CH3 and Kraut: a study in contrast

Channel Three and Kraut at the Channel, Sun., Jan. 15.

Punk music has never been especially easy to categorize, particularly since so many different types of bands currently sport the "hardcore" moniker. There is not much similarity between, say, the Dead Kennedys and the Exploited except that both are all but locked out of the mainstream of popular music. Both are considered to be hardcore bands, yet their messages and modes of attack are quite different.

So it is with the two bands which appeared at the matinee show at the Channel this past Sunday, Channel Three and Kraut. CH3 hails from Los Angeles, Kraut from New York; the bands are as different as the cities they hae come from. Kraut played first, and typified the "East Coast" hardcore style — extremely fast, tight, visceral music played with an overwhelming sense of urgency.

Kraut has released one record to date, 1982's An Adjustment to Society. The band's performance necessarily-drew heavily from this album, but many newer songs were also played — it is always good to see a group expanding its repertoire and not relying on the same tired material year after year. A new album is reportedly in the works, but no mention of it was made to Sunday's crowd.

Ferocious is the one word which best describes Kraut. Their screaming would should have electrified the audience, but for some reason, the band's performance necessarily-drew heavily from this album, but many newer songs were also played — it is always good to see a group expanding its repertoire and not relying on the same tired material year after year. A new album is reportedly in the works, but no mention of it was made to Sunday's crowd.

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