

Hardcore invades Erie, music scene flourishing

A variety of bands play to a group of 150 people on Peach Street

by Tim Holsopple
Asst. Entertainment Editor

Over 150 people attended the local hardcore music show at the Perry Hi-Way Hose Co. on Friday, Feb. 21, proving that Erie's local music scene is flourishing.

Kids of all ages semi-packed the Hose Co.'s fire hall, a new location for local music shows. The hall, located on Peach Street, was used because the usual venue for local concerts, the Continental Ballroom, is currently closed.

Opening bands Contradiction and Abstain, both based in Erie, were insecure and unpolished. This is mostly due to the fact that they are relatively new bands. I hope they continue to practice and play more shows because the more they play with one another the tighter they will be.

Both of these bands play hardcore, with Contradiction using stop/start structures and Abstain attempting to be more

melodic. The drummer for Contradiction seemed to not want to be there. He was either very nervous or very bored. Both singers went ape-nuts, trying to bleed their wounds dry.

Overall, I was uninterested, but with time and patience these bands can improve.

The next band to play was the Ohio-based Chalkline. They were not scheduled to play, but they put on perhaps the best performance that night. They played all of the songs from their two seven inch vinyl singles, "One Person Revolution," "In Memory Of..." "Crimson," "Torn" and "Parade" were among the songs they played. The lead guitarist handled his muse with poise, seeming totally immersed in the baptismal music. Their singer also went ape, convulsing and writhing on stage, as red began to fill his face with the color of exhaustion. The 'stays crunchy in milk' tunes the band concocted were melodic-

tinged hardcore, with interludes verging on noise punk.

Next up was Envy, a Buffalo punk/hardcore band. They did not impress me at all. Their singer looked more like a stand-up comedian than a singer, and his voice did not fit the band's sound. Their music weaves some-kind-of-core with pop-punk segments, usually not fitting together and decompressing in the end to flat, uninspired performances.

Last to play before the humongous local crowd was another Buffalo band, Despair. These guys played out-and-out hardcore. Crushing beats, pounding bass, and coarse guitars piloted this band's two lead singers did not trade off lines, a la 311 or Beastie Boys. Rather, they were content to sing the same lines in unison. In this way, both sides of the stage had a vocal presence. I felt that I had heard all of this before, so once again I was not impressed.

What I was impressed with was the intensity of the crowd. The

people seemed to complement Despair perfectly, mimicking their straight-up, in-your-face style.

Overall, the show was not very good. I could not get into the bands, probably because I have a phobia of mosh pits and I am an emo-wuss (jargon for a person who prefers emotional, melodic hardcore to slamming, intense hardcore). I was impressed with the turnout, as I have not seen one this big for a local show anywhere. I think the same number of people showed up for this show as for the Earth Crisis/downset show in Cleveland.

Bands and vendors set up tables all along the walls of the fire hall. I took advantage of the low prices and picked up a couple of seven inches and a CD, for less than 14 bucks. It's not the money that matters; it's the music.

This was my first local music experience in Erie. If the opportunity presents itself again, I will certainly go.



Photos by Tim Holsopple/Asst. Entertainment Editor

Above the crowd...

STEPPIN' UP AND ROCKING OUT: The lead guitarist and singer for Chalkline step up and rock the house.

