

Sketchy opening bands can't keep 'Coheed and Cambria' from rocking

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THE CLACKAMAS PRINT

A few mediocre openers didn't diminish the success of Coheed and Cambria's kickoff show for their tour last Thursday at the Nocturnal in Portland.

The concert opened with hard-core/rock group Bear vs. Shark. While they were slightly lacking in talent (or perhaps the lead singer had too much to drink?), this Detroit group put on a show worth watching.

Lead singer Mike Muldoon stole the show with his intense energy. Most of the songs were sung from the middle of the crowd, as far away from the stage as the microphone cord would allow. Muldoon seemed to enjoy standing face-to-face with random crowd members, screaming his lyrics. In one case, he actually humped a spectator's face ... who didn't seem amused.

Next on stage was indie rock duo Jamison Parker. These two took awhile to set up,

allowing the audience's anticipation to build.

Finally they slung their guitars over their shoulders and with help from pre-recorded music, they started their set. The entire backing was electronic (bass, drums, keyboards, guitars and other effects). The worst part was not being able to tell the real guitars from the background guitars. All in all, the act wasn't worth the wait.

After the disappointing performance from Jamison Parker, though, Vaux took the stage and blew the crowd away with their amazing lyrics and sound. This hardcore punk sextet put on a great performance, not having to rely on a drunk singer or an electronic system to make their show good. The climax of Vaux's performance was the song "Shot in the Back" near the end of their set.

Finally, nearly half an hour after Vaux left the stage, the aroma of marijuana being lit somewhere in the middle of the crowd signified that Coheed and Cambria was about to start their show. The chronic scent, combined with the body odor of a wall-to-wall, sold-out crowd, left a few pondering

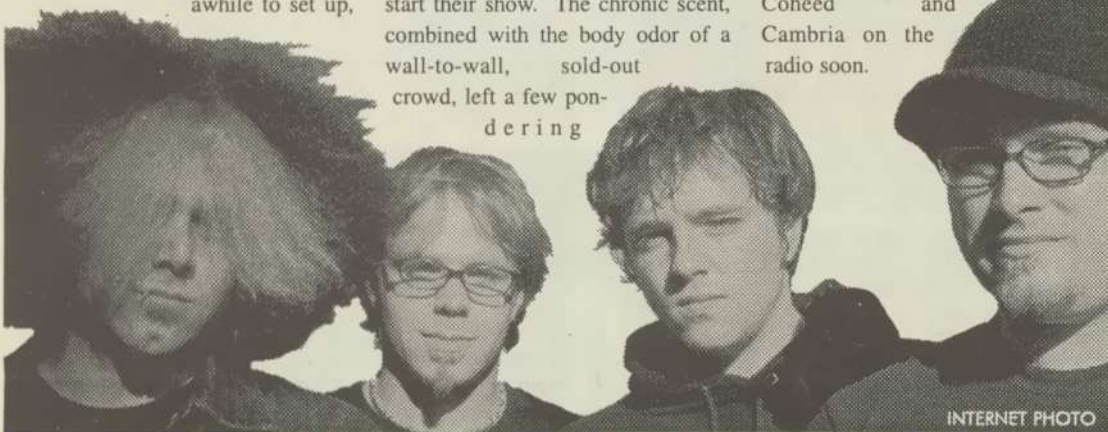
whether it was worth the lack of air at the tiny Portland venue.

Coheed and Cambria didn't disappoint their fans. They played a good, crowd-pleasing set. This shouldn't come as a big surprise, given their rapidly growing following.

Rolling Stone called their sound "arena emo" in a review of their new CD entitled "In Keeping the Secrets of the Silent Earth 3."

Highlights of the night included tracks from both their new and old CDs; "Blood Red Summer," "The Velourium Camper III: Al the Killer," "Devil in Jersey City," "Delirium Trigger" and the first live performance of "The Velourium Camper I: Faint of Hearts."

Coheed and Cambria's inaugural show of their headlining tour played out well. This will be a band to watch in the next couple of years. It won't be surprising if they are snapped up by the jaws of a major label by the time they record their next record. Listen for Coheed and Cambria on the radio soon.



Other Concerts of Interest

Aladdin Theater

MEST Feb. 10 @ 8 p.m.
OC SUPERTONES Feb. 8, 6 p.m.

Backspace

OPEN MIKE FREESTYLE CYPHER
Wednesdays @5:30-8:30 p.m.

Berbat's Pan

NADA SURF Feb. 4 @ 8:30 p.m. (21+)
THE WALKMEN Feb. 13 @ 8:30 p.m. (21+)

Convention Center

LUDACRIS Feb. 15

Crystal Ballroom

BUILT TO SPILL Feb. 21 and 22
CHERRY POPPIN DADDIES Feb. 24 (21+)
CRYSTAL METHOD March 3
SUBHUMANS March 5 @ 8 p.m.

Dante's

PIGMY LOVE CIRCUS Feb. 7 @ 9 p.m. (21+)
THEMSELVES Feb. 14 @ 9:30 p.m. (21+)

Meow Meow

SENSES FAIL Feb. 13 @ 7 p.m.

Roseland

ATMOSPHERE WITH EYEDea Feb. 4 @ 8p.m.
CANNIBAL CORPSE Feb. 20 @ 7 p.m.
METHOD MAN March 4 @ 8 p.m.

Does YOUR band have any shows coming up in the near future?!

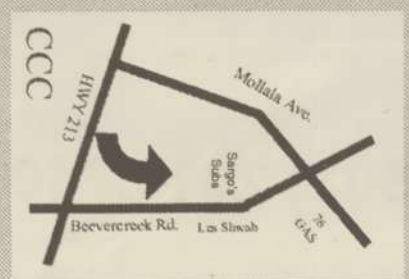
If so, contact Isaiah Creel by e-mail at:
zeplemon@hotmail.com

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