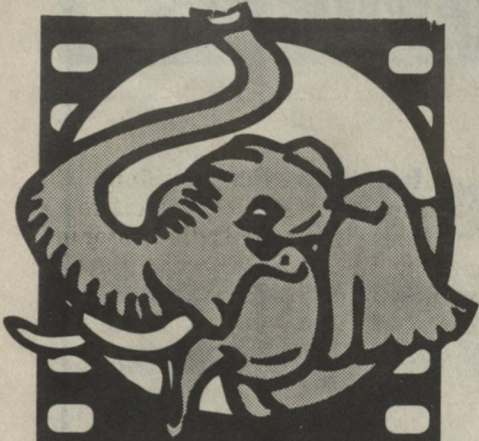


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Music Reviews

The Devlins
Waiting
(EMI Canada)

While listening to this disc, I was struck with a strange sense of déjà-vu: I'd heard this before, but it was done much better the first time. Yes, there must be something in the water in Dublin, because most of this CD sounded like out-takes from a mellow U2 album ("One", "Staring At the Sun" kind of stuff). In fact, the best way to describe this group is a second-rate U2 with some promise. This trio of brothers from Ireland have got some talent, which occasionally shines through on this disc, but they are so obviously trying to sound like a kinder, gentler version of their heroes that their own abilities are lost in the shuffle - lead singer/guitarist Colin Devlin is a dead ringer for The Edge at many times, while his attempts at sounding like Bono on vocals are mercifully few, but no less annoying when they do. There's only one consistently strong song - "Heaven's Wall" - on this disc, the rest is just U2 without the politics. It is difficult to completely write the Devlins off, as they do have potential, but until they find their own style it's best to stay away. Recommended only for those disaffected fans who liked Bono and the boys before they became rock stars. 2.5/5

Various Artists
The Sweet Hereafter Soundtrack
(Virgin Music Canada)

This is a difficult CD to listen to, for although it is absolutely beautiful, it is easily the most depressing thing I've heard in years! Of course, this is understandable, given that this is music to a movie about a school bus crash; hardly the place for rampant joy. Composer Mychael Danna uses various Middle-Eastern wind instruments to full effect here, creating a number of haunting, sad, and at times disturbing pieces of music. Hearing this while knowing that the film's setting is the BC interior can only make it seem more surreal than anything. Actress Sarah Polley, ex of Road to Avonlea, does a credible job appearing on vocals here, including the title track, as well as interesting versions of Jane Siberry's "One More Colour" and "Courage" by the Tragically Hip (!) - these songs are played acoustically, slowed down and dipped into minor keys to fit with the rest of the disc's sombre motif. I wholeheartedly recommend this disc, with one caution: anyone with severe depression problems should avoid it for safety reasons. 4/5

The growing rave scene in Charlottetown

By Luke Leunes

Over the past 4 months something new has been going on in Charlottetown that usually happens only in big cities: raves. It had some troubles here, but it seems like they are here to stay.

First thing, "rave" is an out-dated term. It now can be called anything, like a party/dance/etc.

A rave is similar to a concert. You have your musicians, instruments and audience.

"We would like to be called musicians" said Charife a musician(DJ). "We don't just put a record on and that's it." What really happens is that DJs will play a record and remix songs with noises, beats and what every else they want.

People like raves because of the music and atmosphere it provides. You dance in an environment filled with loud bass, strobe lights, coloured lights and smoke screens. You find that, when you reach a trance-like state, you just have to dance. It's an experience you must try.

Rave have had a lot of bad press due to drugs. True, there are some rave that supply drugs, but for the most part most potent drugs that a non-drug-oriented rave would sell would be a legal herbal energy boost, or a smart drink. That's a mix drink made from natural fruits and or herbs.

The two local DJ's that put this rave on are really hard core about it. They know what there doing and it shows.

"We're not in it for the money," Fly-core, one of the DJs admits.

They have played off island in Moncton and Halifax. They feel that there is enough demand to make Charlottetown a base for raves as well. All they need is a steady audience to support them. If not, Charlottetown may lose raves to another city.

The most recent rave that took place in Charlottetown was at the Edgeline downtown October 27. Quadrivium were the ones who setup this event. Starting at 10 and ending the morning after, it was an awesome trip. Out of all the raves I've been to it was 7 out of 10. There was mix of styles, Jungle, Trance, Breakbeat and house for the most part.

