

Big Wig and Diesel Boy punkin' the Pavilion

BY CAITLIN KEALEY

They came, they played, they rocked, they left for Moncton.

It was a cool November day when Punk extraordinaires Diesel Boy (San Francisco) and Big Wig rocked the Pavilion for an early afternoon show before they zoomed off to Moncton for a show that same night. Now that's intense.

Big Wig exploded onto the New Jersey punk scene in 1996 and made a quick name for themselves through heavy touring and numerous compilation tracks and two albums — *Unmerry Melodies* (1997) and *Stay Asleep* (1999).

With a crazy and energetic live show, Big Wig blew me and most of the audience away. Catchy, sarcastic songs about politics, unity, and girls — a not so strange mix when you listen to the music which is also a blend of all different types of genres. They had a humorous stage presence, shutting down a heckler by offering him the mike and generally joking around in between songs. The drummer was, by far, the strangest one to watch — he needed to be stapled to his stool. He was bouncing up and down through the songs, spinning his drumsticks, and just being an acrobatic maniac throughout the set. I thought he was going to go flying into the air and land on his face from all his monkey-like movements. Luckily he didn't and overall it was an amazing show that made the crowd scream for more.

Then came Diesel Boy. The

San Fran punkers came together in 1993 to form a high energy, finely tuned punk rock band with an uncanny talent for cranking out instantly memorable toe-tappin' tunes. They may not look like the average punk band with their nicely gelled hair and fitting clothing, but don't let appearances deceive you. They are known in the punk world by their memorable contribution to the Fat Wreck Chords Compilation, "Titty Twister." This song was taken from their first release *Strap on 7 Inch* (1996), which had four songs — two of which are crowd pleasers to this day. They began touring after the release of their first album *Cock Rock* (1996). They have been touring since. Across the US and Canada three times and even to Europe is no small feat. They have managed to release a second and third album in between all the crazy touring: *Venus Envy* (1997) and *Sofa King Cool* (1999).

Their live show is a bundle of energy and the crowd was certainly into it. Saving the hat trick of well known punk rock anthems for the end, Diesel Boy made the Pavilion shake when they played "Punk Rock 101," then a cover of Ricky Martin's "Living La Vida Loca" a-la punk, and closing with their hit "Titty Twister," the punks looked like they were about to explode. Even Big Wig got into the action diving off the stage into the frenzied crowd.

After the show I got a few quick words with both bands. I spoke with the two lead singers: Tom from Big Wig and Dave from Diesel Boy.

Gazette — What is upcoming for the band(s)?

Tom — We are working on a new record, we just lost our bassist right before the tour and our guitarist is quitting when we get back. We picked up Etienne (from Useed) right before the tour started, he is from Quebec, but we'll have to find new members.

Dave — Writing songs, hopefully doing *Snow Jam*.

Gaz — Does either band have plans to come back to Halifax?

Tom — Yes, but they aren't concrete. We don't know when but we do want to come back for sure.

Dave — Sometime soon.

Gaz — Fill in the blank. If you like _____, you will like Big Wig/Diesel Boy.

Tom — Sex!!

Dave — Uhh....I don't know....poutine? Gob?

Gaz — Who would win in a fight Big Wig or Diesel Boy?

Tom — Me!

(Hesitation)...we wouldn't fight....okay...Big Wig.

Dave — Big Wig, because they are from New Jersey.

Big Wig's homepage is at <http://subscript.org/bigwig/> and its worth giving these guys a listen. To hear or learn more about the punkalicious wonderfulness known as Diesel Boy go here > www.dieselboy.com



Fumes: Diesel Boy exhausting, leave audience feeling punky.

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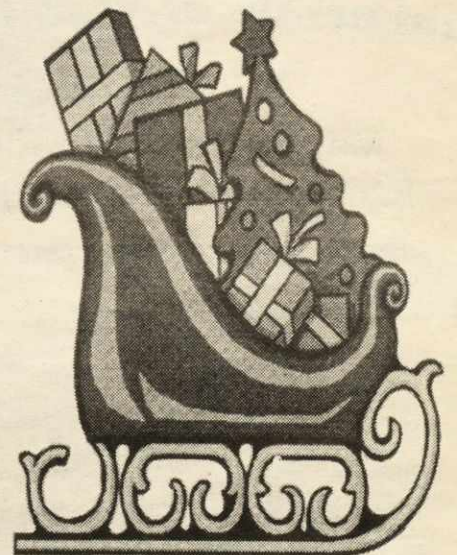
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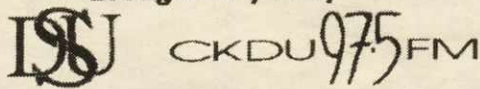
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