

Andrew Cash makes Island Records debut

Two videos complement Toronto musician's *Time and Place*

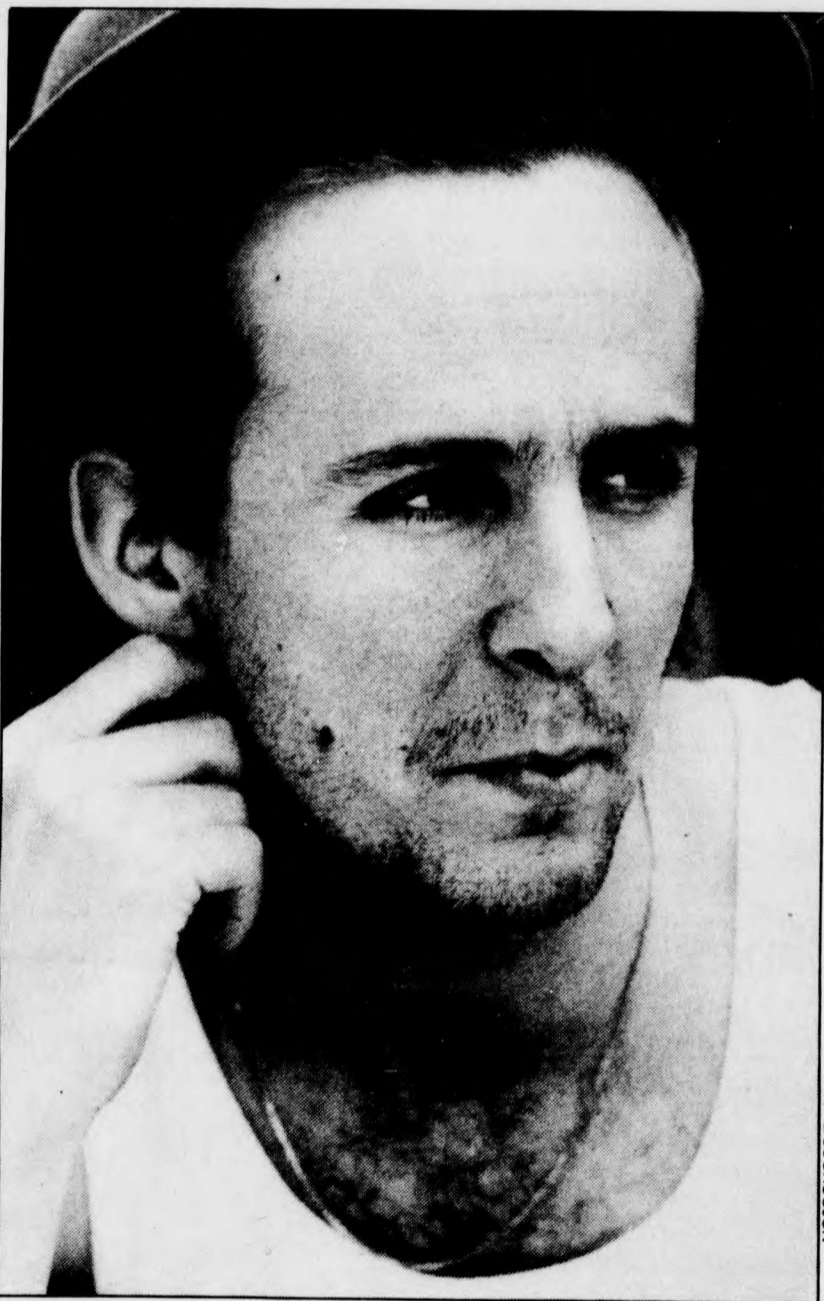
By DEBORAH DUNDAS

"I'm ready for something, you know. I don't really know what, but I guess I feel ready to take the music a little further than just Toronto."

