

should have." Performing in Parker's hometown, Dartmouth, the sound problems were more pronounced.

"Once again, we had no sound-check, and we were experiencing more powerful PA problems. It was a real nightmare, at least for me. That's the situation for an opening act, though. It won us a lot of new fans who weren't there for

the Q-104 concert."

Which brings us to the fans themselves—a growing legion of both teenage girls and third-year university students who agree that Steps is the only band in Metro that matters.

"I get a big cross-section of people who say that they like us for various reasons. The teenagers may like us for our image, and for the fact that we are truly different from

the current Maritime crop that exists. The university students may be listening to the sort of music that we hope we are playing."

Parker explains that following a recent gig in St. John, "we were called a 'progressive new music' band. Then again, at the "Rock Wars", somebody told me that we were blatantly commercial."

While others may scoff at the younger, more vociferous audience

that Steps attracts, Parker is quite pleased with them.

"I like the people that come to our shows. Alright, a lot of them are fourteen year old girls and boys, but they seem to be nice fourteen year-olds—the kinds that may just develop into future prime-ministers and nuclear physicists."

Parker has good reason to be pleased.

"Nice young ladies from Kent-

ville are calling me and sending me perfume-scented letters," he admits happily.

Steps Around the House has taken quite a chance with their new approach to music, one that could have backfired. I asked Jim about the driving force behind the band that pushes them past the obvious obstacles.

"It's incredibly happy that we had this original idea to perform original music that is new for this area, and hopefully, new for whoever listens to it. The fact that we've stuck to it and have come this far is incredible. I can attribute the success we've had to the fact that we respect each other. It's really quite a cohesive unit in terms of both playing and thinking. Also, we haven't jumped on a new music bandwagon. It's what we listen to, we enjoy doing it, and it shows."

Parker states that the band has, and will continue to accept club dates—they performed a week-long stint at the Network in September—yet they prefer the university circuit.

"The only clubs that I would like to play would be the Network, the Odeon Ballroom, the Palace, and the Misty Moon. With the universities, I think a band attracts a crowd that wants to hear them, rather than drink beer or whatever. Also, a new music band seems to attract many more people in a Student Union Building than in a local bar."

The concept of providing a viable market, and, in turn, creating a movable product is something that Parker prefers to elaborate on.

"We don't intend for every song we write to be a hit, although we'd love to have one. Hopefully, our songs are catchy. We want our songs to have melodies. I like melodies. If that makes us commercial, then I guess that's the case."

The taping for the "Rock Wars" television event has come and gone, with four bands—Haywire, Broken Toys, The Fanatics and Steps all turning in great performances. However, due to legal stipulations, the bands cannot tell the print media who indeed won the contest.

Success for a musical entity now encompasses visual as well as audible plateaus on a much larger scale than before with the advent of video, and Parker has some reservations about making the band's visual debut.

"I don't like most videos. There are some good things around, mind you. For our first piece, I don't think we'll end up creating a work of art, but hopefully, it'll be something worth watching. We don't want to sell out to a director's perceptions of what he feels the song is and how he feels we should look. We have very definite ideas about that."

Parker is much more interested in pursuing a recording contract. He says it is possible to achieve fair success in the Maritimes, but by the same token he states that the logical next step to bring that success to national proportions is to record elsewhere in the country.

"I would hope that within the next few months we will be able to go into a good studio, either here or somewhere else in the country, and record an EP. The studio is going to have to produce the sound we want, and, unfortunately, nothing we have recorded yet has sounded anything like we wanted it to sound. We will probably have to go somewhere else to achieve what we want." □

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