



CONCERT REVIEWS

> 5 sep 2005 - THE DRIFTERS @ THE BEACHBOARDWALK & BLUE OYSTER CULT @ THE CATALYST CLUB IN SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA - kicking off the drifters' 12th consecutive summertime visit to the beachboardwalk, will porter and the allstars started the show featuring a horn section with a veteran of the tower of power horns...the drifters were once led by legendary lead singer from the late '50's and early '60's bobby hendricks, and charted such famous hits as 'there goes my baby' 'save the last dance for me' 'up on the roof' 'on broadway' and 'under the boardwalk'...the present lineup of the drifters at the beach last friday sang ultra-smooth and was well-dressed in tuxedos, they played two tight sets of golden oldies, and the crowd absolutely ate it up...it seems that santa cruz loves the drifters as much as the drifters love santa cruz...I love the drifters too...they have been getting substantial airplay on san francisco radio station KFRC as of late, so check out the KFRC web site @ <http://www.kfrc.com/kfrc/index.asp...>

after the show I headed over to the ideal bar and grill and sang a beatles song 'yellow submarine' to an entirely unenthused crowd, but! the lovely karaoke hostess sang as good as ever, doing an impression of stevie nicks that even stevie would be proud of...i had to leave early and head over to check out blue oyster cult at the catalyst club, but I did return after the show to sing a rendition of 'get back' by the beatles to an all but empty club...blue oyster cult (BOC) guitarist/singer eric bloom remains the ultra-cool, sunglass-wearing, biker-looking dude that he always was, and guitar wiz-singer buck dharma is playing as good as ever...the drummer rocked the house, and manic bass player richie castellano did the best bass solo i have ever seen in my life (you can check out his personal web site @ <http://www.richiecastellano.com/>) - the first kegger party band i played with back in high school played 'godzilla', so BOC goes way back for me...i remember seeing them at san jose's spartan stadium with cheap trick back in the day, but i was unimpressed at the time...arena shows are often too big and overblown, leaving large crowds unable to fully appreciate the acts that perform, but this night was different...BOC played ULTRA-HEAVY and truly rocked the house...

(you can check out the BOC web site @ <http://www.blueoystercult.com/>)...

> 28 aug 2005 - SURVIVOR @ THE BEACHBOARDWALK and SNOOPY SOUL @ THE IDEAL BAR AND GRILL - having only heard a few survivor tunes on the radio over the years, i had no concept how their live show was going to be...the general feel i got from their music reminded me alot of the 1980s mega rock band foreigner, so i get the feeling these guys probably got signed opportunistically during the 1980s foreigner-oriented A&R blitz...if you can sort of cop the look and sound of the biggest band around at any given time, and bug the crap out of the record companies, you can get yourself a record deal if you really want, people...(skid row got signed because of guns n roses etc)...but regardless of my opinion, there seemed to be at least a few true survivor fans out in the audience, and even a few fist pumping dudes yelling out 'eye of the tiger'...

i left early and rode my bike up to the twin lakes cliff parking lot looking for spirit man's van, and there were many bon fires going down on the beach with drummers leading the way...i started in on a primal yell every 16 measures from the cliff wall and it started a communication of sorts that went down the beach...i then started mixing in playing lightly on the guard rail - and then the sign post - and then the sign, moving between the three tones finding they all had different tones...it was a truly magical santa cruz moment that ended as soon as it began as i jumped on my bike and rode back to the boardwalk...i love santa cruz...

snoopy soul @ the ideal bar and grill was a surprise for me because i thought they had karaoke that night...although the guitarist claimed the band never rehearses, they still played pretty tight together...i like it when bands sort of just jam and fly by the seat of their pants, it's almost always loose and interesting...i tried to sing backup on thank you falletinmebemicelf by sly and the family stone (go to: <http://www.slystonemusic.com/>) - but the guitarist declined my offer...i could tell some of the regulars wanted me to sing, cause we been havin' a crazy off the hook karaoke party almost every friday night all summer long, and at least some of us were just jonesin' for a karaoke fix...oh well...the showstopper that night was a beautiful buxom blonde goddess who sort of flew in and danced around like a wild woman and stole everyone's heart...she said she was 23 and married (oh well) and that being married is 'awesome!'...i'm in love...oh, and i must say the ladies of the ideal bar and grill are very beauteous indeed, and especially the bartender, who i have a massive crush on (but don't tell anybody!)

