

The Squba Gear Experience

C o n c e r t R e v i e w

by Sean Prager

I am writing this review after returning from the best concert experience of my life. I have just seen Squba Gear at the Paradise Rock Club and they were incredible. The band, which is a cross-genre mix of Phish and Sonic Youth, is as much a mix of these influences on stage and off. The band opened with "Canned Ham and an Orange Soda," a great albeit commercial track off their debut EP. This seemed to have excited the crowd, but the next song really started the show. The band came out with "Dog Song," a great upbeat tune with an awesome jam that segued into



"Idaho" and the rarely played "5-Volt Battery." "Battery" was amazing, Q. G. wailed out the song's only lyrics "Hey, battery/5 volts/Aaaah!"

With lyrics out of the way the band really began to jam with the guitarist and bass player engaging in a game of musical follow-the-leader. The band next played "Bouncing Round the Moon," an awesome song that pays homage to both the Police and Phish. It was at this point of the show that the band mellowed out, playing one ballad and one acoustic tune. The ballad was a nice slow down, as was their unplugged version of



"Iron Man." Following "Iron Man," the show hit its peak when the band performed "Spitting at a Building," a great tune full of grunge guitar licks and bluegrass banjo. The last in a show full of numerous highlights was the feedback jam accompanied by Q. G. playing a very neat tuba solo while crowd surfing. In the end, Squba Gear played over three hours of the best music I have ever heard. The band will next be in the area in April and I urge everyone to see the best live band since Phish. •

The ROC-U Review



Nerf Herder "Nerf Herder"

Dave Bernstein

Never has there been a band that has so thoroughly piqued my interest and then dashed my expectations. The name of the band was unceremoniously lifted from a scene in "The Empire Strikes Back." (For you poser Star Wars fans, it's the scene where Luke is recovering from his injuries on

Hoth and is visited by Han, Leia, and Chewbacca. Han makes a pass at Leia and she calls him a "scruffy-looking nerf herder.") The font used for the band name reinforces the Star Wars motif.

Unfortunately, this band does not do justice to its namesake. The music is Bantha fodder. This poor excuse for a musical group (and I use the term "musical" loosely) should be ashamed of their album and/or noise pollution.

The worst thing about this band is their arrogance in stealing from the most sacred cinematic event ever. The Star Wars Trilogy is not just a movie, it is a religious symbol for many in our generation. By using a reference to it in vain, Nerf Herder has insulted intelligent 18-34 year-olds across the country. •

Zack Ordynans

"Empire" sucked, Dave. Get over it. •

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SATIRE

Offensiveness Questionnaire by Sam Begner

1. (T/F) Language depicting sex is more obscene than language depicting war.
 2. (T/F) Language describing parts of the body such as breasts or penises is more offensive to me than language describing arms or teeth. (i.e. white, pale, wet, slimy)
 3. (T/F) Language describing female breasts is more offensive to me than language describing male breasts.
 4. (T/F) I prefer (generally) images depicting war to sexual images and to some extent would like to see explicit nudity in picture form banned, except when depicting malnutrition or genocide.
 5. (T/F) I like my sex mingled with a bit of violence.
 6. (T/F) [two parts]:
 - (a) I do not consider concepts behind language, and therefore my opposition to "fuck" is based solely upon the order in which the letters are arranged.
 - (b) It is okay to print "***CK" because of such.
 7. (T/F) I am particularly offended by the "F," and were it replaced with a "D" I would be more accepting of the "uck."
 8. (T/F) Conceptually, I feel that birds inhabiting aquatic environments are more acceptable in symbolic recreation than sexual acts, or even mild erotica.
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Wombat Rupskin