

Entertainment

DOA Get No Respect



Marc Landry photo

By Bruce Denis

If you dropped an iron curtain between the stage and the mosh pit at the Farmer's Market last Friday, you would be going back ten years in time. DOA provided a set that hearkened back to the 'High Punk' period of during which they gained their fame.

They may have opened their set with Logjam from their just released album *Loggerheads*, but the set was more of an anthology of their earlier work. Another new tune, *Overpowering Urges*, broke the long list of DOA classics into two. Headman Joe Keighly, donning his trademark cut off DOA T, rekindled the spirit of a long forgotten era. The band provided a refreshing break from the stereotypical 'G-ge' bands that have dominated North America for the last 2 years. DOA might have initiated a new era of 'ungrunge' music (something that is definitely a necessity at this time). Ironic is the possibility that a band of 16 years would initiate anything but nostalgia. But DOA did.

Unfortunately, all this was unbeknownst to most of the 400 people on hand. The toque clad, bonchheads in the mosh pit came for one reason and it wasn't for DOA. It was merely a rare opportunity to mosh and unfortunately their lack of experience in this department made for one of the shittiest pits I've been in. Unlike the Grunge movement, Punk was about music and only music. It wasn't about stage diving and moshing. It was a lifestyle that centered around mu-

sic rather than music centered around a lifestyle.

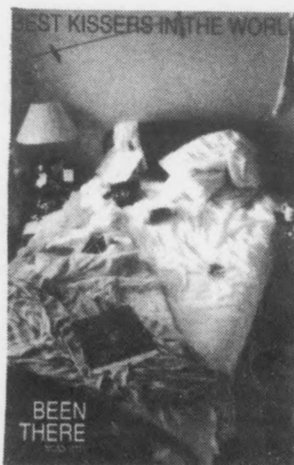
I think that not an ounce of respect was shown for DOA, a band that created much of the independent scene in the early eighties, not only in Vancouver but all over Canada. Most of the people who paid their \$10 couldn't give a fuck who they were going to see. However, this obviously did not bother Keighly and his mates who ripped through their set as if they'd seen it all before; and they had.

Also spoiling the fun were the overly anxious security guards who were having trouble containing the pit. At one point, Keighly had to tell a guard who was throwing people off the stage to sit down because he was blocking some people's view. I think before every concert, the band should brief the guards about how the crowd should be contained. All too often I've seen overly aggressive guards get mouthed off by band members. That sucks.

DOA ended their set with the anthemic *Disco Sucks* which was their first official release back in 1977. It didn't take long before they were cajoled to return for an encore. The band powered through their hockey rock anthem *Over-time* and finished off with their cover of BTO's *Takin' Care of Business*.

The concert was something I felt privileged to see. I'm just sorry this feeling was not shared by the rest of the crowd. A good time was had by all but at what expense?

More Wreckered Revues



bestkissersin the world
been there
(MCA)

Judging from the positive press this band has received for its self-titled EP on Sub Pop and Puddin', a five song EP on MCA I figured I'd better jump on the opportunity to hear and review their full length album debut *Been There*. I hate labels and considering this band is from Seattle, I am pleased that Grunge enters only the periphery of adjectives that might be used to describe this band.

Using fairly unconventional song structures and pop oriented vox, the *Best Kissers* remind me of the *Wonder Stuff* but they manage to throw in melodic but heavy guitar riffs à la *Social Distortion*. This seems to be the trend initiated by so-called Grunge music but the *Kissers* transcend any cheap musical compromise as so many bands have to board the Northwestern train to fame and fortune.

Bleeder is the most catchy tune on an album that lacks any definite hooks. Despite this, it certainly has 'single' potential. *Miss Teen USA* also has 'single' potential and sounds a lot like *Thrush Hermit*. *Waltzing* is a ballad in the most intimate, Eric's *Trip* style. No 24 tracks here.

The rest of the songs have a certain continuity about them without sacrificing variety, something rarely done with any degree of success. Songs like "She Won't Get Under Me Till I Get Over You" and "Letter from You" feature smart and witty lyrics filled with puns and riddles, something to keep the listener interested after repeated listenings.

This debut effort reflects the potential this band has despite it's hometown. I can only hope that with the dawn of 'ungrunge' this band won't be overlooked as a grunge left over.