> 21 aug 2005 - PAPA DOO RUN RUN @ THE BEACHBOARDWALK AND DICK DALE AT THE CATALYST CLUB IN SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA - papa doo run run is probably one of the best cover bands on the face of the earth, as i have never heard the beach boys' music reproduced so well...i have been listening to the beach boys a whole lot lately so it was a real treat for me, and apparently many others in the crowd as well...i danced around with some ladies and drank some beer and just hung loose in general...after the concert, i met my friends over at the ideal bar and grill and sang wanted dead or alive by bon jovi as good or better than i ever have (my friend paul gave my performance an A), but i had to leave early to go check out dick dale at the catalyst club...

i expected dick dale to be some sort of clean tone guitar surf rock band, but they played really loud like a heavy metal band...i was impressed by how the young bass player and drummer played so tightly together - the bass player had a chunky tone that thumped, and the drummer was an animal with great sounding drums...dick dale is the undisputed

king of cowabunga surf guitar, so check out his web site @ <http://dickdale.com/> - and regardless of what huntington beach may claim, santa cruz is the original surf city of mainland USA; surfing was originally introduced to santa cruz in 1895 by three hawaiian princes who surfed the mouth of the san lorenzo river on plank boards, and since then, surfing has permeated every facet of the santa cruz community...check out the santa cruz surfing museum web site @ <http://www.santacruzsurfingmuseum.org/>...

I LOVE SANTA CRUZ - santa cruz people are a happy bunch of eco-friendly, community-minded, open minded folks, and they have almost almost no litter in their community because nearly 40,000 locals volunteer for an annual coastal cleanup - check out the official costal cleanup web site @ http://www.ecoact.org/Programs/Annual_Coastal_Cleanup/ - the next coastal cleanup is on september 17th, 2005! (also! check out the international coastal cleanup web site @ <http://www.coastalcleanup.org/welcome.cfm>)...

> 14 aug 2005 - OZZFEST @ THE SHORELINE AMPHITHEATRE IN MOUNTAIN VIEW, CALIFORNIA AUGUST 13th!!! - saturday morning started out cloudy, and i predicted that when the ozzfest crowd at shoreline gathered at around 10 am, the fog would burn off and the skies would clear, and i was right...(you could actually see a sympathetic circular cloud floating directly over the massive crowd later on at around 7 pm)...similarly, it is no coincidence that all three woodstock festivals created rainy weather conditions; a critical mass of people creates a critical mass of heat and a critical mass of effectual electromagnetic energy etc...(scroll down to 'COME TOGETHER OVER ME' to read more)...my genius groundbreaking research will probably not be fully understood or appreciated for many years, even though i believe that at least a few US government physicists are already aware of this phenomenon - 'they' probably just don't want masses of people to be aware of the inherent power they possess...wait a minute; isn't this the CONCERT REVIEWS section?...

anyway, my friends and i arrived at the sports page bar and consumed some food and drink, then walked over to shoreline to see ozzfest at about 5 pm...we first heard the nonsensical dronings of the band 'mudvayne', and i have never heard such a bunch of awful crap in my life!...yuk!...the mix was awful and the singer sounded like the devil with a megaphone (the usual non-melodic 'death metal' vocal sound) and the drummer sounded like he was banging on chairs or something (his double kick drums had that awful upper to midrange frequency clickety-click sound that i so loathe) but opening bands rarely get 100% PA, they often get cut back as to not overshadow the headliner...there ought to be a law against this! (i played drums in 15,000 seat arenas in the southern united states years back , so i know about this '50 percent of the PA & drums that sound like chairs' kind of stuff)...next on was zakk wylde's black label society, which was a little more musically decipherable, but not very melodic (that's how i like my metal; melodic and down-n-dirty all at the same time - see: aerosmith), but i don't want to be a jerk and dog his band because zakk wylde is a great down-n-dirty heavy metal guitar player...

iron maiden took the stage and immediately won over the crowd with their classic heavy metal tunes, and this jumpstarted my annual habit of walking laps around the perimeter of the amphitheatre while sipping beer and inhaling (and exhaling as well)...the maidens put on a great show indeed, but black sabbath by far ruled the night; they played all the old sabbath classics as ozzy cursed and barked with a vengeance at the waxing moon hanging overhead...once the sound gelled after a song or two, the old boys put on a very

solid performance that made me glad to have seen these living legends from across the pond once again...

> 6 aug 2005 - THE FIXX @ THE BEACHBOARDWALK AUGUST 6th AND Y&T @ THE CATALYST CLUB IN SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA AUGUST 7th!!! - i remember listening to the fixx on the radio and always enjoying their music...i was never rabid about them but i never changed the channel either...they were just one of those bands that got played so much that it made it pointless to go out and buy the record...anyway, the performance friday night was well-executed and very calculated, as it did not stray from the original recorded blueprint...many people seemed quite familiar with their music, singing along with the lyrics as the band played...overall it was a good performance by the fixx...you can check out their web site @ <http://www.thefixx.com/>...

my karaoke performance @ the ideal bar and grill after the fixx concert left much to be desired...i started out singing hot for teacher by van halen and totally butchered it...i have never sang that song so bad in my life, as i did not warm up for it...regardless, two ladies complimented me on how good i sang (?) and another lady thought i was in the fixx!?!...(some joker guy gave her a fixx promotional business card and said that i was in the band)...after that, i sang rainy day women by bob dylan (as usual) and nailed it, but the showstopper that night by far was some old guy who sang a 50 cent song and brought down the house...damn he sang good!...i asked him and he said he's got the 50 cent record!...OLD GUYS RULE! (CHECK OUT THE 'OLD GUYS RULE' WEB SITE @ <http://www.oldguysgear.com/>)...