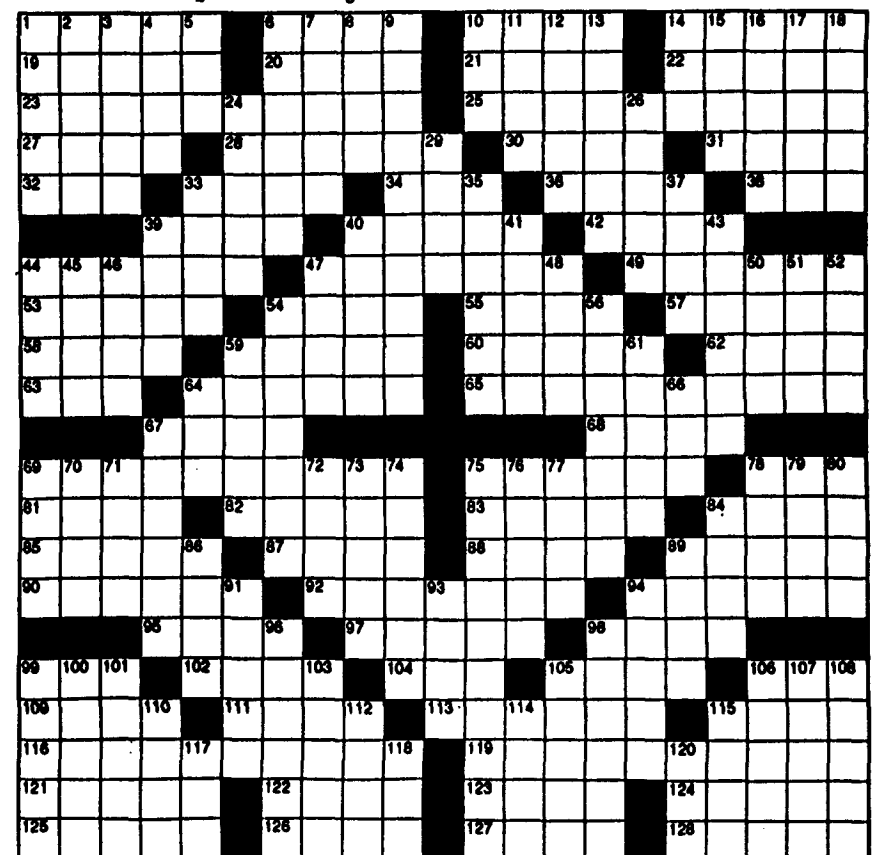
STEPPIN' IN AND GETTING DOWN: The crowd that attended Friday's hardcore show was phenomenal. The kids packed the Perry Hi-Way Hose Co.'s fire hall.

...below the bands.



