

NITZER EBB

Belief
(Geffen)

The end of 1988 in Britain gave the more lurid tabloids plenty to shout about. It marked the passing of a year in which every right-wing dick-head believed that a nation's youth was under the influence of the various manifestations of LSD and amphetamines. The reason, curiously enough, was mainly due to a new musical term that was in vogue. **ACID HOUSE** was the genre in question but originally the term arose merely as a curt description of a style, rather than any connection to narcotics. 'House' as you know was the name given to the resurrection of disco music, but the **Acid** reference was merely a descriptive usage to a more hard hitting acerbic manifestation, that quite often approached sheer monotony in its incessant beat. To color the music, inventive DJs copied the style of hip-hop by incorporating any number of songs and samples into the melee injecting a rich tapestry of information into a framework that made much of the experience incredibly stimulating as well as being extremely infective to hoof to. The result was unquestionable. The floors were packed.

Creeping in through the back door, but eventually elbowing its way right to the front, came the **Balaeric Beat**. This style, profoundly influenced by the stripped-bare-chasis of Kraftwerk and DAF was certainly the most valuable development of the year. By September, the admittedly rather insubstantial and rather silly aspects of house were superseded by a beat that almost obviated any need to actually dance. The tremendous thumping that walloped the punters about almost removed the requirement for conscious movement. The New Beat was significant too because, despite the urge to incite intestinal trauma, more often than not a message existed under the army of sledge hammers and the legions of rubberbands that had been connected to power lines. Thus, **Front 242** and **Ministry** (see review this issue) brought a feeling of musical terrorism and defection to the clubs. The feeling of threat and danger surged to produce an adrenaline-packed evening out that might otherwise be reminiscent of a drunken roll in candy-floss.

Also on hand at this point were the stalwart **Nitzer Ebb** who, with their shaved heads and electronic war cries, fit perfectly into this welcome new sensibility. The **Nitzles** have been around for some time and, despite the fact that they are from **Chelmsford in Essex**, sound so much like a natural progression from **DAF** that it's frightening.

Unfortunately, I've been listening to **Ministry's** album at the same time as deciding what to say about **Belief**, and this of course makes most other stuff pale in comparison. However, with the volume turned up to the point of sterilizing everything within fifty feet '**Belief**' does actually deliver a pretty good bag of double fistled rabbit punches to the spleen. Where the album falls down is not knowing when repetition could be used as an effective tool to lull the listener into a sense of false security just before a mind numbing twist blows you out of the window, and when it is just down right boring. Other complaints include some of the lyrics, which are invariably delivered as if the vocalist is persistently wrenching barbed thorns out of his soft parts, this is actually not a bad thing at all, but the words are definitely rather silly. Without **Belief** serves as a particularly relevant example as it sounds as if it is an endorsement for a liquid detergent in parts ("liquid clear! liquid clear!....etc.") and goes on to end with everybody yelling "we could be naked!" You figure it out dear readers.

Nevertheless, this does not mean to say that N.E. won't be getting a good airing at **Griffiths Acres** over the next few months. Mix it in at your next meat Fandango and see if you agree. Nine out of ten housewives say that '**Without Belief**' makes strange things happen under their housecoats.

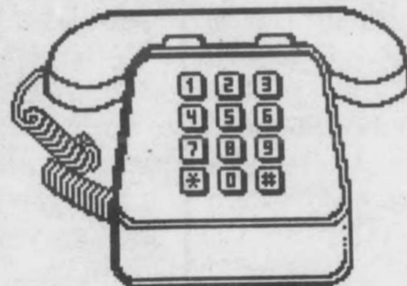
STEVE GRIFFITHS

CHSR-FM PLAYLIST
FOR WEEK ENDING Jan. 19/1989

chsr fm 97.9 STEREO

ARTIST	ALBUM	LABEL
1. DECADE OF DREAMS	The Parochial Zoo	DTK
2. STRATEJACKETS	Are You Crazy?	DTK
3. THE CHOKE	Grind Our Design	Obituary
4. JULIAN COPE	My Nation Underground	Island
5. VARIOUS ARTISTS	Nettwerk Sound Samp-	Nettwerk
6. PHYCUS	ler II	demo
7. DRESDEN 45	Oktoberphycus	Obituary
8. VARIOUS ARTISTS	Great Ontario Modern	(indie)
9. THE GRUESOMES	Rock	Og
10. FAVORITE NATION	Hey!	Autograph
11. PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS	Love Junk	Chysalis
12. MENDELSON JOE	Born to Cuddle	Anthem
13. THE FALL	I Am Kurious Oranj	Beggar's Banquet
14. SARAH MCLACHLAN	Touch	Nettwerk
15. MY DOG POPPER	668 Neighbor Of The	Patois
16. ADULT FANTASIES	8 Neo-pathetic Scenes	Antler
17. MINISTRY	The Land Of Rape And Money	Sire
18. PLASTERCENE REPLICAS	Glow	Rainring
19. LLOYD COLE & THE COMMOTIONS	Mainstream	Capitol
20. COCTEAU TWINS	Blue Bell Knoll	4AD
21. THE DRUIDS	The Next Day	demo
22. THE ALARM	Electric Folklore Live	IRS
23. LLOYD HANSON	The Great Debate	DTK
24. THE NEPHILIM	Fields Of The Nephilim	Beggar's Banquet
25. SCREAMING TRIBESMAN	Bones & Flowers	Ryco
26. BIG COUNTRY	Peace In Our Time	Vertigo
27. TEN COMMAND-MENIS	Wherever I Go (single)	Sensible
28. FLOUR	Flour	Touch & Go
29. MARY MARGARET O'HARA	Miss America	Virgin
30. IGGY POP	Live At The Channel	A&M

COMPILED BY: TIM MCKAY
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Legislative Assembly of
New Brunswick
P.O. Box 6000
Fredericton, N.B.
E3B 5H1 Telephone: 453-2506



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