

Visage and New Romanticism

by Gisele Marie Baxter

The most endearing thing about Visage's lead singer, Steve Strange (formerly Harrington), is that he comes across in his interviews as a straight-forward, likeable lad whose mum is really fond of him, despite his wearing outlandish costumes and makeup for all his waking hours. Steve was always quite affected by trends, so it makes sense that Visage is

such a trendy band, which guarantees it notoriety, if not permanence.

Welcome to the world of New Romantic dance clubs, where people dress like pirates or Robin Hood or Lord Byron and dance to electronic disco music. Non of this has the real roman-

ticism of The Jam or Orchestral Manoeuvres in the Dark, who see the world's sadness but still explore the possibilities for

greatness in people. Nevertheless, the fad has its own vision, although limited; and seems somewhat less hedonistic than the last wave of disco.

Visage's new self-titled EP consists of two new songs -- "We Move" and "Frequency 7" -- and three songs from the **Visage**

LP, all in dance mixes. The overall effect is one of post-**Young Americans** David Bowie meeting post-**Manifesto** Roxy

Music, and the introduction to "We move" is reminiscent of Bowie's "Fame." As this is all dance music, the beat can be monotonous, but the percussion and effects are sufficiently upfront in the mix to snag you and keep your attention, though sometimes grating on your nerves. Besides, some good musicians have contributed to **Visage**: members of Ultravox and Magazine, as well as Chris Payne (of the now-defunct Gary

Numan band), who co-wrote "Fade to Grey." If not a crucial departure, Visage must prove an enjoyable hiatus for these people from their regular musical ventures.

The songs from the first Visage LP, which was a credible debut, are the best of the set. "Tar" has a tight, catchy saxophone line and quick, stabbing keyboard runs, while "Blocks" best showcases Strange's vocals and lyrics:

THE FEDERAL LIBERAL GOVERNMENT WANTS TO TRIPLE YOUR TUITION

THE PC PARTY UNDERSTANDS STUDENTS CAN'T AFFORD SUCH AN INCREASE

Last fall, Finance Minister Allan MacEachen announced a \$1.5 billion cut in federal transfer payments to the provinces under the Established Programs Financing (E.P.F.) plan.

The targets of the announced cut were to be hospitals, health care and post secondary education.

National Health and Welfare Minister, Monique Bégin, reacted by declaring that no cuts would come in areas under her supervision.

As a result post secondary education will bear the brunt of any cutback scheme.

It is estimated that the University of Toronto could lose as much as \$100 million from its annual operating budget under the Liberal plan. The University of Manitoba could lose \$40 million, Dalhousie \$20 million.

What will these cuts mean?

- * *Smaller universities and community colleges may be forced to close.*
- * *The quality of post secondary education could be seriously threatened.*
- * *University and college sponsored research and development could all but disappear.*
- * *Sky-rocketing tuition fees would make a mockery of the right to education for lower and middle income Canadians.*

At a time when Canada is an importer of skilled labour and high technology, the government is ignoring our own national potential.

At a time when the Canadian economy is in desperate need of new economic leadership the Liberals seem too determined to make it increasingly difficult for young people to get a decent education and good skills training.

**THERE IS ONLY ONE CONCLUSION.
THE LIBERAL PARTY JUST DOESN'T CARE
ABOUT YOUR FUTURE.**

WE DO

