

Raving Dave's Reviews

Band: Cyberaktif
LP: Temper
Label: Wax Trax Records Inc.

I sit in my audition room. I grab an amplifier knob. Up, up, up it goes! Here comes Cyberaktif! First on this three song LP is Temper. Since Cyberaktif happens to be a Skinny Puppy/ Front Line Assembly cross-over band, it's

not surprising that the beat is much akin to lots of other grind-gnasho power dance stuff FLA has done. Great production on this one (produced by Key and Schroeder, engineered by key of puppy...). Nifty! Right down to Mr Vocal Distortion. . . Meltdown is next: a distinctive puppy sound (with samples!) and FLA's "traditiona" style

blend with precision... Ohhh! Eerie synths... One for the Walkman... Die hard Puppy fans need Dream Needly. Fact: Killer song. Fact: Sever distortion in just the right places. Fact: Death-synths and careening base gait. Fact: Buy one! Buy one! Buy one! Conclusion: Best damn song I heard all summer long. INSTANTBLISSON VINYL!

Band: Front Line Assembly
LP: Iceolate
Label: Wax Trax Records

Iceolate, off Front Line Assembly's new LP, is a hard hitting twitch-inducing dance track, complete with FO's B-movie sound effects (cheap lasers? Yahh...) and a full army of total modern thrash-boxes all shaking that little needle... Explosive percussion! Mega-tempo with true industrial sounds: kill them all! Twist that girder! Drop that bomb!! Death!! Phew

... Get it. (Oh yeah, the exit is "different" ...).

The other song (also industrial) is Mental Distortion, a very, very, very, very puppy influenced song (Cyberaktif's doing?). The voice treatment is not too common with FLA, BUT I LIKE IT!! This one's for 1:00 AM Saturday morning: Wake up! Can't help but thrash to this... Later...

Dave

Tired of screaming guitars and their ilk? (Sorry Dave) Maybe its time to consider an alternative...

by Paul Campbell

Welcome back! I hope you had a great summer, and that you had a chance to hear some really good music during the hot months, or even better if you have the skills, to make some on your own or with friends. It's amazing isn't it, how much better and convincing music is when it is live. While recordings are a

boon to all of us, it seems that they just whet the appetite for 'real' music. My next column will deal with the rather lively concert season we have here, but I want today to talk about the opportunities to make music yourself.

Perhaps you thought that since UNB has no music department it would be necessary to give up or severely curtail your music making

while you are here. Well, that is far from the truth: there are many venues for you musical talent, and I am sure that you will find one that is to your liking. For instance, the campus choral society, which labours under the respectable and impressive title of "The Bicentennial Choir" welcomes all who sing, or want to sing. Rehearsals are Monday evenings from 7 to 9, Room 26 Memorial Hall, under the direction of Steve Peacock. Steve is a charming and cool guy, and the choir, although made up of untrained voices, some of whom have never sung in a chorus before, is a credit to the University. Repertoire is varied, stretching from Madrigals to modern Broadway tunes, and the performance schedule is enticing. Fall Convocation, the Red and Black review, recording for Campus Radio, a Christmas concert, and more! By the way, the Choir will be looking for a pianist, so if you can tinkle the ivories reasonable well, and want to put a few dollars in your pocket, or if you think you would like to warm up your pipes in the company of fellow yodelers, call Steve

at 459-8166, or just show up at Mem. Hall Monday night.

If you play an orchestral instrument there are at least two possibilities to exercise your digits: The Fredericton Chamber Orchestra is an amateur group made up largely of players from the campus, which meets each Thursday night at D'Avray Hall at 7:15. You don't need to be a virtuoso to join, in fact if you can play reasonably in tune you will be welcomed with open arms. David Adams swings the baton most of the time, with others, including yours truly, filling in where needed. Come and try it out if you didn't leave your contrabassoon in the closet back home - and if you did, drop in on a rehearsal and see if you like it. The other orchestral outlet available is not specific to the campus, but draws its players from all over the province, and even NS and PEI. The New Brunswick Youth Orchestra has four weekend meetings during the school year, and the next one will be here in Fredericton on the weekend of Sept. 29. The Orchestra, some 60 strong when last counted, plays music from Bach to contemporary

(classical, of course), and its members are a pretty serious and enthusiastic bunch. Since 17 flutes cannot be accommodated in a symphonic orchestra, and audition is necessary to join, but that can easily be arranged by phoning the conductor, me, at 450-3191. I'll be delighted to tell you about the Orchestra, what sort of works we play, and what it is like to be a part of it.

Ed Mulallay of the English Dept. is spearheading an exciting student production of the "Three Penny Opera". If you don't know if you should - it's the ultimate in decadent romanticism. Singers (for this Opera you don't need a good voice, just big), actors, stage hands, etc. are needed. Also, the orchestra appears on stage and is made up of an odd assortment of instruments like a trumpet, a trombone, a banjo, etc. If you are interested, there's an information session Monday, Sept 17 at 7. Drop upstairs first though, to tell Steve that you will be in to sing as soon as the meeting is over.

The Thomists is a large and locally famous dance band whose members are paid for exciting the populace into frantic foot-tapping maneuvers. If you would like to play with them, phone Harry Rigby at St. Thomas. He can give you the low down.

And finally, if you have an interest in playing, but none of the above seems to be your cup of tea, give me a buzz at 450-3191, because I intend to press my trusty computer into service to keep a register of people who want to make music on campus, and thereby to help you get together with that Graduate Student in Biology who has a synthesizer, and is just the guy you need to complete that combo you have been dreaming of. Come to think of it, give me a call even if you do decide to audition of the Thomists, because a complete register with your name in it, even if you don't play very well, works to everyone's advantage.

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Application forms are available at:
the Office of the Dean of Students
(Room 8, Alumni Building) and
the Department of Extension and Summer Session
Application deadline: September 28, 1990

For more information, contact:

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Dean of Students
453-4527

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