

Entertainment

videogames interviews exhibits
music books television concerts theatre movies

CHSR Battle of the Bands

Rock, hiphop, emo, punk, hardcore, metal, and everything else

Andrew Erskine & Sean Patrick Sullivan

The Brunswick

CHSR hosted a music extravaganza Saturday night at The Chestnut, having 18 bands play to more than 500 people throughout the evening in the second annual Battle of the Bands.

The definition of "epic" ("extending beyond the usual or ordinary especially in size or scope") certainly fits the event, which showcased hardcore, emo, punk, metal, pop, rock, hip hop, and anything in between in an eight hour orgy of music, drinking, and a whole lot of waiting.

The first prize winners were the deserving 283, who won 30 hours of studio time with Outreach Productions, with Das Radio and Ira Vagina and the Rainy Day Women coming in second and third respectively.

All bands had incredible showings in their 15 minutes of stage time and the event was a success in its goal to promote local talent. The only disappointment was that the show ran out of time, unfortunately making the last few bands cut their set, and leaving out Slyde and Dionisus

completely. CHSR is looking into putting on future shows for these two groups.

Take a look at the show run-down below, and be sure to check out any of these bands if they play around town.

Pictures counter-clockwise from top left:

Kids and Tobacco

KAOS

The Organizers

Romeo Retarded

Gummy DeMilo

Sound Awake

Monday Conspiracy

Fear Absolute

Illogic

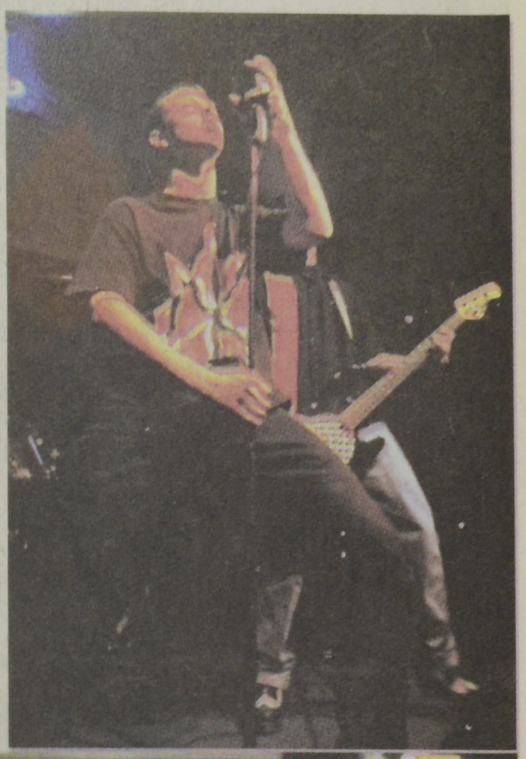
Ira Vagina and The Rainy Day Women

283

Das Radio

The Missing

E.I.



The first band of the night was a young group (13-17 years old) from Rothesay, Exodus Utopia. They played a set of hard rock and, considering their age, it was pretty impressive. I would have liked to see them make better use of the turntable and they also might try working on tuning. These were a group of young guys with a promising future. - AE

Monday Conspiracy play heavy, melodic rock that got the crowd up and in front of the stage. From the throngs of photographers and fans, it's obvious these guys brought friends down from their hometown of Woodstock, where

they're quickly gaining a lot of recognition. Their use of bongos and percussion distinguished the group from the usual heavy rock sound and it's clear the band can only go up from now on. Watch for a CD release in the near future. - SPS

Raannt (yes, that is the correct spelling) were a bit older than the rest of the bands, but provided a solid rock sound, showing they knew what they were doing and had been at it for a while. The standard rock fare with some metal-like singing. -SPS

Former Fetus put on a hugely entertaining set, thrashing around the stage as if Satan himself was after them. At one point it looked like the singer was trying to bite through his microphone stand - we don't think he succeeded. Screaming in hardcore music is often the norm, but a bit more melody would have helped these guys out. - SPS

283 rocked the joint with their high-energy brand of musical and precise semi-punk rock. Despite the problems guitarist Trip Lewis had with his patch cord repeatedly coming out of his amp, they still managed to come out on top, winning first place in the battle. These guys play a lot of shows around town, so keep your eyes peeled and check them out for yourself. - AE

Had Ira Vagina and The Rainy Day Women not won third place, they would have certainly won a prize for most original costumes. The group's outfits ranged from superhero (in tights, even) to army hooker. Not only did they have the most original look of the night, they also had one of the most original sounds, a mix of heavy rock and punk that wasn't immediately identifiable. They also had one of the coolest song titles, "Capitalist Pig Fucker." - SPS

Illogic brought their brand of freestylin' hip-hop and rhyming to the stage. Consisting of 2 MC's and 2 DJ's, the Fredericton-based group layed down some sweet jams. The rhyming was awesome and was a good break from the rock-oriented music of everyone else. They had the crowd bobbing their heads to the beat and were one of my personal favorites of the evening. - AE

Gummy Dimilo appeared to be a crowd pleaser with their funky, acoustic stylings. Armed with a table filled with bells, pots, and tubes, they created a very pleasing rhythmic sound. These percussion instruments actually added a nice ambience to the music, as opposed to being just another sound. - AE

Das Radio: Experimental techno/industrial? However you want to classify these guys, they played an awesome set. Based around synthesizers and grooves, their dark style of synth pop was enough to get the crowd bouncin' and groovin' (ie. dancing). This was enough to place second in the event. - AE

Fredericton-based Kids and Tobacco showcased their pop rock feel to an appreciative crowd. The singer possessed an excellent voice that complimented their band's music, and the other musicians carried the sound, giving it a heap of powerful pop-rock energy. How can you go wrong with a chorus that repeats the phrase "Hang on Richard!"? - SPS

Romeo Retarded played their pop-punk sounding style to a very responsive crowd. Their catchy tunes, along with good vocals, produced an entertaining live show. They had lots of energy and kept the crowd moving around. Another personal favorite of the night. - AE

KAOS knows metal. They dished out their signature heavy metal to a crowd of headbangers, ending with chants of "KAOS, KAOS!" emanating from the pit. - SPS

Fredericton-based E.I. performed next, showing the crowd what good old punk rock sounds like. This was the most impressive show I've seen them play, in which they kept the crowd jumping. Alcohol and rock 'n' roll, what a combo! - AE

The Organizers looked like a classic ska band and were undoubtedly the best-dressed of the evening (suits always go a long way!). They had a bit of a reggae feel to their music while retaining the ska feel, and their high-energy set combined with their constantly striking classic rock poses struck a chord (bad pun) with the crowd. - SPS

Not Yet Dead came to the stage showcasing their signature style hardcore, which brought back some memories from years gone by. They contained loads of energy, as usual, and kept the crowd thrashing to their aggressive tunes. Even with a slightly different line up, these guys still kick ass. - AE

The Missing played a tight set of the speed punk they've become so good at. At this point, bands were only allowed to do 10 min. sets, and the fact that Jon Bowie, the guitarist, ripped the input right out of his guitar, made for a relatively short set. Despite the length of their performance, they still played very well. - AE

Sound Awake had a solid rock feel, but lacked the original sound many other groups possessed. Still, they put on a great, short set and showed they knew their style. - SPS

Fear Absolute, Fredericton's own metalheads, played their heavy set to a responsive crowd. Containing lots of energy and with the bass player running around the club, they showed why their heavy sound garnered them third place last year. Always a crowd pleaser, they played some awesome death metal. - AE

All photos by Mark McGinnis

