

Entertainment



Mother Talk

Listening to the earth with native artist Ned Bear

Mark Bray photo

by Jethelo E. Cabilete

When one goes to an art exhibition, one is exposed to a variety of experiences and feelings. Sometimes an exhibit is mediocre or dull, others are just so-so, most are quite good, and the rare few catches the viewer by the soul and teaches us to look beyond the perimeters of our lives. Ned's show is one of the latter types of exhibitions. On Sunday, October 31, Kikawi Matow; Our Mother Cries... formally opened. UNB Art Centre Director, Marie Maltais gave a small introduction and conveyance of thanks to the crowd of people present, before passing it on to Maggie Paul, who displayed a passion and conviction in her rendition of a traditional Native Eagle Chant. She explained that whenever a gathering of the People occurred, or a wrongness was to be corrected, they would send their heart-felt messages in a chant to the eagle. The eagle is the highest flying bird in Native tradition, and as such, is closest to the Creator. Thus, this magnificent bird acts as a messenger between the Native people and the Creator.

After the moving and soul-felt chant, George Fry, a long time friend of Ned's, gave an introductory speech on the artist and the Native way of life that is captured in many Native works. Mr. Fry commented that this opening was "a celebration of the achievements of a friend", due in part, to the risks that artists take whenever an exhibition begins. Mr. Fry stated that the presence of a unifying spirit is felt in Kikawi Matow: Our

Mother Cries... through powerful symbols, and that we as mere mortals, can comprehend the sacred through the use of such symbols. Mr. Fry then proceeded to give Ned a gift from a mutual friend; an eagle feather, one of the most highest honours one can bestow to a Native Canadian.

When you enter the West Gallery, the entire room is low lit and the viewer is first introduced to the mutilation and rapine that is being done to our Mother Earth. When I asked Ned what inspired him to create Kikawi Matow: Our Mother Cries..., and what

person's sweat and the mist from the coals. The low lighting is like the Mother's womb, dark...comforting and frightening at the same time. The entrance masks represent Nature deformed, the Spirits of the natural order that have mutated because of the destruction of the land. They're the consequences of our actions, symbolic of the Spirits but sickened and corrupted. The masks in the symbolic sweat lodge represent four of seven Spirits: Mamihk (Downstream) for the East, Nimitaw (No End) for the South, Natimihk (Upstream) for the West and Natakham (To the Water

Places) for the North. They also symbolize the cycles of life, from birth (Natimihk) to old age (Natakham). You enter the sweat lodge from the left side and move clockwise to the right. The white statuette in the center represents the mist that comes from the coals in the sweat lodge, and it also symbolizes

Mother Earth burdened by Ignorance, who is blind. Emotions play a part in everything...in our society, we're not supposed to show them. The exhibition brings out a lot of emotions, even the flute music is a longing, a cry to be listened from our Mother. The trees and grass are there to create the right atmosphere. I hope they can see we have to start thinking about what we are doing...to our Mother before it's too late.

Kikawi Matow: Our Mother Cries... continues on until November 29, I suggest people drop by the Art Centre to experience what this writer has. Until next time, good luck on midterms and have fun. Ciao!

"the mother is important to all of us, since we are created from the earth along with everything else."

-Ned Bear

the exhibition represents, he replied, "It's more frustration than inspiration...it just started as an idea; we come face to face with pollution and destruction everyday." "We are committing global suicide by continuing the way we do...we rely on nature for everything; even technology relies on it (for example fossil fuels)." "The Mother is important to all of us, since we are created from the earth along with everything else." "The curtained area and center work are representations of the Native sweat lodge, which is symbolic of the Mother's womb and rebirth. The rituals of the sweat lodge purifies and ties you with the Mother...through the mingling of the

Wreckered Revues



Junkhouse
Strays
(Epic/Sony)

I was first introduced to this Hamilton outfit when they opened for Crash Vegas on a swing through the Maritimes last spring, when they were on the verge of signing the deal for this record and heading into the studio to record it. They made a lasting impression and I've eagerly anticipated this release, hoping for the best interpretation of a powerful and charismatic live act.

This album is full of great bluesy flavored music that would make great driving tunes. The rhythms are compelling and infectious, the lyrics evocative and intelligent, and lead singer Tom Wilson's voice is richly textured and versatile.

The tracks range from the highly addictive "Out of my Head" with its distorted vocals and heavy pulsing rhythm section (effective cymbals and bass): the foreboding and southern influenced "Jesus sings the Blues," to the quiet and intense "The Waiting" which is a close kin to the best of Dan Lanois' work.

My major problem with the album is that in places Malcolm Burn's (Crash Vegas) production is heavy-handed, strips down the rawness of Junkhouse's live act and trades off much of their raunchy guitars for electronically manufactured percussion. Perhaps fellow Hamiltonian Dan Lanois would have been a better choice to produce this important debut album, because Burn buries Junkhouse's roughness in production glitter and misses the chance to turn out a gem.

-Lilith

ConcreteBlonde
Mexican Moon
(MCA)

Concrete Blonde's fifth album, Mexican Moon, is a very enjoyable musical mosaic. Johnette Napolitano pushes her trademark wail to its outer limits while belting out tunes like, "Heal it up" (which is reminiscent of The Cult's style) and then she opts for the other end of the vocal spectrum in the lazy, melancholy, "Rain". Certainly the album's eclectic mix is superbly suited to showcase Napolitano's impressive vocal range.

My favorite jag is actually the first on side one, "Jenny I Read." No doubt destined to be one of the

band's singles, the song is catchy and Napolitano is at her best as she sneers out the words with considerable force and venom.

The album's artwork, depicting numerous skeletons and one rather medieval-looking devil, foreshadows the dark nature of some of their songs, however this group is definitely not some pseudo satanic heavy metal band and they would be well advised to avoid the type of artwork that goes hand in hand with the genre.

My biggest gripe about Mexican Moon, is that its packaging does not include written lyrics. Personally I would much rather be able to sing along to my favorite jags instead of being relegated to humming along and staring at the goofy skeletons. All things considered this album is very good.

-Luke Peterson



Dog Eat Dog
Warrant

(Roadrunner/Attic)

I really hope the pitbull on the cover of this 6 song EP did some serious damage to the Dog Eat Dog clansmen. They deserve it.

New Jersey is a funny place. Bon Jovi and Bruce Springsteen are well known Garden State natives. Despite this fact, some really great bands have risen from the depths of the Jersey beltway: Ween, The Raging Lamos, ...but ugly, Black Vomit, The Pulaski Skyway Kids, Short Term Memory and, of course, The Rollins Band.

Dog Eat Dog are also from New Jersey, but judging from their debut effort, they'll be hanging out with Jon and Bruce and it won't be because they're rich and famous, rather because they suck. The album features five metal/hip hop tunes that sound a lot like Perry Farrell doing a really bad imitation of Henry Rollins while Pee Wee Herman sets down the most basic metal riffs with his K-Mart-bought 6 string.

The EP also features a remix of the supposedly hit single *In The Dog House*. If this band is looking for any kind of respect in the music business, making remixes is not the way to do it.

I don't recommend this CD and if they do come out with a full length album, wait for the review before you buy it.

-Bruce Denis