

FILM & MUSIC

THE BEAUTIFUL SOUTH

by Martin E. Warren

I began by skimming through the lyric sheet to this, the second release by The Beautiful South. Something about the first song ("Tonight I Fancy Myself") struck me almost immediately as being odd:

"Would you still love me if I lost my legs?
I'd see that you were loved and you were fed
I end up in a car crash almost dead
For richer and for partly severed head".

Eloquent, right? The horns on this particular track would have fit in perfectly on some Sesame Street episode. As are all of the songs on this release, this one is sung with what is the most saccharine vocal possible.

The Beautiful South (Paul Heaton, David Stead, David Rothery, Dave Hemingway, Sean Welch, and Briana Corrigan) have complimented their basic lineup with several studio musicians for this album. Most of it still ends up a lost cause despite their "assistance."

Trying to pick standout cuts out from the overall carnage here is something like looking for a healthy orange in someone's three-year old garbage. The lyric-less "Rising of Grafton Street" and guitar-driven "I've Come for my Award" provide thin veils through which it becomes more difficult to see the menacing executioner. "Lips", an atmospheric piece which clocks in at just under two minutes, is also relatively easy to take.

Myself, I could not take this music seriously. Fearing that I was being too hard on this act, I had an almost complete stranger attempt to sample this, and to give me another angle on its strong points. After a brief listen, this person was subject to some of the most violent heaves of laughter that I have ever witnessed. The consensus was that this band sounded like a "Jazzed-up Wierd Al (Yankovik)", and so if you enjoy laughing AT bands rather than WITH them, then this may be just your thing. On this point, I will let The Beautiful South have the final word(s) themselves on their music:

"I should've kept my eyes shut
My mouth should've closed -
But the mixture of vomit and blood
Just crept up through my nose".

S T U F F

FILM NOTES

by Chris Campbell

Hooray! Spring break is finally here. Many people will be flying off to Greece or Rome or the Riviera to enjoy the time off from classes. Most of us, however, will probably be stuck relatively close to campus and we might even have to do some reading to catch up on papers and all of those other pesky academic things that seem to cut into available leisure time.

If you are in the city and somewhat bored and have already seen *The Silence of the Lambs*, why not come back to campus for some fun by seeing *I've Heard the Mermaids Singing*, which is being shown Friday and Saturday nights at 8:00 p.m. in Tilley 102. The UNB Film Society is screening it thanks to the assistance of the College Hill Social Club. *I've Heard the Mermaids Singing* is the feature filmmaking debut of Canadian Patricia Rozema and the film created a bit of a stir at Cannes when it was shown there a few years ago. It follows the adventures of Polly Vandersma, a "person Friday" who views the world as a wonderful place as she works in temporary positions. This is one of the best films of the past few years and it would be a great way to start off the break.

On Sunday the Capital Film Society has taken over the Sunday Cinema program and moved it to the theatre of the Centre Communautaire Sainte-Anne. Coming up this week is the amazing Quebecois film *Cruising Bar* that features the stories of four men cruising to meet women in bars on a typical Saturday night. All four of the men are played by the versatile Michel Cote in this film that was directed by Robert

Menard. It has been the most successful film ever produced in Quebec and was in theatrical release for over a year. *Cruising Bar* is being shown at 2:00 p.m. at the Centre Communautaire Sainte-Anne, so don't miss it.

Monday night's presentation in the Capital Film Society's series is *The Unbelievable Truth*, a political thriller being shown at 8:00 p.m. in the theatre of the Centre Communautaire Sainte-Anne. Lots of cinematic action at the start of the break, check it out before you fly south.

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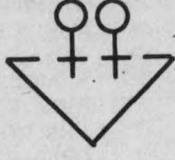
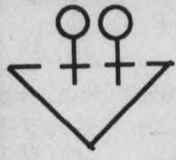
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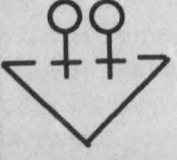
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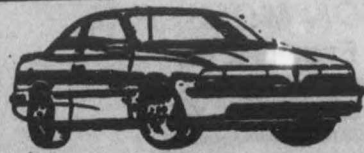
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The final date for the
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