

# ENTERTAINMENT

"Avoiding one dimensional throwaways"

## Modern dance music with a brain

By Tom Wilson

Tic Toc's Tevan (no, its not misspelled) Kaplan is coming in loud and clear over the long distance connection.

"Hi, Kevin" I say.

"Ah, that's Tevan."

"Damn, I knew that, too." I say, and go on to explain my inability to remember names ever since my parents forgot my name for a whole week when I was a kid.

In spite of the unprofessional beginning, Tevan seems in very high spirits. He tells me that he is calling from a friend's house in Calgary, where Tic Toc is appearing at Lucifer's. The friend is a musician in the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra. "Some musicians just take the wrong path in life" sighs Tevan, meaning, of course, his poor, misguided friend.

We move on to more serious matters: Tic Toc's music. Well, to some people their music is serious. It has been called serious dance music - "dance music with a brain" as they themselves describe it. I, to be quite frank, was not too sure of the brain behind the light pop music of their first album, *Where the Pic Nic Was*.

The album is quite good for a first effort. I count three very good pop tunes on *Pic Nic*: "Twenty Questions", "Anything Everything," and "Open to Suggestions." But as far as the brain goes I wondered if they weren't being pretentious. It is true that the lyrics deal with more than the ever popular "man vs. woman" theme and even when it does deal with this it is done well, not stereotypically.

I wondered about the poetry by Thomas Hardy that inspired the album photography and title. Is this what he means by "a brain?"

"I'm no great reader of Thomas Hardy but that poem ("Where the Pic Nic Was") gave me an instant picture at the time. It had a very strong feeling of lost innocence or something...." Kaplan goes on to explain that the music is only as smart as they are. Kaplan writes 99 per cent of the songs so he is the mind behind the lyrics.

Listening to him speak, he seems quite articulate but in a casual way; he isn't trying to impress anyone. I begin to see that what they mean by "a brain" is, simply, not being stupid. The lyrics are important to them; as Kaplan says, "We're proud of our lyrics, they're not one-dimensional throwaways."

I asked Tevan where he gets his inspiration from and how that inspiration manifests itself in their music.

"I get my inspiration from all over the place, I guess the ideas I use are mostly allusions to literature or even movies or old pop tunes, anything I feel strongly about or that gives me an image."

"We feel that our music is unique. We have a distinct creative spark. We feel that we're anything but run of the mill, despite the way we're constantly pigeon holed. The



music is important to us. We don't throw in gimmicks just for the sake of sounding different."

As I was reading the biographical material on Tic Toc before the interview, I noticed that the band was compared to every one from Duran Duran to the Spoons. Tevan sighs and says:

"It's hard to deal with comparisons because the first thing you do is get pissed-off. I guess it's because if you're a new band, people want to categorize you." And how do you deal with it?

"It's just a matter of doing what you want. The comparisons will disappear when we aren't so new."

The process of becoming an "older" band will begin in June when Tic Toc goes back into the studio to record their second

album. Tevan, bassist Serge Porretta, keyboardist Ray Borg, and guitarist John DeFino already have "plenty" of new material for the album, according to Tevan.

"We're not sure of a producer yet and there's a possibility of guest musicians." Tic Toc are not new to the "guest appearances." Tevan and Ray did some studio work with Rough Trades' "Shaking the Foundations" single. They have also toured with Rough Trade.

So much for the past, what about the future?

"Well, we have this short western tour. We haven't been touring very much during the winter. Also, I just found out yesterday that we have record deals with European distributors. We're very excited about that.

The records are on their way over there right now. They're on their way to England, Germany, France, Sweden, Italy and Australia."

Tevan points out, that, depending on how well the records do in Europe and the U.S.A. (where it was just released last week) the new record may have to be delayed here in Canada. "We have to even out all the times. It's a strange thing to hold back an album, but...it's all in the timing," he jokes.

1983 was a good year for this cerebral musical group and judging from the interest in the U.S. and Europe, 1984 should surpass last year's success.

## War heros needed

You too can become a John Wayne, Burt Lancaster, Audie Murphy or Martin Sheen.

Director Stanley Kubrick — whose films include, "2001: A Space Odyssey", "A Clockwork Orange", "Dr. Strangelove" and "The Shining" — is conducting a nation-wide talent search for new faces to play the parts of young marines in his new film "Full Metal Jacket", based on the novel "The Short-Timers" by Gustav Hasford who served as a Marine in Vietnam from 1967 to 1968. Filming will begin in the Autumn of 1984.

The story follows 18-year-old Marine recruit, Private Joker, from his carnage — machismo initiation rites at the Marine Corp Parris Island Training Camp, where his drill instructor brags about the marksmanship of Ex-Marines Lee Harvey Oswald and Charles Whitman, to his climactic involvement in the heavy fighting in Vietnam during the 1968 TET Offensive.

Anyone interested in doing an audition video tape for a part in his film should follow the instructions below:

1. Use a ½ inch VHS or Sony Betamax home video recorder and camera set-up.

2. If the VHS recorder runs at two speeds use the faster of the two speeds.

3. Wear a T-shirt and pants.

4. Start the video recording with about a 3 minute acting scene. Do any scene you think appropriate and with which you feel comfortable.

5. Next, do about a minute or so telling something about yourself and your interests.

6. Next, hold up a piece of paper on which you have clearly printed your name, address, phone number, age, and date of birth. While you are doing this say the same information out loud.

7. Last of all, do a close-up and a full length shot of yourself on the video, from a front view and a left and right profile.

8. Stick a label onto the cassette with your name, address, telephone number and age clearly printed on it. Unfortunately, we cannot return any of the video tapes.

9. Air mail the cassette in a padded bag to Stanley Kubrick, Warner Bros., 135 Wardour Street, London, W1V 4AP England.

"Full Metal Jacket" will be written, directed and produced by Stanley Kubrick for release world-wide by Warner Bros.

### SUELECTION



**Nominations Have Been Reopened for These Two Positions Only**

**Students' Union  
VP External Affairs  
University Athletic Board (UAB)  
VP Women's Athletics**

Nominations close Thursday, March 1 at 1700 hrs.  
**Election day Friday March 16**

For further information, please contact the S.U. Returning Office (Room 271 SUB) or the Receptionist, SU Executive Office (Room 259 SUB).