

Show On The Road" and—possibly their best song—"Waste A Little Time On Me."

The band, instrumentally tight and vocally well-balanced, delivered each song with a freshness and enthusiasm rarely seen on the stage today. Surprisingly, the old warhorse "It's All Over Now" was rearranged to sound original, a definite compliment to the band's skills.

In short, the Michael Stanley band should soon become the most famous thing out of Cleveland outside of Mayor Perk's flaming hairdo.

Jay Valancy

### **TELEVISION, ROCKET FROM THE TOMBS**

**The Piccadilly Inn**

**July 24**

Before the show, Rocket From The Tombs member Crocus Behemoth told me that the small crowd that showed up to hear Television was going to be disappointed. He was right. I would be that 90 per cent of the folks there were expecting to witness something really extraordinary, both physically and musically. What they witnessed was an average (maybe below average) New York bar band, in what seemed to be a practice session.

I knew they were going to be normal-looking, having read a bunch of hype on them. But their appearance was the only facet of their performance that lived up to what I read. Maybe in New York they have different criteria, but here in Cleveland, any bar band you happen upon will put on

a more musical and professional show than Television.

The band's lean sound reminded me of that of early Beatles or Rolling Stones, and front man Tom Verlaine's vocals can best be described by imagining a tenor Lou Reed. Verlaine doesn't sing; he mumbles. Maybe it was because of this that I didn't appreciate the band more; I wasn't able to hear any of Verlaine's lyrics, where—perhaps—the strength of the band lies.

At any rate, little apparent talent was shown by any of Television's four members. Once in a while an interesting guitar lick would spring forth from the mire—courtesy of Verlaine—but not often enough to make any favorable impression.

The only thing I can recall with any pleasure—save those little guitar outbursts—was their opening number, a very quick rendition of "Psychotic Reaction." The band got mean almost as soon as the song started, creating a good bit of excitement. But it was downhill from there on.

Although less musically together, Rocket From The Tombs was more interesting. They may not have pulled it off very convincingly, but their attempts at a more progressive music were deserving of recognition. A hell of a lot of practice and tightening up of material and Rocket could cause some stirring. But they're ready for New York right now, if bands like Television are the norm there.

— Mark Kmetzko