

Don't believe the hype. . .

# 1989: The year of the Orange Crush

by Andrew M. Duke

New Order have succumbed to a heavy bassline, Balaeric Beat, and sheep on the "Fine Time" single from their latest LP (PolyGram). *The Best of The Art of Noise*, featuring their remake of Prince's "Kiss" with Tom Jones on vocals, along with the new albums from Siouxsie and the Banshees and the Cocteau Twins are also available on PolyGram this month. *Peepshow*, the Banshees' LP, is a concept project of sorts with each track representing a situation in which some sort of invasion of privacy, observation, or onlooking is occurring. The Twins' offering, *Blue Bell Knoll*, is a warm bath of sound — soothing, understated guitar paired with vocals that can be aching, ethereal or bright to suit the occasion. Both are solid, recom-



R.E.M. does the classic 'Poets-in-the-mist' pose

mended releases. If you like R.E.M. you probably already have a copy of their *Green* LP (it's actually orange) and know how good it is. With the move to WEA nothing has been sacrificed, and though Stipe's vocals can now be heard,

they still manage to elude interpretation. "Pop Song 89" and others will make this the year R.E.M. goes major-league as *Green* has strength and longevity written all over it. Ministry's move to WEA brings the *Land of Rape and Honey* LP, one full of surprises. Half is almost hardcore with hard-driving rhythms and guitar, while the rest shows a heavier-than-usual side of the band.

Paul Barker of Ministry found time to record the "Idior" 12" for Wax Trax Records under the

name *Lead Into Gold*. Very aggressive, but still ready for progressive dancefloors. I'll be playing it. Hopefully more is forthcoming from Barker. The Young Gods release their "L'Amourir" (a combination of *amour* and *mourir*) "Pas Mal" single as Pailhead unveils a 4-track EP entitled *Trait*. This and the long-awaited KMFDM LP (a must-listen) are logging a lot of time on my turn-table. These and other Wax Trax releases are available at better record stores in the area.

## MY NAVEL PALM

My navel cord was enshrined among your roots.  
You are the landmark of my citizenship,  
The most loved palm tree.  
I watch your growth with the same thrill I watch the dusty road when Mama should be nearing home from the market.  
I trim your palms to keep you slim.  
You are my shadow.

When you ripe, I climb the steps of your rains and sever the cluster of your fruit,  
as carefully as my navel cord was cut.  
At home, I marvel at your redness,  
Then roast your round seedlings.  
Eyes closed, I bite into your succulence,  
Uniting shadow and body.

— Ugochukwu Egbuziem

## EKWEJI<sup>1</sup>

The message from the gong and the "ekwe"<sup>2</sup> has reached the household.  
It is still dark outside.  
Mother dear gently woke her older children, the younger ones still sleep.  
The older children run and chant to the village stream.  
Ezeji, Nwokeji and Osuji select the best of their yam harvests.  
Their wives clean the big black pots that keep life going.  
Water, meat, fish, shrimps, spices, palm oil and the yams are fed into the pots in a sequence only mothers know.

Visitors come from far and near.  
Masquerades, dancers, musicians, poets, wrestlers and the spectators crowd into the village square.  
The ancestors are solemnly remembered in libations and implored to take part in the Ekweji and to protect their offsprings, the village, its visitors and well-wishers.

It has started; dancing and singing to the drums, ekwe, gongs and bangles.  
Coins exchange hands, most pressed on the foreheads.  
The women and maidens dance around circles, while the men break the ground with their feet.

Never, never stop till sweat soaks the earth.  
Then it's time to eat, time to exchange stories, time to say farewell, till the night owl says it's time to stop.

— Ugochukwu Egbuziem

1. Ekweji is a festival held annually in the Igbo speaking areas of Nigeria to herald a new yam eating season. This usually occurs in September of each year.  
2. Ekwe is a wooden musical instrument, it varies in size from about two feet to about ten feet.

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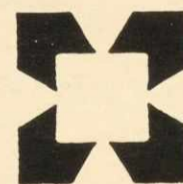
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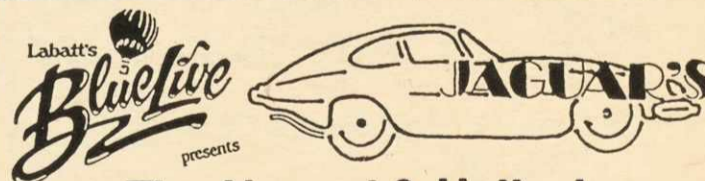


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