-Bruce Denis

Helloween
Chameleon
(Capital/EMI)

Helloween, as their name suggests, are one big drively joke and continues to plague us with their lack of originality.

Their latest horror, *Chameleon* is no difference except they exchanged their Judas Priest regurgitation for spewing Firehouse inspired groupie glam rock lyrics.

This album is Helloween's final hapless attempt at commercial success but

like all their other outings they rip off trends two years previous. What Helloween should have copied the alternative or country scenes since the market is flooded with it. What's a drop to an ocean of plaid and cowboy hats. I might also be novel and suggest herra kiske and Weikath make their own style of music, but of course they have to steal some integrity.

The only positive aspects of *Chameleon* were the pumpkin designs lettering the inner sleeve and knowing it would end. Hopefully this will be Helloween's successful attempt at career suicide and they will leave reviewers alone. Exit Helloween to the cheese capital of the world.

So, if you are into smarmy sellouts packed with mothballs check the stockbins or landfills for *Chameleon*.

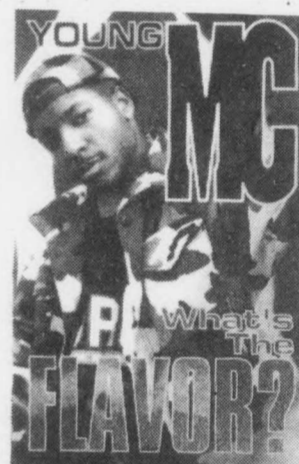
-mammon

send cassettes for review, *stupid*.

Anyway, to refer to the Red album as their old stuff is kind of redundant as it was all ready old stuff back when I was defecating in cloth diapers (yes, I am that old, as my hair line will attest).

While I admit to a flirtation with the Beatles back in high school where I collected many of their albums on vinyl this was not one of the albums I had any intention of picking up. If you are looking for a Beatles album, may I suggest *The White Album* or *Sergeant Pepper's* as they blow this one out of the water.

This album itself is a "best of" and as you all know any "best of" never is. I miss the hiss, pop and crackle of my vinyl versions of these songs, after all it is nostalgia.



Young MC
What's the Flavor?
(Capital/EMI)

He's back and rappin' his heart out. It's Young MC's - *What's the Flavor?* Actually this album is not half bad. Some of his songs leave lasting rhymes in your head, and a few might even be worthy for radio play.

The only downfall of the release is that many of his songs sound similar; a strong beat, with rhyming lyrics. Although his lyrics are average, and in some cases cheesy, "I'm not the Black Crowes, but I'm still hard to handle", many of his songs are groinally motivated. But what music today isn't?

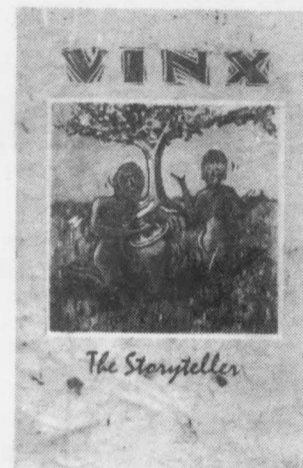
In many of his songs he comes across arrogant, thinking he is the center of every girl's desire. "A man on the street is a pedestrian, A man on a horse is an equestrian, a man on the stage is a thespian, and any woman who don't want me is a lesbian." It's a nice line, but maybe just a little controversy in MC's future.

All in all an average album, one that you would borrow from a friend and copy, instead of buying it yourself.

-Greg Tucker

The Beatles
1962-1966
(Capital/EMI)

Cassettes!!! Cassettes!!!
Hello... McFly... when you digitally remaster in order to release on CD don't



Vinx
The Storyteller
(Pangaea/Capitol)

Using instruments like the udu, djembe, shekere, surdo, timba, berimbau, and the tambourine tree, Vinx is definitely not your typical group.

Their sound is African based, with soulful solo's, and a strong drum beat. Vinx is the type of group that might tour with the likes of the Lady Smith Black Mambazo choir. They do fit into the African music style, but a special appearance by Stevie Wonder does bring the African sound into the Motown district.

The lyrics are that of peacefulness to mankind, and many nature references. This group is really expressing their views of the state of the world, and their hope to change it.

Looking for a relaxing, return to your roots, search your soul album, check out Vinx.

-Greg Tucker

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