disability is not a "fault", it does not make you "less able", and is not a reason to bar an individual from health profession programs. It is a sad reflector that a profession that works towards improving the life for individuals feels the need to place barriers on individuals who have met and dealt with a "challenge" and have overcome these challenges only to be faced with the barriers of "ignorance".

I am not a lawyer but I do not agree with that guideline (iii) "the occurrence of health conditions that impairs essential performance" is in keeping with the provisions of the Human Rights Act.

Dalhousie has made great strides toward increasing accessibility for students with disabilities by instituting a Policy on Accessibility. I ask you: what happened? What has caused Dalhousie to become an institution that now justifies discrimination?

**Tabitha Rogers**

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PLEASE WRITE FOR  
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PLEASE?

PRETTY  
PLEASE?

YOU CAN SAY WHATEVER YOU  
WANT.

REALLY.