

Raccoon Bandits Steal Hearts

by **Brittany BANKS**
Reporter

Raccoon Bandit has begun to gain a dedicated following in their hometown of Charlottetown, and after listening to their debut EP, "Campcraft," it is not hard to understand why.

Raccoon Bandit consists of Fraser McCallum (vocals, rhythm guitar), Adam Gallant (vocals, lead guitar), Roger Carter (drums, vocals, keys), and Scott Gallant (bass). Bass guitarist Richard MacLeod, as well as ECMA nominated singer-songwriter, Meaghan Blanchard, are guest musicians on the album.

Produced by Raccoon Bandit this past spring, the 7 track EP was recorded by band member and sound engineer, Adam Gallant,



in a barn located in Hazel Grove, PEI. Along with MacLeod and Blanchard, the "Big Red Barn" also makes guest appearances through-

out the album, with an echo here, a creak of the floor boards there, as well as faint laughter from band members.

The opening track to Campcraft, titled "Train Song", is an outstanding beginning to the album. Its laid back, easy going vibe, combined with its carefree, reflective lyrics, creates a beautiful depiction of a passenger's trek through the countryside. This carefree tone, however, is immediately tossed

away at the beginning of the second track, with the high energy, in your face, "Bloody Bone." Other tracks

on Campcraft include Same Old Boat, Ghosts, Dirty Road (sung by Adam), and the appropriately titled and epic closing track, Long Ride Home. The highlight of the album and the ever-pleasing fan favorite, "Hat" is an infectious folk-pop tune that is sure to have you tapping your toes and singing along.

The EP is jam packed with classic alt. country-type instrumentation, and McCallum's voice possesses an honest and charming quality that will melt the hearts of listeners—girls and boys alike.

Raccoon Bandit's Campcraft is an exceptional first release and a wonderfully cohesive collection of songs from a band that should be watched closely as they climb the ranks of the East Coast music scene.

Egypt continued...

likely because there are a large number of people outside day and night. Also we were given special attention by the Tourism and Antiquities Police. This force is designed to watch over tourists and monuments, as any attacks on visitors would cripple the tourism industry, which is important for Egypt's economy. At first some of us were worried about safety and were reluctant to venture out into the downtown but later on we all felt comfortable walking

into the mobs of Cairo in smalls groups and one girl even said that she felt safer in Egypt than she did where she lived in England.

We all learned a lot from our Egyptian adventure: a new perspective on the Middle East, a few Arabic phrases, a stronger urge to travel and a greater understanding of Islam. One thing is for sure; it was a phenomenal experience that we'll remember for the rest of our lives.

