

Ska wins, alt-rock loses at 'Snow Ball'

By **PATRICK MINER**
Music Critic

Concert Review

The first annual "Edge Snow Ball" Friday at Omaha's Mancuso Hall represented the turn music is taking, with two ska/punk bands reigning supreme and two alternative quartets getting no love from the crowd.

Of the five bands on the bill, Reel Big Fish and Buck-O-Nine were good, and Bloodhound Gang was bad; and as for Creed and Blue Moon Ghetto, things were just plain ugly.

After playing the Reader/Surge Games, as well as the Ranch Bowl twice, Reel Big Fish returned to Omaha for the fourth time this year, and the Orange County band didn't disappoint.

Reel Big Fish closed the show, opening with "Everything Sucks,"

the first single from the band's Mojo Records debut, "Turn the Radio Off." Next, the crew got everybody "doing the fish" with "Trendy," and the guitar solo from "All I Want Is More" left the crowd satisfied.

Other highlights included many songs not on "Turn the Radio Off." The band played tracks such as "Why Do All Girls Think They're Fat" and "I'm Cool," from the EP "Keep Your Receipt"; and "In The Pit," and "Take On Me," from the 7" "Teen Beef."

Reel Big Fish put the finishing touches on the show with its latest single, "She Has A Girlfriend Now," and got the crowd bouncing in the middle of "Nothin'." It then closed in usual fashion with "Sell Out."

“

Reel Big Fish and Buck-O-Nine good ... for Creed and Blue Moon Ghetto, things were just plain ugly.”

Buck-O-Nine, the other ska/punk band to appear, proved to be just as exciting. However, instead of playing right before Reel Big Fish, Buck-O-Nine, followed Blue Moon Ghetto, and were forced to play a short set.

The San Diego-based septet was the only band not to finish with a breaking single, as it concluded its set with the title track from its 1995 Taang! Records album, "Barfly." However, the eight other songs of the nine-song set were from the band's most recent record, "Twenty Eight Teeth."

The setlist included "Round Kid," "Jennifer's Cold" — one of the band's funniest tracks — and its latest single, "My Town," which featured a great solo by trombonist Dan Albert.

Bloodhound Gang, the third of the five bands, followed Buck-O-Nine and played the worst set of the night, spanning just five songs. The band's performance was overshadowed by continual problems setting up the equipment.

The turntables were turned up too loud for "Why's Everybody

Always Picking On Me," and they were not working at all during "Kiss Me Where It Smells Funny." It was comical, though, as Bloodhound Gang relied on leadman Jimmy Pop killing time and the band's musical ability to get through the set. Neither of these factors were in Bloodhound Gang's favor.

Jimmy Pop proved about as funny as television boob Bob Saget, and the band played more covers than a bad college band. Ripping off Presidents of the United States of America, Prince, Blur, Busta Rhymes and Coolio, just to name a few, didn't allow the set to run any more smoothly. Finishing with "Fire Water Burn," Pop named the late Michael Hutchence (of INXS) as the Antichrist, and Bloodhound Gang exited the stage.

The greatest travesty of the night, though, was the fact that Creed was obviously out of place in filling Buck-O-Nine's deserved position as the fourth band.

Despite boos for having a style five years too late, Creed burrowed through its set, with only a few rows

of fans getting into the music. The band offered tracks from its debut, "My Own Prison," including "Only in America," "Illusion" and the title track to close the set.

Featuring an obscene amount of guitar distortion, Creed left few impressed. While Mancuso Hall presented poor acoustics for every band, it hurt Creed the most because it was hard for the audience to make out a single chord.

Omaha band Blue Moon Ghetto opened the show and played cuts mainly from its latest release, "The Messengers Have Gone," including the closer, "Geronimo." The band played an inspired set, as it rarely gets to play at venues the size of Mancuso. However, the set mostly was delivered in front of a crowd just starting to trickle in.

Compared with "Edgefest '97," "Edge Snow Ball" was a success because the show had better bands. With luck, the winter wonder won't take the same dive as its autumn predecessor by starting off strong and getting worse and worse bands every year.

December 1st - 15th

4 [¢]

COPIES

8.5x11, 20# white, one-sided
Offer expires 12/15/97.

Grade A Notes at Nebraska Bookstore
1300 Q Street, Lower Level • 477-7400

Lecture Notes • Copy & Bindery • Course Packets
Resume Services • Fax Services

Empty out your backback and fill up your wallet.

Nebraska Bookstore pays cash for books.
Today 9:00am-8:00pm.

No matter where you bought your books, we'll buy them back.

There Really Is A Difference.

NEBRASKA BOOKSTORE
BEST SELECTION OF USED TEXTBOOKS

Holiday Hours
Monday-Friday 9:00am-8:00pm
Saturday 9:00am-6:00pm
Sunday 12:00pm-5:00pm

1300 Q Street, One Block South of Love Library
476-0111 E-mail: textbook@binary.net
www.nebraskabookstore.com

LIFE IN HELL

©1997 BY MATT GROENING

Panel 1: "HERE'S AN EXPERIMENT I WANT YOU TO TRY." / Panel 2: "JUST FOR TODAY, LET PEOPLE GIVE TO YOU." / Panel 3: "LET PEOPLE DO NICE THINGS FOR YOU." / Panel 4: "LET PEOPLE COMPLIMENT YOU." / Panel 5: "LET PEOPLE HELP YOU." / Panel 6: "AND TAKE IT ALL IN." / Panel 7: "FEEL IT. ACCEPT IT." / Panel 8: "ABSORB THE GOOD FEELINGS." / Panel 9: "KNOW IN YOUR HEART THAT YOU ARE WORTHY." / Panel 10: "DON'T RUN AWAY. DON'T SAY, 'AW, YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE.'" / Panel 11: "DON'T FEEL AFRAID, ANXIOUS, ASHAMED, OR FREAKED OUT." / Panel 12: "DON'T TRY TO EVEN THE SCORE BY GIVING SOMETHING BACK." / Panel 13: "JUST SAY 'THANK YOU.'" / Panel 14: "THANK YOU." / Panel 15: "JEEZ YOU'RE UNGRATEFUL."

Check us out

<http://www.unl.edu/>