

**Devo
Shout
WEA**

*Trumpets and violins I can hear in the distance;
I think they're calling our name.
Maybe now you can't hear them,
But you will,
If you just take hold of my hand.
But first, are you experienced?
Not necessarily stoned, but beautiful.*

Jimi Hendrix, 1968

review by David Jordan

Devo set the rock world on its ear five or six years ago when they emerged from the punk revolution as the first technically sophisticated new music to surface from the

onslaught of garage bands.

Perhaps the biggest hit off their debut album *Are We Not Men?* was their cover version of that Stones classic, "(I Can't Get No) Satisfaction." These nifty kids proved that nothing is sacred; with their robotic vocals, synthesized rhythms, and reverse-playback drum track, Devo gave an entirely new meaning to the word "satisfaction."

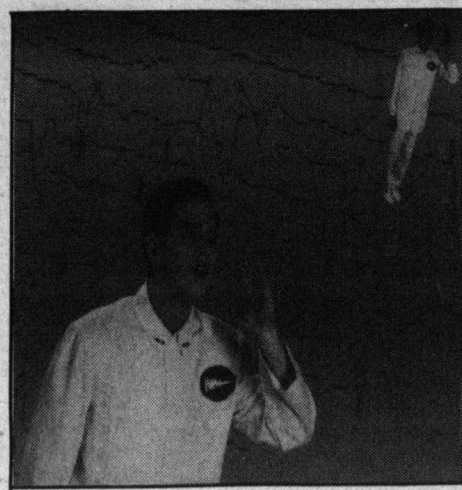
Devo toured extensively in '79, and their appearance on *Saturday Night Live* proved to be the zenith of what seemed destined to be a very short career.

Perhaps sensing a last-chance opportunity to ditch the "one shot band" stigma, now, five years later, Devo have done it again. Today we can look back and say that perhaps it was time someone shot the Stones off their

pedestal, that if Devo hadn't done it, someone else would have. But Hendrix? These brash upstarts dare laugh at the patron saint of electric rock?

That's exactly what Devo do with the final track of their new album. Devo, who pride themselves on being the *avant-garde* of techno-rock, can only just manage to duplicate some of Hendrix's innovative electric sounds. Though they respect the original music, with a subtle twist in the lyrics, Devo sums up fifteen years of social change in a couple of words: "Beautiful mutants off in the distance," singer Mothersbaugh invokes, "I think they're calling our name."

And what are the prerequisites for entry to the new futuristic world? One need be "not necessarily beautiful, but mutated."



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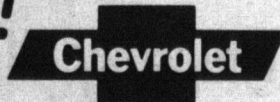
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