

reviews....



the book worm dave macrae

War & Peace With A Twist

For a change this week I thought I would review a science fiction thriller. Overlords of War by Gerald Klein is a fast-paced narrative reminiscent of the old glory days of sci-fi which recounts the adventures in space and time of a soldier who eventually comes to fight for peace.

The description is superb, especially of Aergistal, a place on the outer skin of the universe at the end of time where war are perpetually fought. And they are well inter-woven into a plot whose complexities make a federal budget look like Dr. Seuss. Yet despite being complex, it

is not oppressively so. Klein manages to balance the two with a dexterity that few can match.

However he appears to subjugate the characters. With the exception of Corson himself, most are colorless and exist only to further the story. Breathless buxom adoring women, tough hawkish warriors and all seeing wise men are strewn into Corson's path, each forcing him inevitably, if not always intentionally towards the "great deed" that he must do.

Despite this not inconsiderable defect insights, both human and humane, can be extracted from Klein's work, especially into the mechanism of war. Unfortunately these insights are too often expostulated directly by Corson and his guiding lights. "War is

not only kept going by actual conflict of interest but also spreads and perpetuates itself of its own accord, even when the proximate causes have dissappeared and well beyond what is justified by the stakes" is but one example of the admonishments scattered throughout the book. Noble sentiments, maybe, even profound ones but the style is better suited to an essay than to a work of fiction, especially when they are not reflected well in the narrative.

Yet despite its defects Overlords is one of the best recent examples of sci-fi in the classic genre. For those who like action and adventure with maybe just a tinge of intellectualism it can't be beat. Overlords of War by Gerald Klein,



night life kip puia

Tradewinds G.J.'s—What's the Difference

This is the first of a series of articles reviewing Charlottetown nightclubs and lounges. The articles will appear every second week and will attempt to compare nightclubs of similar styles. The visits to each club will take place on a typical weeknight and impressions taken that night only will be used in the article. The columns will attempt to present information as well as overall impressions of each night spot.

In order to write articles on every night spot in Charlottetown, I'm going to have to do a lot of drinking and clubhopping this semester; but I'm sure that I can stand up to the intense rigors of partying that this column will justify.

So lets begin with the Tradewind lounge. I arrived early (so that I wouldn't have to wait in line in the cold) and got seated near the dance floor. There is no cover charge and the owner, who cordially greeted me at the door, considered my dress to be acceptable (patrons must be neatly dressed; not drunk or dressed like a slob). I ordered a

beer and a rye & ginger that arrived in a short time and cost 90¢ and \$1.20 respectively. On Student Night (Tuesday for UPEI and Wednesday for Holland College) the prices are 80¢ for beer and 95¢ for a drink. Students from these schools also receive a complementary beverage if they arrive before 10:00 pm on these nights, and they also get a chance to win a free 6 pak at the end of the night. Day prices, in effect until 7:00 pm, are 75¢ for beer and 90¢ for a shot (there is no happy hour).

Some instrumental music was playing I believe it to be "Melting Pot" by Booker T and the M.G.'s (lovely tune that) which was followed by funky music and some good time rock and roll. The music was fine although the DJ seemed to have trouble with records skipping. I found the crowd to be very young (mostly students) and not rowdy at all. Overall, it was a very friendly atmosphere. I must admit that I don't like the black ceiling (the place seems too dark, this in contrast to GJ's warm, bright red walls and

ceiling) but the colored lights rotating around the dance floor are very pretty. The dance floor makes you feel as though you're on stage. I found this out after I got a girl to dance with me, which didn't come about too easily (and then she didn't stay with me very long either). So it was off to Gentleman Jims.

On arriving at GJ's, I found a small line but it didn't take very long for me to get in. GJ's no longer has a cover charge and dress restrictions are up to the discretion of the management. Dave and Mike Brown, who told me this, were both a little apprehensive about this article. After all GJ's hasn't exactly received wonderful treatment from the "Cadre" lately. But I'm fair and speak with straight tongue, so they figured they had nothing to lose.

Because of the crowd, I was seated at a table occupied by people who were strangers to me. This led to a very minimal amount of stimulating conversation. In any case service was prompt and I ordered a beer and a rye & ginger. Prices were 90¢ and \$1.10. GJ's also has two Student nights, one on Monday and the other on Wednesday. Prices are 75¢ for beer and shots are regular price. Day prices in effect from 11:00 to 8:00 pm are 75¢ for beer and 85¢ for a shot of booze. I noticed several people from UPEI around the room,

so instead of staying seated, I moved around from table to table. Strangely enough, GJ's seems to have a somewhat more reserved atmosphere than does the Tradewind. The guests have fun and people are boogying on the dance floor, but the doormen and waitresses seem a bit tense; as though they are under some sort of pressure. I could feel this immediately upon entering. I must admit this is quite different from the Tradewind. But, in defence of equal time, GJ's has a much better sound system and the lighting and decorations are far superior to the Tradewind. GJ's is very nicely decorated indeed; very pretty. Speaking of lights, Jim's has a bastard of a strobe light, but there are many people who do. If the DJ uses it tastefully (just a little) then it can be very effective. If he uses it too much; it can make one's mind go bananas his eyes see spots, and grow hair on his palms. Tonight it was OK. Did GJ's pay their oil bill? Up until 10:00 pm it was as cold as a barn. The place became warm only when people began dancing.

In closing, both places had good crowds, no trouble, and people seemed to have a good time; including myself. This makes me think that researching this column won't be too bad at all. See you again in 2 weeks.

KIP PUIIA