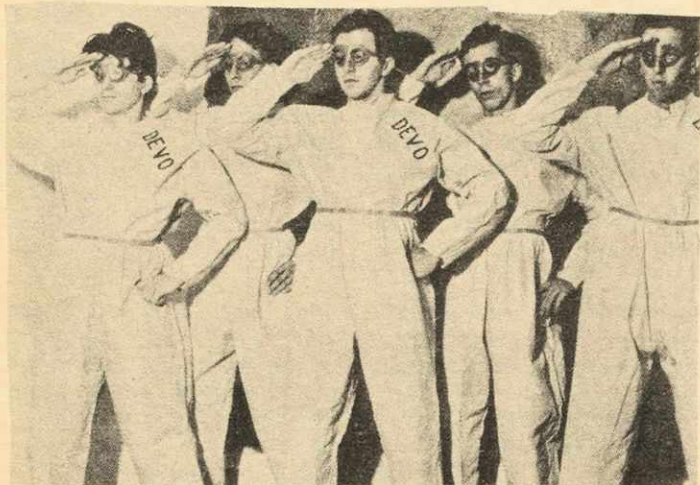


Record Review

The sound of things falling apart



by Greig Dymond

The face on the cover looks out directly at you, and at first glance it's perfectly normal—a portrait of the quint-essential American dream; a broadly-smiling, clean-cut golfer. But looking closely, you notice that there's something wrong with the picture—his head is bald, and shaped like an alien from outer space, and he's wearing a generous

amount of lipstick. Now you're not sure if the golfer is wearing the broad smile or a wicked smirk.

This album cover typifies the philosophy of the band Devo, whose primary concern is revealing the perverted American dream of the 70's. They are "the sound of things falling apart", as their advertising states.

Certainly, this is a band in

tune with this decade. The need for a current, vital rock band was indeed one of the reasons the group formed. Group leader Jerry Casale has said that "People have just been rehashing the Beatles and Stones for 12 years." While bland sixties clones like the Bee Gees, Frampton and Fleetwood Mac are dominating the radio airwaves, Devo is completely original and fresh. It's only a matter of time before this breath of fresh air gains mass popularity, instead of the cult following they have now.

Their name is derived from the scientific theory of "de-evolution", which states that modern man evolved from cannibalistic apes, and as a result, is now in a state of regression. The band's material concentrates on the regression aspect, as evidenced in their anthem **Jocko Homo** (included on **Are We Not Men?**):

They tell us that
We lost our tails

Evolving up
from little snails.
I say it's all
Just wind in sails.
Are we not men?
We are DEVO!!

The band's music can be categorized under the broad title of "New Wave", but Casale denies any connection with punk rock. "Punk is musically boring and philosophically dumb," he says. The album is heavy on synthesized instrumentation, complex harmonies, and computer-like lead vocals. "It's spud rock," says Casale, meaning that the members of the group want no more individuality than a potato. Some highlights of the LP are a satiric version of the Rolling Stones' **Satisfaction** (where Devo turns the song into an unrecognizable, surreal experiment in electronic music), **Sloppy (I Saw My Baby Gettin')**, and a song called **Too Much Paranoias**.

Certainly, this group should be taken with a pinch of salt.

Meditation in motion

The Kripalu Yoga Mandel of Halifax is offering a total weekend of relaxation beginning tomorrow evening and lasting until Sunday, Nov. 19th. The Yoga workshop will be an experiential one, with guest teachers from the Kripalu Yoga Ashram and Retreat giving learn-as-you-do lessons rather than lecturing.

Techniques for relaxation, breathing for energy and body strengthening will be explored in conjunction with meditation.

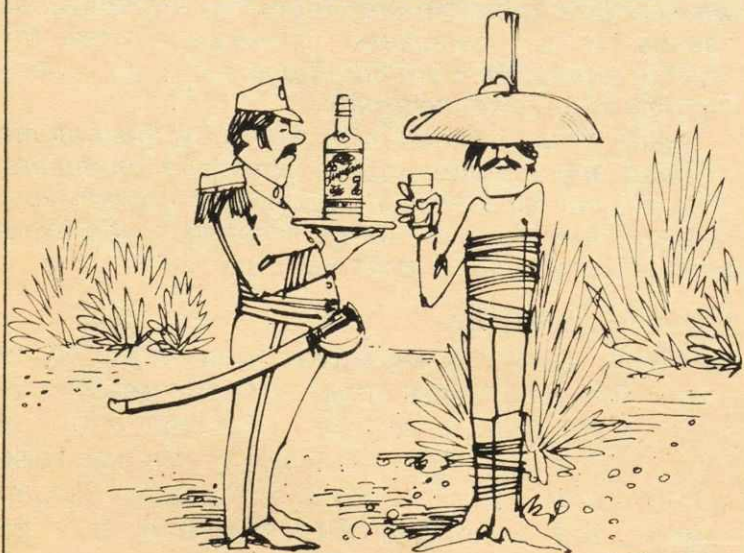
Kripalu Yoga is a unique combination of meditation and Hatha Yoga movement, a sort of 'meditation in motion'. Sally Thompson, a member of the Halifax Mandel hosting

the workshop, feels that all the techniques can be incorporated into daily routines. "Both beginners and advanced students will be able to calm their mind and relax whenever they need to with the help of these soothing techniques," she said.

Registration for the courses is available by calling Ms. Thompson at 429-1750. Fees are: \$3.50 for Friday night (7-9), \$15 for either Sat. or Sunday (9-4) or \$30 for the

weekend. A lunch, a blanket and loose comfortable clothing are musts. The workshop will be held at Old ART College Building, 6152 Coburg Road.

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NO APPOINTMENTS

Jacques is back

String quartet

by Steve Trussoni

Two Romantic String Quartets embraced twentieth-century English compositions when the Brunswick String Quartet joined with pianist Arlene Pach and tenor Ronald Murdock in a performance at the Rebecca Cohn last week.

Arriaga's String Quartet in E-FLAT was a refreshing example of early Romanticism, using sudden harmonic changes throughout.

Vaughan William's **On Wenlock Edge** for tenor voice and piano and strings quartet was a relaxing series of songs, based on words by A.E. Housman. Though Ronald Murdock's controlled tone was drowned out in the first songs it was clearly heard in the last.

A cello and tenor duo, called **Tom O' Bedlam's Song** by Richard Rodney Bennett featured Richard Nail's sensitive depiction of a wandering sense of despair. In his accompaniment of this song about a beggar he, Murdock's care for articulation made me feel he was singing about a wealthy aristocrat.

The String Quartet in A Minor, OP 41, No. 1 by Schumann provided the audience with many influences of Bach and Mendelssohn. The evening concluded with an enjoyable and interesting performance by the Brunswick String Quartet.

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