

## ARTS

## The man they call Reveen!

BY NATASHA RYAN

WHEN A MOVIE'S really enthralling you usually don't mind watching it more than once. Some people even rent the same movie on a regular basis. Point is, this was my third time watching Reveen's "concert" and I didn't mind it a bit.

## MYSTICISM

Reveen

Better the 12th time

He's been performing for 36 years now and visiting Halifax on a fairly regular basis throughout that span. We may change but the Reveen certainly doesn't. It's exactly the same as when I first saw it approximately six years ago. (I can't recall exactly when, but I know I was lot younger). He even looks the same:

*leaves  
the skeptic  
looking  
for the  
trick*

short with high heeled boots and a very imposing, even dominating personality. His suits haven't changed much either, existing for dramatic value and not style.

The concert, as always, begins with Reveen doing something similar to a comedy monologue. I still found it boring and lacking in necessity as well as hilarity. Then he performs some amazing feat that's supposed to put us in awe of his powers. This is usually interesting but often leaves the skeptic type looking for the solution or trick he's playing.

I found myself suffering through these things, mildly amused, to give Reveen some credit, but still waiting in suppressed anticipation for the actual hypnosis part to begin. And that it did! A surge of audience members made their way up to the stage where Reveen's son Calvin, his wife and his mother awaited them. Males and females were segregated and the tests began.

After a bit of rough handling and a few embarrassing moments, only the people that had the potential to be hypnotised remained. By the end of the performance only half of this crew was left, most never returned after intermission.

Similar to the mind powers displayed by Reveen earlier in the show I'd always been a tad skeptical of the hypnotic acts. I'd still enjoyed them nonetheless but there's been a nagging fear at the back of my mind that I was being deceived somehow. Was it really possible for someone to control the minds of others so completely? I got my answer.

Instead of watching a bunch of questionable strangers up on stage I actually knew some people. I witnessed first hand the person beside me race back to his seat in the middle of intermission and the way Reveen had told him to and then complain about sleeping through the whole first part of the performance. In reality he had danced and sang, and other things that definitely involved more than sleeping. I received similar accounts from others.

The second half was superb, same old situations but new people always bring something new into them. While we in the audience watched people pretend they were at a circus, acting like animals and performers, in the relaxed state the people on stage truly believed they were at the circus. Even afterwards, when at the circus from Reveen's spell, with great powers of recall they could actually see the cute little seal or the ferocious lion in its animal state rather than the mesmerized people we saw behaving that way. Where we saw Reveen's hand they saw an ether gun. It was quite an experience all the way around.

I am now firmly convinced of Reveen's control over the willing human mind.

*he has  
lost  
his  
appreciation  
of his  
own  
talent*

One negative part to the whole thing might be Reveen's personality. After being revered for 36 years, he has become so accustomed to it he's almost lost his appreciation of his own talent. He receives no delight from watching these individuals whom he can order to do anything. They're funny, but he sees it so much he's become climatized and therefore lost his energy for the performance. Sitting in the audience we feel entertained but no rapport develops. He traditionally snaps at someone at the beginning of the show to stop them from talking and to make an example but really, there must be more diplomatic ways to handle that. It's almost like Reveen sold his soul to possess the skill of hypnosis. But who am I to judge?

We still get the entertainment we pay for and a great time as well. It will be interesting to see if this man returns to Halifax again, if so, catch the show and try not to mind the fact that you're just another ticket buyer.



## Doughboys style is much kneaded

BY PAUL SMITH

NEARING THE END of their American tour, Montreal's Doughboys stopped into Halifax last Saturday to play the third night of the Atlantic Music Festival at the Pub Flamingo.

## MUSIC

Doughboys  
Pub Flamingo

The band, preparing for some rest after almost a year of touring North America and Europe, played two sets for the evening. One was for all ages and the other for people over 19. Both sets were characterized by the Doughboys' aggressive and very loud style that distinguishes them from most bands in the alternative/hardcore scene.

Their brand of upfront, fast guitar rock intertwined with melodic vocal harmonies begs audiences to listen to them. It has earned them a faithful following across Canada and in some parts of Europe.

Even with the departure of two original members, bassist John Bondhead and drummer/songwriter Brock Pytel (both left the band due to their intense faith in that favourite rock'n'roll religion — Buddhism) the band's promise seems unaffected.

As singer John Kastner points out, "We just did a whole tour with Ned's Atomic Dustbin (in England) where every show was sold out... we played to something like 45,000 people in two weeks."

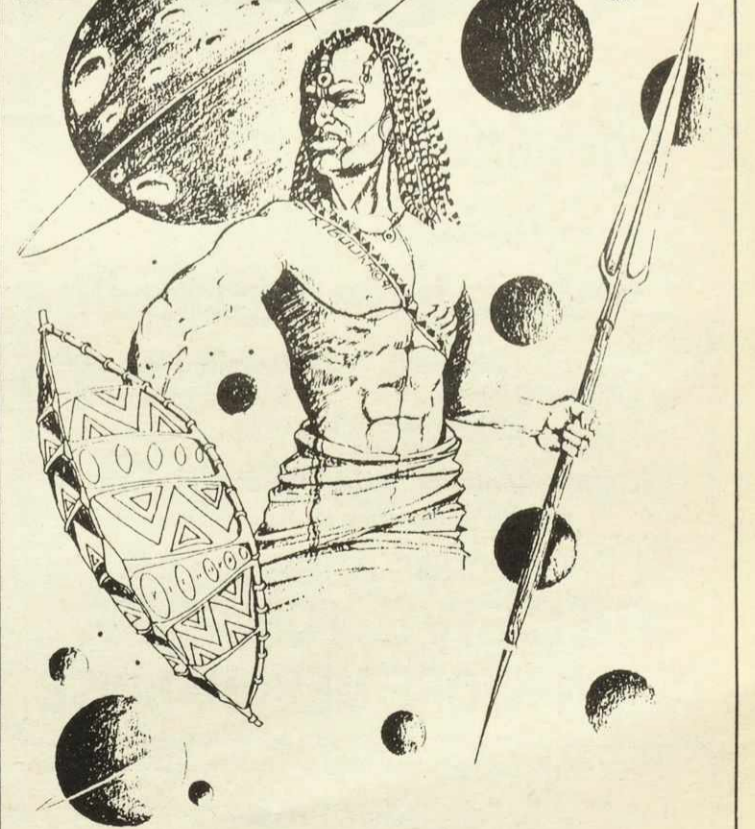
Kastner feels that Europe could hold a lot of potential for the Doughboys, as harder-edged guitar music is becoming more popular there. He also points out that when touring in Europe they made a profit — while in North America they usually just break even. The Doughboys have an even greater obstacle facing them presently: Restless Records — their record label — closed its Canadian distribution office due to financial difficulties. This makes their most recent album, *Happy Accidents*, very hard to find.

"It's a very frustrating thing," explains Kastner, "to tour all over the US and Europe and then come home to Canada to find that your latest album isn't even available."

This problem will hopefully soon be past as the band is apparently talking to a number of different record companies and could be signed (perhaps to major label) before the next major release.

A new five song EP, with two new titles and cover of a song by

Edmonton's Junior Gone Wild, is the most recent of the Doughboys' offerings. It reflects what Kastner believes has "been a pretty steady evolution" of their music. This EP, already released in Europe, should be out in Canada shortly. Doughboys music. Put it in your collection.

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