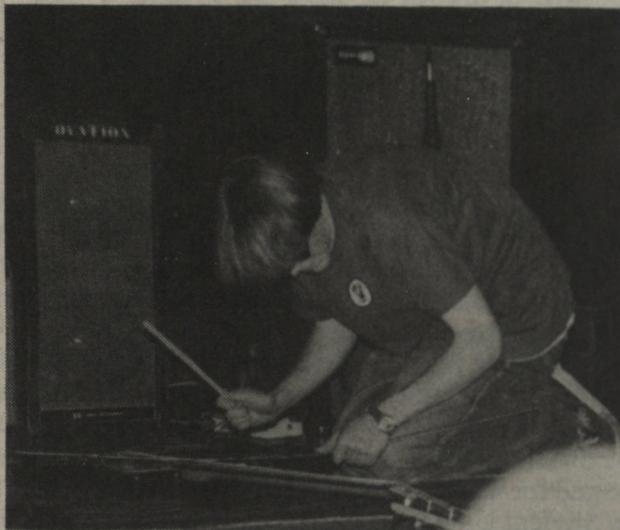


Rock and Roll High School Battle of the Bands

Thursday, November 28th marked the 4th annual Colonel Gray High School Battle of the Bands; held in the quaint little cafeteria for all those willing and able, to enjoy. I was in attendance along with our very own Panther Prints photographer Melissa Buote, and together with "the collective" known as Supercar, played the role of judges for the evening event. Eight bands competed in a very diverse and thoroughly satisfying lineup. The real winner was the Charlottetown music scene, which is looking very promising as of late.

The Ewoks took the blue ribbon as the band chosen best by the judges; cer-



Greg Flemming of Battle winners ThEwoks

tainly they were deserving as their quirky non-conventional sound seems to be able to transcend an orderly musical formula. I'm sure that this trio is much more thrilled by the re-release of the Star Wars trilogy, but their performance last

ing through in the future. The night also showcased some very tight and musical bands such as grunge gods Monolith, retro crazed Liphed, and the Raw Overtones who delivered a song that sounded so much like "Comfortably Numb", that Karen MacIntyre and I were singing along. The "Battle" was ended by crowd pleasers, the pseudo punk band Watchmaker, and that left the door open for the headliners, Supercar, to take the stage.

The bands were all original and all very enthusiastic to showcase their talents. The musical style ranged from easy listening to whatever the heck ThEwoks are. I was extremely honoured to be able to judge and came away very impressed by the work that these bands put into their songwriting. I guarantee that you will be hearing some of these names in the not so distant future.

To conclude, I must also give my props to Nicole, Josh and the rest of the gang for putting together such a successful "Battle of the Bands". The sound system could have been louder, but I suppose that goes without saying; I mean, the sound system could always be a little louder. Still, the atmosphere was great, and it was fun to return to my "alma mater" and hook up with all my younger high school homies. To all that were involved, congratulations on such a terrific night of music. I sincerely hope that the next one will be as good if not better than this one certainly was. I'll give it up for Charlottetown and the thriving original band scene, only with a strong, supportive scene, can there be an environment that produces such quality music. And remember, this is only the beginning.

Counting Crows
"Recovering the Satellites"

Geffen Records

Picturing yourself driving across the Midwestern United States, passing by all the farm fields, and run down old towns, filled with many a person who has influenced Adam Duritz's life is easy when you listen to this album. The follow up to *August and Everything After* is in fact somewhat similar to the first album, in that it is just genuine American alternative rock music. Aside from the fact that a lot of the songs are more upbeat than on the first album, such as the first release, "Angels of the Silences", Counting Crows have basically stuck to their same successful style, filled with catchy riffs, vibrant choruses, and luscious melodies accentuated by Duritz's unmistakable voice. This voice is the bearer of lonesome lyrics that tell us all about lost loved ones ("Goodnight Elizabeth"), ponderings about the future ("A Long December"), and experiences with "stardom" ("Have You Seen Me Lately"). The album is powerful from beginning to end, as the first track, "Catapult" launches you into space, to "recover the satellites", if you will, until the last song, "Walkaways" brings everything to a subtle and subdued end. If you like Live, Hootie, Soul Asylum, etc., or the first album by Counting Crows, then this music is for you. And incidentally, if you are planning a road trip in the mid-west, then "Recovering the Satellites" is a must to accompany your travels.

ToddMacLean

Type O Negative - *October Rust*

The band kicks off their album with the sound of feedback from an electric guitar. Then some band member jumps in and starts laughing. Each band member introduce themselves and hopes "[we] enjoyed [their] little joke." They continue by thanking the people who both October Rust, and how "[they] spent a couple of months getting high working on it."

As for the music, it's heart pounding, head banging, wall smashing, carpet cleaning, devil seeking crap. The louder you play October Rust the more you'll understand it. It's not a yellow belly, soft gurgling rock music. So if your looking for a band that not only rocks but rocklocks, October Rust is what your looking for to kick off the new year.

by Bruce Henry

The Specials *Today's Specials* Kuff/Virgin

I took a listen to this CD because I was told their music was a lot like that of No Doubt. Not exactly. True, The Specials blend ska/reggae and rock n' roll, but the reggae definitely powers through. The album *Today's Specials* is all cover tunes by the band's favourite artists, including Bob Marley, the Clash, and even some jazz musicians. The two outstanding tracks on the album were "A Little Bit Me, A Little Bit You", a remake of a Monkee's hit and "OO7". The music is very fun, but I'm not a huge reggae fan. However, I will admit to whistling some of the songs for a while after I listened to the CD. If Bob Marley is your guy, why not give a listen to The Specials?

: *** By Emilie Adams

night sparked a "Next Generation" kinda tag. These guys are one of those bands that are destined to be on a 7" single. Vinyl is the only way that a recording could truly capture their energy of experimentation. Hopefully they will stay together, as they are but young men in a struggling world full of teen angst...aw, play a sad song for them.

The other bands that performed, and performed well I might add, were dynamic and offered something different for every set which tickled me pink, thank you very much. Sour, Snag and DCU are all very young, and very talented in their own field of expertise. To say the least, the foundation of the Charlottetown scene has been set and you will eventually see some of the personalities from these less mature bands break-

Finally,
The end of the Holiday Arts and
Entertainment Section.

