

Hardcore '84 analyzed

By CHRIS VAUTOUR

In this article, I will try to look at some of the sociological reasons for the adaptation of the North American hardcore subculture in the scope of the concert held here in the ballroom on November 24.

North American hardcore is yet another divine perversion of musical style, caused when the Atlantic Ocean comes into juxtaposition with two vastly differing markets. Happens all the time.

North American hardcore has a faster tempo and not as many ego-tripping guitarists as its long dead English counterpart. It gained its foothold in cities such as San Francisco,

New York City, Los Angeles, and Boston, and these scenes are still alive.

People were quite infuriated with my insinuation in last week's *Brunswickan* that I thought many of the high school students in attendance were "trendies" and should have stayed home. Actually I realize that kids just want to have fun and that smashing into each other through mindless dirges might somehow resemble Gjurdsheff's dance of the whirling dervishes, and also that this was still Fredericton, not Los Angeles.

But if this is so, why did Grant Forsythe (local promoter for the bands) threaten to halt the event before it started if the CP's did not allow stage-diving, the ritualistic jumping from the stage into the arms of the audience?

Something that deeply disturbed me at the event (and I realize now, without due cause) was the arrival and the subsequent admission of 8-10 men from the army base. They watched from one side of the stage, talking among themselves and just behaving nonchalantly.

I was wound up pretty tight at this point. These guys weren't punks with middle class and upper middle class family backgrounds whose parents sent them to Toronto in the summer. I talked with them between sets, and one apparent

tioned in Copenhagen, where he described a vital daily punk scene, not a once-a-year night out for the young proletariat.

I mean, the world is full of social injustices; my parents made me load the dishwasher too, but they never made me dress up to listen to music.

One guy from the base asked the 12 year old guitarist from one of the bands who cut his hair, and suggested he should have cut it all off from the neck up.

I think UNB is the first university in Atlantic Canada to sponsor a hardcore event on campus, certainly with bands as bad as those witnessed here.

Grant Forsythe, in coordinating the bands for the event, ignored bands from Moncton who have been making hardcore music for quite awhile; longer than anyone in Saint John or Fredericton.

But overall, those who attended dubbed the event. My paranoid request for a weapons search before the concert proved to be just that: paranoia. I'll just dismiss the incident at the end of the show where a youth was thrown from the stage by a C.P.. I won't ask who the nice people in the corner were, capturing the event on video tape. Who knows why the half-dozen additional CP's were waiting in the wings at the end of the concert.

Who cares? It'll probably never happen again. Not on campus.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7

You are invited to a short worship service to mark Human Rights Week. It will be held at 12 noon in the Jacob Manning Memorial Chapel on the ground floor of the Old Arts Building.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 10

The Baha'is at UNB commemorate United Nations Human Rights Day with a display in the lobby of the SUB, from 10:30 - 2.

THURSDAY December 13

FAPO will hold its second annual Christmas party and sleighride for children of low-income families. Please register before December 8 by calling 457-1715.

DECEMBER 14, 15, 16

The Fredericton YMCA-YWCA is hosting a Racquet Ball Tournament. Registration deadline is December 11. Call the Y at 455-8879 or drop in at 28 Saunders Street for more information.

Students Help Ethiopia host a benefit Skate-athon at the Aitken Centre at 7:30 p.m. to raise funds for the YMCA International's relief work with Ethiopian refugees. 100% of the funds raised through this special YMCA appeal are being applied to relief works - none of the funds are used for administration in this case.

DECEMBER 20

FAPO will hold its regular meeting at 629 King Street at 7:30 p.m. All interested people welcome. Call 457-1715 for more information.

Man & Myth

"USE IT OR LOSE IT"

By RICHARD K. ANDERSON

"All change is beneficial."
"Experience is the greatest teacher."

Human beings respond to change by growing. As we encounter new situations, new stimulus, we mature and become more able to handle further change. We crave newness as a tree does the sun, which is why static situations drive us crazy. We experience boredom, and frantically search for new stimulus. A couple of hours listening to a monotone voice will cause excruciating agony. Even the most pleasant perfume would turn your stomach if you had an open bottle stapled to your cheek for a month.

The need for new stimulus occurs on many different levels: for an individual sense (hearing/monotone-voice); or for an entire environment as happened to my mother, a northern New Brunswick, after living on PEI for four years. There are very few rocks of any type in PEI, and when my mother moved to Nova Scotia she said she experienced a strong emotional wave of relief at encountering the rough, rocky, northern Scotland type of terrain similar to that which with she had grown up.

Of immediate interest to all of us is the effect our present environment has on us, our family, and friends. I believe that we experience far less sensory input than we would prefer, and more important, than is healthy and necessary for well developed senses.

Consider for a moment the effect that our indoor society, with its static environments, has on the development of human beings. Our shelters, homes, apartments, and rooms don't wave, whip, or bend in the winds. They are disinfected clean, without a continual wafting tantalizing texture of smells. They are still, devoid of the marvelous complex dynamic ebb and flow of nature. They don't change subtly from season to season, day to day, or second to second. Indeed, when we judge the worth of our shelters, we lay great emphasis on the number and size of the windows, the degree to which nature enters our caves. We build balconies and porches to escape our shelters because internally they are sensory wastelands.

Many of us supply an excellent stimulus for our hearing, via our sound systems, and during our waking hours are able to provide stimulating and enjoyable input for at least one of our five senses. This is good.

Our visual sense, however, suffers to a tremendous extent, regardless of the size of our windows. We sit in our buildings and, if we have been there often before, pay not the slightest attention to our surroundings. How many times can one become enraptured with the sight of a wall, doorway, chair, or lamp? "Nineteen" answers a member of the crowd. "Boredom then overtakes us on the twentieth," I reply.

We and our senses deserve, indeed are constructed to require more interesting and dynamic surroundings.

In this light, consider the effect on our visual system which results from watching television, staring at a screen anywhere from 12 to 26 inches across diagonally, taking up perhaps one tenth of our visual field in which man-made images are changing at many times the speed of nature, surrounded by a stark still border extending to the edge of sight.

We spend untold hours involved in unnatural intense concentration, violently exercising a small central square of our visual field, and to make the contrast particularly acute, nothing surrounding the screen moves at all. This must have a tremendous negative effect on the development of our peripheral vision.

In summary, we starve our entire visual sense, envelope ourselves with static environments in which the only time we notice our surroundings is when something deviates from the deadly boring normal by being out of its place, and then spend large amounts of time staring at electronic anesthesiologists undertaking intensive tunnel-vision training.

It has been said that a rut is a grave which is open at both ends. Our human curiosity, our drive to experience the new keeps our lives vital interesting. Some people start to wind down this interest in life at 20, others at 40, and some old folks are still wallowing in the wonders of the universe at 90.

At a fundamental level, we should spend much time as possible in the stimulating, changing, ever-new, dynamic, glorious outdoors, and when indoors watch television as little as possible. Otherwise we risk the loss of effective peripheral vision, and the gradual deterioration the universe's communication paths with the mind: the senses.

Education Society News
There will be a Christmas PUB
Friday, Dec. 7 4:00 - 7:00
at the D'AVRAY CAFETERIA
Wet 'n Dry \$1.00 for non-members
Free for members
Drawing for Christmas Doll will
take place.
Meetings are held every Wednesday at
3:30 in the Society Office, Room 357

The Brunswickan would like to
thank Beaver Foods Ltd. for
all their help in planning our
Christmas Party.



Thanks!