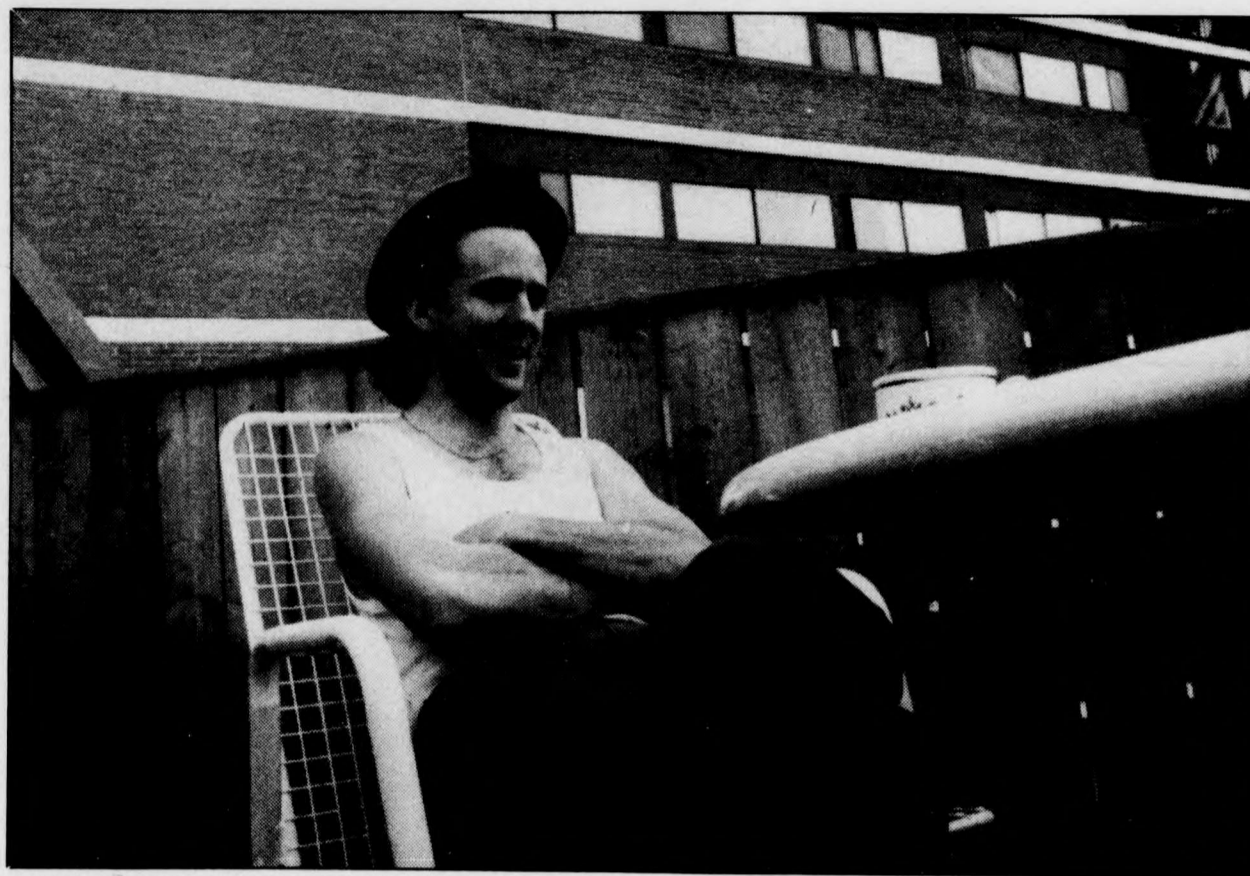
Armed with a slick, new album called *Time and Place*, and an historic contract with Island Records, singer/songwriter Andrew Cash has been taking his music further than Toronto — the album's been

released throughout Canada, Europe, and the United States. Critics have loved it.

The signing with Island Records comes as a welcome break for the guy remembered as the front man in the now-defunct l'Etranger. He's paid his dues and is happy to be with Island, a company that he says reacts "not necessarily from a business point of view, but from a music fan's point of view."



ANDRE SOURJOUON



ANDRE SOURJOUON

FINDING HIS TIME AND PLACE: Toronto singer/songwriter Andrew Cash, formerly of l'Etranger, makes his full-length album debut on Island Records.

Cash has also released videos from the album: "Time and Place" and "Smile Me Down," which he's fairly pleased with. But if Cash had his way, "I'd make it illegal for people to do them (videos)... Most videos look like beer commercials and most beer commercials look like videos, and it's hard to know which came first... If all videos are something to sell music by, then we're at a point where rock and roll has become a totally useless cultural expression."

This aversion to commercialism goes back a long way. Cash first got into music as a way to "resist the culture that sort of persuades people to be selfish and to be overly concerned with profit and all that sort of stuff. I saw it as a valid way to resist, and a valid expression against this sort of stuff."

His music resists a society concerned with profit, and it does so in an accessible yet paradoxical way. The music is danceable but the lyrics are at times depressing, full of allusions to loneliness and helplessness ("Today I face the stains/ My tears and coffee made/ Alone here last

night"), and scorn for big business ("There are people beating bits of root into bits of food/ Their land now watered with coca-cola (sic)"). Yet they're not without hope, as the last line in "Do Not Adjust Your Set" illustrates: "It may be dark here but there are/ Little lights on everywhere."

feel that these paradoxes are a conscious thing, but a "human thing."

As for musical influences, Cash listened to the albums his brothers brought home: *After the Goldrush* by Neil Young, *Bob Dylan's Greatest Hits*, early Eagles, and some "Motown stuff." If you're lucky, you might catch him doing a cover of "Can't Get Next to You," "Lonely Avenue," "Cripple Creek," or a folk song called "Alberta" which he got from an old album by bluegrass legend Doc Watson.

As he did with l'Etranger, Cash makes danceable, strikingly energetic music, and is still serious about getting his message across — although he is less bombastic in his approach. "I just didn't feel like I wanted to be (preachy)," Cash said. "I suppose also that I just felt I wanted to rock out... maybe in a quieter way."

"With a major record contract, his first full-length album, and lots of critical acclaim, Andrew Cash may have finally found his time and place.

"I just felt I wanted to rock out... maybe in a quieter way."

Then you have Cash himself, who, when on stage, switches from a child filled with wonder to one who's afraid of what he sees. He doesn't

ANDREW CASH's critically acclaimed new album, *Time and Place*, has now been released in Canada, Europe and the United States.

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