

Off the cuff

NICK KHATTAR
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

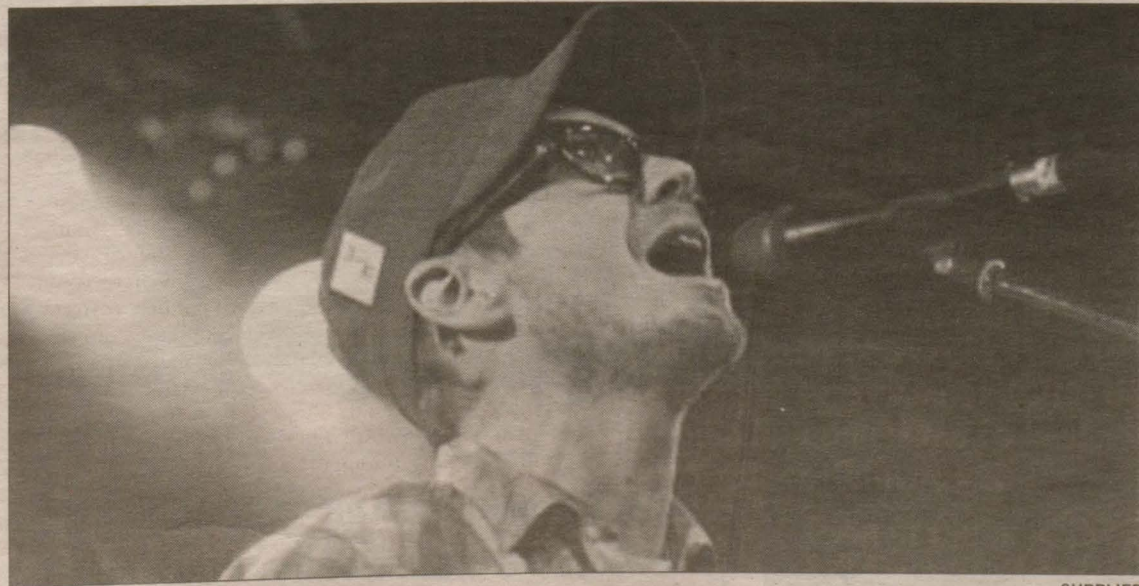
"I swear to fucking god I will buy every one of you a fucking shot," promised Cuff the Duke frontman Wayne Petti, as he urged the crowd to pack the dance floor.

Cuff the Duke is no stranger to the dark cavernous atmosphere of The Grawood, and on Mar. 26, the band returned to heat the place up again.

Recently coming off of an East Coast tour with Blue Rodeo, the Oshawa, Ont. band was back in Halifax for a double set, with a show at The Grawood and a Friday night show at The Seahorse.

Cuff the Duke ripped their set wide open with "Rossland Square," which Petti dedicated to their opening band, The Stables, who he said are "even more Oshawa than I am."

People were lounging casually and soaking up the sweet potato sound of "Belgium or Peru," but things didn't stay casual for long. After a 10-minute rendition of "The Future Hangs," Petti bribed the crowd with booze and dedicated "Failure To



Not only do they know how to swear and get a crowd drunk, Cuff the Duke consistently plays shows that make you want to throw off your shoes, break out the jug of swish and stomp dance.

Some" to us, the students who pay too much to go to university.

While the drunkest girl of the evening danced on stage, the crowd swayed and sang along to "If I Live Or If I Die," a song off of Cuff the Duke's

new album, *Sidelines of the City*.

Not only do they know how to swear and get a crowd drunk, Cuff the Duke consistently plays shows that make you want to throw off your shoes, break out the jug of swish and

stomp dance.

While the crowd danced, spilling their complimentary beer all over people, mainly me, the boys from The Stables were dancing, arms in the air, over at the merchandise ta-

ble.

"It was a really easy show to play, and touring with Cuff is fantastic," said Poor Pelly.

With a washtub bass with a hockey stick for a neck and a conga/djembe blend with a suitcase kick drum for percussion, The Stables know how to mix up one hell of a roots music cocktail.

The Stables consist of Poor Pelly, Blind Billy Blasko and Clarky. I suggest you go see them on May 14 at Gus' Pub, and make sure to bring your stompin' boots and a flannel shirt, 'cause it's sure to be a sloppy good time.

Linton Porter-Taylor, the bar's marketing and promotions assistant, said Cuff the Duke always seems to know how to take the place apart whenever they show up.

This night was no different. By the last song, "Take My Money And Run," most of The Stables were on-stage either dancing or adding to the musical cornucopia.

After their shows in Halifax, Cuff the Duke will be heading off on a North American tour as the back-up band for Hayden.

SUPPLIED