Y&T played one of the best shows on saturday that i have seen them play in years...leonard haze is back on top once again after a questionable performance on dave's birthday last year, and meniketti continues to play and sing like a champ...my drunk idiot friend kept going on and on about how great of a singing guitar player that meniketti is, and when you really think about it; who plays guitar and sings like dave meniketti?...NOBODY - THAT'S WHO!...meniketti totally shreds on guitar and sings like a bird too!...bass player phil kennemore took the vocal helm for a hardcore metal tune and kicked major ass, and ex-eric martin guitar player john nymann is fitting in to the band more than ever...THIS BAND STILL KICKS ASS, PEOPLE!...you can check out the official Y&T web site @ <http://meniketti.com/>...

> 1 aug 2005 - DAVID LEE ROTH @ THE CATALYST CLUB IN SANTA CRUZ!!! - while i unfortunately could not make it down to the boardwalk to catch the familystoneexperience @ the beach friday night, i did in fact make it on down to the catalyst in santa cruz saturday night to see david lee roth, and what a show it was!...dave remains the foul mouthed, jack daniels drinkin' (or was it really tea?), slightly behind the beat singin', lovable comic genius that he always was, and his band was badass!...i basically jumped around and smiled and laughed the whole time...that guy is a real cut-up and all the girls were eating it up...he saw a chick in the crowd stick out her tongue and say something like, "don't stick out that tongue if you ain't plannin' on using it, honey"...

the lead guitar player had a biting guitar tone and was basically eddie van halen plus a little more, and even looked like him from a distance, and the cool rhythm/dual lead strummer was a fine player as well from japan...the rhythm section bashed and finessed their way through the entire set and did the old van heflin material justice, but dave really looked most comfortable singing the old standards 'just a gigolo' and 'california girls'...

(i went up to the front of the stage and threw dave a new lik roper cd, but i'm not sure if he got it)...

also, i saw the guys in the up and coming santa cruz based band 'antidote' and gave them a best of noise cd as well...i haven't even heard them play a note, but these guys have the rock n roll attitude and the look, and i see big things in their future if they play their cards right and continue being the promotional monsters that they are...(you can catch antidote play at the catalyst august 13th with the bands ambivalence and nothing left)...

> 25 jul 2005 - VISIT BEAUTIFUL SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA! (eddie fuckin' money!) - i went to santa cruz and saw eddie money on the beach friday night, and the crowd was enormous!...eddie gave us all what we wanted while i played catch with a football behind the stage with my friends, and i even played catch for a minute right after the show with some lady who turned out to be the mother of two arizona state football players! (#72 & #86)...my friends and i then went over and did some karaoke at the bar by the wharf and it was an off the hook party with so many hot chicks that i was experiencing extreme option anxiety (but! i found a couple of good leads to follow through on next week, though)...my friend and i got real drunk, then he went into the bathroom and almost puked right before his friend gave him a ride back home...

i sang so good that about three people came up and told me about it, including some gang member who told me while urinating about how he saw lynyrd skynyrd last year and it was the best show he had ever seen; they were 'living legends' he said (he liked my version of 'gimme 3 steps' - i was in a stall and he was at a urinal, yelling this to me across the bathroom)...i also did 'rainy day women' by bob dylan and sang it like bon scott...i tell you; i took over that fuckin' bar!...at one point i pulled an ozzy osbourne and yelled 'i love you - i want to fuck you' to the whole crowd (the pope should try that one)...the crowd went wild and a good time was had by all...me and some other guy in elton john glasses had inflatable rubber guitars and put on a double guitar attack whenever a karaoke song with guitars came on...i was playing the inflatable guitar pretty much all night, sometimes stroking the guitar's neck like it was a big penis right in front of wide-eyed, astonished ladies!...right before i left, i went out to water's edge and danced a little with the tides while i gazed at the full moon over the ocean...

anyway, i rode my bike over to the catalyst club and hung around for a few minutes on extended chick patrol, then ate the taco bell that i purchased a few minutes before (a burrito supreme and a crunchy taco)...i went back to my hotel room and slept for two hours, woke up and drove home at 5 in the morning through the beautiful santa cruz mountains, then unpacked my bags and blissfully slept the day away...

