

# arts

## 54-40 at the Misty Moon sucks

by John Shimeld & Tammy Rogers

"54/40 is playing at the Moon!"  
 "At the Moon!? Ah ... are you sure you want to go?"  
 "Don't worry, 54/40 is great. It'll be cool."  
 "Yeah, I suppose it is the *New Misty Moon* ..."

**MUSIC LIVE**  
**54-40**  
 New Misty Moon

It was after a conversation such as this that we convinced ourselves to

wander down Saturday night and check out the show which was being opened by the Toronto band Freshwater Drum. Now, let's get one thing out of the way: the Moon, no matter whether you want to call it the Old or the New, is a lousy venue unless the band is truly meant to be heard at ear-splitting volume, or unless you are just in the mood to feel indecipherable vibrational patterns chum within your bowels. The combination of a \$10 cover charge with \$3.50 beer tends to make for an expensive night out and, if the bar is at all

packed, you probably won't be able to see the band you just spent all that cash to see. In fact, don't expect to see them Saturday night; the main act didn't start until 1:30 am Sunday morning.

Of course, if you like jumping around like a maniac to memorable disco classics such as "YMCA" while waiting, then the Moon is just the place for you. To be fair, there were, in fact, several hundred people Saturday night who didn't seem to mind the venue. Then again, they seemed to be more interested in getting drunk than seeing 54/40. Most of the same crowd will probably be at the Barney Bentall concert this Saturday.

Oh, what is society coming to? More importantly, what is 54/40 coming to?! Why would a band that is known for its socially conscious lyrics allow their music to be mutilated in a venue such as the Moon? A clue to this mystery might lie in the fact that the concert shirts we saw on sale didn't list Halifax on the tour. Saturday night's concert was the last stop in a busy, 9-week tour. Was the decision to play Halifax motivated purely by the need and opportunity to grab some quick cash for the band? Are we naive? Well, 54/40 did just record their latest CD, *Dear Dear*, in L.A. even though their previous suc-



54-40 gives less than a 100%

cess has been based out of Vancouver.

Maybe the Canadian market is just too small; you can't blame a band for wanting to make a living, can you? But, can you say sell out? You know, the lead singer, Neil Osbourne, isn't really Canadian. There were rumours Saturday night that Neil is, no shittin' ya, Jim Morrison. Heck, he threw himself into the crowd a few times; the theme song "Carmina Burana" was piped over the loudspeakers to build the crowd into a frenzy for the encore; the stage was adorned with a candelabra and gauzy

parachutes hanging from the walls, just like in that Doors movie. The guy's gotta be Morrison.

Okay, okay. We were just disappointed by 54/40's performance. Here's the bottom line: we enjoyed Freshwater Drum, 54/40 started too late and was too loud, and the parallels to Jim Morrison and the Doors were not humorous, artistic, or even remotely entertaining; they were just dumb! If you plan to get drunk this weekend and have some money to burn, check out Barney Bentall on Saturday. We'll be enjoying some real music elsewhere.

the  
 Gay And  
 Lesbian Association  
 of Nova Scotia  
 present

**A Reading by Ann Dector**  
 from her new novel  
**Paper, Scissors, Rock**  
 at the North Branch Library  
 on Thursday, Nov. 26, 8 p.m.

Copies of the book will be available for sale.

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**WOMEN'S  
 WEDNESDAY**

A Women's Only event featuring a slide/video presentation by Lizard Jones about the making of *Drawing The Line* - an art exhibit (and book\*) which deals with lesbian erotica, pornography and women's sexuality.

**Wed., Nov. 18 at 9:30pm**

Admission: **FREE for Members**  
**\$2 for Guests**

\*book will be available for sale

2112 Gottingen Street • 423-6314  
 For Members & Guests • Memberships Available

### Sensible

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Alison: Can anyone lend us a swimming costume by the way? For the Halifax Hilton.

Alex: Yes we'd like three women, two of them rounder rather than thinner and one thin woman, to lend

us a swimming costume, (laughter) because we've got a pool and we can't go in it. 'Cause we didn't know we were going to the Hilton... Our ideal gig, I don't know, it's just that the fringe circuit is much too much. You're on the road forever. You have to organize it all yourself. It's too much like hard work. Next year is our eleventh year together, so we're thinking it's about time we sort of got a bit more respectable and you know, did stay in hotels and have nice appreciative audiences. We're getting above ourselves!

Wendy: Fringes have been very good. When we first came to Canada they were a very good existing circuit for us to slot into. But now we can go to a fringe and we can sell out. And we can do very well and make some money there. Now fringes are changing as well. There's much more competition to be accepted in them in the first place. It's much more competitive and we feel that it's been very useful for us but it's probably time for us to move on and make room for people who perhaps, you know, need that opportunity more than we do at the moment. It's not to say we'll never do another fringe festival again, but we're hoping not to do them next year.

Connie: What can we look forward to on Saturday night. Can you do a bit for us?

Wendy: We'll do a little piece. We're not sure if it's going to be in tomorrow's show, it might well be. It's a piece from our show called 'Close to the Bone'.

Alex: Nice girls don't scream when they come, they lie still and bite the pillow and say...

Wendy: Thank you very much, you're absolutely marvelous.

Alex: Nice girls don't get angry...

Wendy: When someone sets fire to their hair, nice girls say, 'oh well never mind'.

Alison: When the taxi they ordered is two days late they say, 'it doesn't matter', and when an old woman fractures their leg with a supermarket trolley, they won't make a fuss. 'It's all right', they say, 'don't worry, I've got another one!'

Alex: Nice girls don't mind. They don't make a scene, they smile in the face of adversity. They never get angry or cross or short-tempered, because if they did, then people wouldn't like them! Nice girls go 'grrmmmmhhmm' but don't say anything.

Wendy: They have a little cry...

Alison: or a little drink...

Alex: or a little pill...

Wendy: or another little pill...

Alison: or another little drink...

Alex: or another repeat prescription.

Wendy: And sometimes they refuse to eat.

Alison: And sometimes they eat so much, that they make themselves sick!

Alex: And then when the drink and the pills and the food's all over the bathroom floor, nice girls pull themselves together and wade in and clean it up!

Wendy: Thinking all the time what a good job that all this came out of their mouths instead of something nasty or cross!

### Are you interested in community issues, volunteering, & lots of fun?

Some upcoming events to get involved in:

- ◆ Children's Christmas Party
- ◆ Christmas Daddies Telethon
- ◆ Clown Troupe trips to the IWK
- ◆ and lots more!



☎ Lilli Ju, Community Affairs Committee,  
 at 494-3527. Get involved!