Super Crossword

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| ACROSS | 1 Robber follower? | 6 Very elegant Street urchin | 10 Unexpected diet | 19 Greek market place | 20 Singer Guthrie | 21 It's good for what ails you | 22 Deplorably shabby | 23 He wrote "Humboldt's Gift" | 25 He's noted for "The Caine Mutiny" | 27 Scene of the crime | 28 Worldwide | 30 Name in high fashion | 31 Central point | 32 Shot or step starter | 33 Secluded valley | 34 Capitol VIP | 36 Capital of Yemen | 38 Footlike organ | 39 One-armed bandit feature | 40 Calculating snake? | 42 Hawaiian goose | 44 She wrote "Sense and Sensibility" | 47 Printed on a document | 49 He wrote "The Sea Wolf" | 53 Show to be untrue | 54 — morgana (a mirage) | 55 TV role for young Ron Howard | 57 Town written of by 116 | 58 Apple-growing chemical | 59 Parry Masor's workload | 60 Quantities of paper | 62 Shoshonean Indians | 63 Movie locale | 64 Police officer's collar? | 65 Author of "Advise and Consent" | 67 Hebrew lyre | 68 Dissipated man | 69 He wrote "Oliver's Story" | 75 Actress Hubley | 78 Spanish gold | 81 Diplomat's need | 82 Skier's terrain | 83 Apportion | 84 Edge | 85 Legendary king of | 87 Tree snake | 88 Bearing | 89 A thick liqueur | 90 He created "Uncle Remus" | 92 Deprives of rights | 94 He wrote "The Executioner's Song" | 95 Fire or ball starter | 97 River of Hades | 98 "White —" (novel by 49 Across) | 99 Queen of the fairies | 102 Small piece | 104 Engineer's org. | 105 — precedent | 106 Menu phrase | 109 — in one's bonnet | 111 Equipment | 113 Ladder rungs | 115 Wine vessels | 116 He wrote "The Call" | 119 Co-author of "Guys and Dolls" | 121 Egg-shaped house | 122 Italian noble | 123 Stir up | 124 Harmonize | 125 Make strong again | 126 Coloring agents | 127 English sand hill | 128 "Whither thou ..." | DOWN | 1 Kind of voice or singer | 2 Once more | 3 Numbered highway | 4 Band on a shield | 5 Seize roughly | 6 Potter's tool | 7 Synthetic fiber | 8 Undesirable roommate | 9 He wrote "The Immigrants" | 10 Bonn exclamation | 11 Regretted | 12 "Mrs. — Paris" | 13 Deplore | 14 Decorative vase | 15 Chess piece | 16 Small porch | 17 Musical study | 18 Small children | 24 King of Moab | 26 Synthetic fiber | 29 Spartan queen | 33 Marriage | 35 An original member of the SEC | 37 Wild ox | 39 Recipe direction | 40 Pays to play | 41 Drive off | 43 Put up with | 44 Desert garments | 45 Venetian blind unit | 47 Alleviate | 48 Clock face | 50 Malay chief | 51 Unique person | 52 Overly inquisitive | 54 He wrote the "Studs Lonigan" trilogy | 56 He wrote "The Conductor of Life" | 59 Celtic or Maltese | 61 Snub haughtily | 64 Wood for baseball bats | 66 Press for payment | 67 Members of the cast | 69 Engrave, in a way | 70 — avis | 71 Cake decorator | 72 "Let the — Times Roll" | 73 Fool's month? | 74 Whitman's "— of Grass" | 75 He wrote "True West" | 76 Typewriter type | 77 Pub pints | 78 City on the Oka | 79 Hoarfrost | 80 He brew measure | 84 Ship's prison | 86 Pinches | 89 Miracle city | 91 Burn slightly | 93 Airport listings: abbr. | 94 Island in Taiwan Strait | 96 Placed in rows | 98 Easily broken | 99 TV's "— Dad" | 100 Higher in power | 101 He wrote "Borstal Boy" | 103 French economist and politician | 105 Yarn purchase | 106 Love, to Luigi | 107 Noted penologist | 108 Valuable possession | 110 Grafted, in heraldry | 112 Network | 114 Double-read woodwind | 115 Jason's ship | 117 Cut with an ax | 118 "Certainly!" | 120 Scott Joplin creation |
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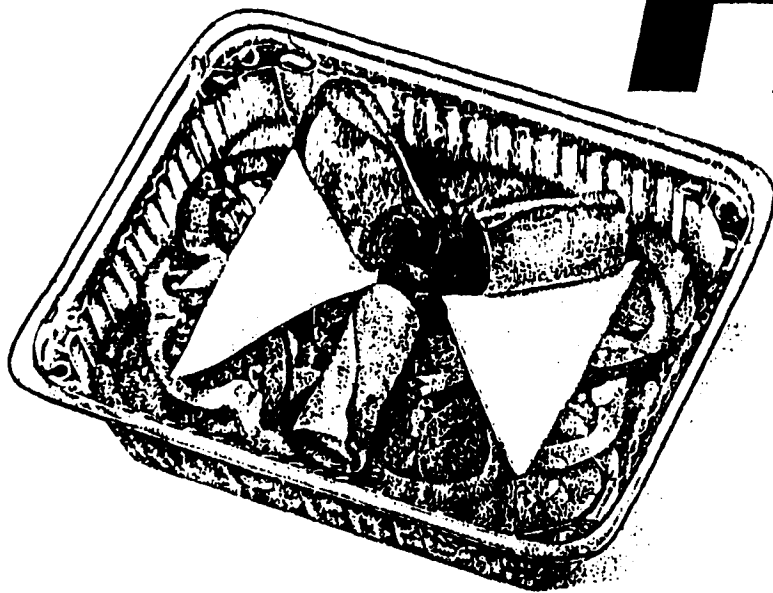
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