

# Bad Religion, bad concert

by Sarah Murphy

Bad Religion is to punk as pimples are to teenagers.

The aging, greying punkers, great-uncles of SoCal punk, took to the stage the Verdun auditorium, last week in Montreal, promoting their tenth album, *The New America*, released in May.

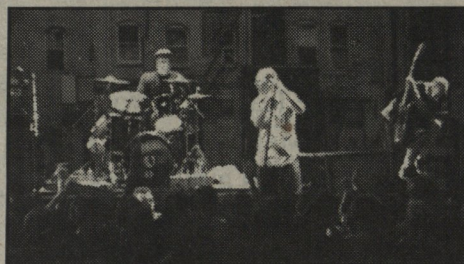
Creatures of habit, Bad Religion, lead by lyricist and evolutionary biologist, Greg Graffin, included several classics and

crowd pleasers from previous albums *Generator*, *Against the Grain*, and *Suffer* (some of which were recorded before most audience members were a twinkle in their parents eyes).

Either faced with a memory loss due to their respectable age, or the monotony of twenty year's worth of touring, the band offered a mediocre performance for a group which usually awes their audience

with pro-vo-k-i-n-g lyrics and catchy riffs and harmonies. The set was flawed by the technical difficulties

with sound (especially Bobby Schayer's drums), and lack of enthusiasm and dedication their material deserves. 18 songs were squeezed into an hour and a half set



which did not compare to the quintet's excellent performance, opening for Blink 182, at Toronto's Molson Amphitheatre in June.

Graffin, a cynical man, was particularly biting and arrogant to an audience who certainly deserved more respect for keeping Bad Religion on the road for two decades. Graffin took a moment to

poke fun at national "icon" Celine Dion, and the Quebec Sovereignist movement, a disappointing move from an intellectual praised for his novel ideas in social reform and evolution of the human and animal world.

Despite their talents as musicians (and their wicked harmonies), other band members were eclipsed by the lead man's towering presence of stage.

Gob, a bland second helping of brat punk's Blink 182, and The Promised Ring, a Wheezer meets Thrush Hermit quartet, opened the show. The former were, to put it gently, awful, but the latter offered a surprising and interesting performance – despite the fact that they were booed off the stage by an insolent teenaged audience.

AUDITORIUM DE VERDUN  
HOUSE OF BLUES CONCERTS CANADA & GREENLAND  
PRÉSENTENT  
**BAD RELIGION**  
MARDI LE 17 OCTOBRE 2000 À 19H30  
WWW.BADRELIGION.COM  
4110 BOUL. LASALLE - MÉTRO DE L'ÉGLISE  
PORTES: 18H30 \* SPECTACLE: 19H30  
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## CHOICE CUTS!

### HEAR IT!

The Guthries' *Off Windmill* will conjure up images of The Jayhawks, The Band, and Uncle Tupelo. They have a mandolin player, an accordion player, a steel guitar player and at least three *bona fide* lead singers.

### BROWSE IT!

[www.theshitlists.com](http://www.theshitlists.com) is a web site dedicated to the expression of discontent. Post to the Shitboard. Demand justice from the Shitmaster and, in general, get even with all the shitty service you have received.

### READ IT!

*Timothy McSweeney's Quarterly Concern* is a worthwhile collection of literary odds and ends. As soon as you read the ideas in this, you will wish that you had thought of them. Available at the Daily Grind in Halifax or at [mcsweeneys.net](http://mcsweeneys.net).

### RENT IT!

*A Murder of Crows* is a suspense/mystery that has Cuba Gooding Jr. as a lawyer who writes a book. Despite the name there were no Counting, Black, or Russell Crowes injured in the making of the movie.

### EAT IT!

*Pop Rocks*: Those candies that explode in your mouth and not in your hands. There is nothing, nothing, like fizz between your teeth. This means what it says, and nothing more, you pervert.



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