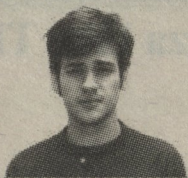


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A&E Editor



An Evening With *Smothered in Hugs*

An Evening With *Smothered in Hugs* Charlottetown indie-pop three-piece looks to bust some chops, kick some can.

Dozens of vibrant kid-like paintings plastered on a series of front porch windows send rainbows streaming across the street while the next-door neighbour's dog, visibly insane, attempts to rip down the picket fence protecting any pedestrians from certain death. Enter the House of Hugs.

"It's tricky around here," says Ryan Crane, front man for *Smothered in Hugs*. Ryan isn't referring to his immediate surroundings; rather, he is talking about the difficulties of being an original band in Charlottetown, and seems actually quite content in his bandmates' house. Their practice area/dining room is some sort of rock sanctuary, plastered wall-to-wall with artistically placed duMarier cigarette packets and amps. This

esthetic fills every room in this house – it's rare to walk in and not hear either the band in the midst of practice or some great indie album tearing the paint off



the ceiling.

Smothered in Hugs started in February of this year and are named for a song off of "Bee Thousand" by Guided by Voices, one of the band's favourite albums. The band consists of brothers Ryan and Aaron Crane, singer/guitarist and drummer respectively, and Josh Burn on bass.

Smothered in Hugs sound similar to REM before they sold their

souls. The group is explicit in their distaste for most jam music and are reluctant to put themselves in a situation where they might get called a 'bar

like Justin Hawkins (of the Darkness), we could do all kinds of stuff, but that's not the way it is."

The guys from *Smothered in*

Hugs seem very realistic and levelheaded in their expectations of the current PEI music scene: "We don't expect the average person to walk up the street and get what we're doing," states Ryan.

While the group recognizes

Smothered in Hugs' Top Ten Favourite Albums

10. Daft Punk – Homework
9. The Libertines – Up the Bracket
8. The Replacements – Let it be
7. Belle and Sebastian – If You're Feeling Sinister
6. Wilco – Yankee Hotel Foxtrot
5. The Smiths – The Queen is Dead
4. Pavement – Slanted and Enchanted
3. My Bloody Valentine - Loveless
2. Guided by Voices – Bee Thousand
1. REM – Murmur

band'; in addition to keeping their set relatively brief, the trio rarely plays other band's songs.

"Us playing covers is kind of pointless because we wouldn't do a good job of the songs we try because we're a three-piece, so the only way we can really work it is to write our own songs around what we have to work with." Ryan explains. "If we had a five-piece band and if I could sing

the inherent obstacles for a little PEI indie band, they are optimistic that things are definitely moving in the right direction. "There's a little community growing," says Aaron, citing the Robots and Two Hours Traffic as like-minded Charlottetown bands.

Look for *Smothered in Hugs* at the Wave and Baba's Lounge in Charlottetown in the near future.

On the Arts: What's on in Charlottetown

For the cultured among you, we've compiled a list (by no means comprehensive) of artistic and cultural events going on in Charlottetown during the rest of November. We would obviously be remiss if we were to ignore the stuff going on right here on campus, so we'll start with that. As noted elsewhere in this issue, The UPEI Theatre Society is staging Doctor Faustus

beginning on the 20th. This show should prove to be a crowd pleaser, and hey, it's cheap. Earlier in the day on the 20th, why not check out the UPEI Music Majors Lunchtime Recital at 12:40 PM in the Dr. Steele Recital Hall... it's free.

Off campus, The Confederation Centre of the Arts is presenting its usual array of acts, including the PEI Music

Awards, The Nutcracker Ballet, Symphony PEI, and a Christmas party night called "A New Fashioned Christmas" which is offering a free drink and a beer mug with a ticket. Check out the Confederation Centre website at:

<http://www.confederationcentre.ca/>

for showtimes and ticket information.



The Nutcracker at the Confederation Centre this Month.