> 27 jul 2005 - THIS JUST IN: you can help to stop the city of santa cruz's evil crackdown on partying! email the city of santa cruz @ citycouncil@ci.santa-cruz.ca.us and tell them - "YOU GOTTA FIGHT FOR YOUR RIGHT TO PARTY! - I WANNA ROCK AND ROLL ALL NIGHT AND PARTY EVERY DAY! etc...

> 24 may 2005 - GREGG ROLIE @ THE AVALON NIGHTCLUB - i went out with some friends to the avalon club last saturday night and saw gregg rolie, and it was the best show i've seen all year...mister rollie sang and played songs stretching from back in his legendary santana days, some old journey songs from the steve perry era, and even some of his new material as well...the guitar player looked like jesus and was absolutely

phenomenal - along with the rest of the band, and while i prefer 'old journey', the lead singer copied steve perry's high voice perfectly -

(at one point, he ran out into the audience and tried to pick up on my friends' date, but she declined)...gregg rolie played with santana at the woodstock festival back in 1969, and this makes him a legend of sorts, so i feel lucky to have seen him at the avalon club...my friends and i drank lots of beer and wine, so our designated driver then took us to the oasis club for some after hours karaoke...my friends left, so i opted to stay at the oasis until they kicked me out, then walked home down the el camino real with my friend tina and her best friend lana...hi tina!...

note: during the 1990s, the santa clara valley music scene all but shut down...at one time it catered largely to original and national musical acts, but this gave way to smaller venues and cover bands playing other people's music...

gone were the good old days of the keystone palo alto and the bodega in campbell (which hosted everyone from y&t to ronnie montrose to linda rondstadt to etc etc etc)...

sure we have always had the bigger venues like the shark tank and shoreline amphitheatre, but the mid-range clubs were all but gone...years went by and a twist of fate changed the backbeat club in santa clara into the avalon nightclub under a new owner...

the avalon nightclub's hard-working booking agent julie wanted to start a new direction for the club and began booking national acts after the beginning of the year 2004...

the next thing you knew, thanks to the avalon nightclub the santa clara valley's live original music scene started coming back to life once again!...

starting with the initial avalon shows, i went to concert after concert from about december 2004 until the end of summer 2005, and had a great time...

but at the end of the summer right after hurricane katrina hit, i started feeling all partied out and a bit run down so i temporarily curtailed the partying...i'm down to a beer or two per week right now, but plan on boosting that level up a bit for the holidays and once again in the springtime...

for now i'm taking it easy...for me; drinking in the spring and summer is celebration; but drinking in the winter time is for drunks, and even if you get drunk once a week it can start to get to you after a while, you know?...

adding to this; it was getting expensive going to concert after concert, and after hurricane katrina hit i felt sort of guilty carrying on as i was...it was time to stop for a minute...

and honestly; i don't get paid to review concerts, and it was getting to be a bit of a typographical chore...the last show i saw was joe lynne turner at the avalon last month with the real rockers, and those guys rocked!...

OTHER CONCERTS I HAVE RECENTLY SEEN - RATED ON A SCALE OF LEVELS 1-10:

- 1) BONE BASH 6 @ SHORELINE AMPHITHEATRE / 2 JUL 2005 - (LEVEL 7)
 - 2) ERIC MARTIN @ THE AVALON NIGHTCLUB / 11 JUN 2005 - (LEVEL 5)
 - 3) BRYAN ADAMS & DEF LEPPARD @ SAN JOSE MUNICIPAL STADIUM / 3 JUN 2005 - (LEVEL 10)
 - 4) MONTROSE @ THE AVALON NIGHTCLUB / 14 MAY 2005 - (LEVEL 11)
 - 5) LONG GONE BON w/INVICTA & DRAGWATER @ THE AVALON NIGHTCLUB / 16 APR 2005 - (LEVEL 10)
 - 6) Y&T @ THE AVALON NIGHTCLUB / 15 APR 2005 - (LEVEL 11)
 - 7) NIGHT RANGER @ THE AVALON NIGHTCLUB / 8 APR 2005 - (LEVEL 9)
 - 8) FRANKIE HANNON @ THE AVALON NIGHTCLUB / ? MARCH 2005 - (LEVEL 9)
 - 9) EDDIE MONEY @ THE AVALON NIGHTCLUB / 3 MAR 2005 - (LEVEL 11)
 - 10) AC/DSHE & MR. MEANOR @ THE LITTLE FOX THEATRE / 21 JAN 2005 - (LEVEL 10)
 - 11) Y&T @ THE LITTLE FOX THEATRE / DAVE'S BIRTHDAY / DECEMBER 2004 - (LEVEL 2)
-



BLAH BLAH BLAH - ETC ETC ETC...
