



Avoiding top forty trash

Swimming in the Black Pool

by Sandy MacKay

I think the best way to review a record is to listen to it and write while it plays. This ensures you get a first-hand opinion. So, while *Cemeteries* rewinds, I'll tell you a bit about Black Pool.

(I don't actually have a turntable. One of the people in the band made a tape of the album for me. Is this an infringement of copyright? Can artists make an illegal reproduction of their own material?)

Black Pool is a group of four men: two guitarists (Phil Sedore and John-Wesley Chisholm), a bassist (Bruce Worrall) and drummer (Chip Sutherland). They are a local band trying to get noticed and trying to avoid playing top forty trash. If musicians want to make money in Halifax, they have to play top forty trash or jaded old folk trash. Bar owners don't seem to be willing to pay for originality. They know that someone who can play "American Pie", a variety of Rolling Stones tunes, Simon and Garfunkel tripe or even Steve Earle will pack the place to the gills. Everyone loves it, everyone will sing along and get drunk. That is a pity. If only a few owners would realize the potential market they could tap by being known as the bar that supports "Original Music." Original musicians from Halifax often have to go to Toronto to make money. (Remember the Hopping Penguins or Flags For Everything?)

Black Pool is publicly releasing this album at the Flamingo tonight. Let's listen to it, cut it up a little and then we'll decide what you are going to do with your Thursday evening.

The first song is "Let Me Drown." It starts out with a pretty intro, with a bit of mandolin. The chorus says, "think I'll numb my senses first.... Let me drown, before I fall / In a sea of alcohol...." The sound is kind of a mix of REM, John Hiatt and the Long Ryders. This is good. It carries along simply, the chorus comes along with a few snappy backbeats. Phil sings. Pretty good voice. A little quavery, in a good way, and not out of tune. This always amazes me, that anyone can sing in tune. Ends the same as the intro, mandolin along with chiming guitars. Satisfying song. 8/10.

Oi! Next one kicks off like the Pogues, tin whistle and yelps at a frenzied pace. This one is sung by John, the other guitar player. "A lazy drunken bastard, he stinks of alcohol...." (Is Black Pool made up of drunks? It's too soon to make that kind of judgement yet.) It's called "Swear Radio Wrong" and has a nice Celtic rock flavour,

with "oi's" and all. Local? This lazy drunken bastard has just been kicked out of the Sea Horse tavern, "to make room for some more." 9/10, 'cause I like this kind of stuff and that was well done.

Next song is "Linear Thinkers." Anyone who was ever lucky or smart enough to listen to the Guys at the Library will know this one. Apparently, some of the members of Black Pool used to be some of the Guys at the Library. "Linear Thinkers," as I have heard it, is a beautiful acoustic song, written by one of my favourite guitarists Al Wilkie. Let's see what the demons of Haligonian rock can do with it.

Starts with a good edge. Wow, a real blaster. Not heavy, but sharp, makes you grit your teeth and

want to play air guitar. (Which I did, just as my landlord came through the door to ask me to turn it down. "Yes," she said "it's lovely music, but lower please.") "You risk your life in traffic to go somewhere and sit down. / Someday you'll retire and all of this will be at home...." This is wonderful! I love this song! What an excellent interpretation of a great song. I thought it would be the old movie-based-on-a-book theme, where the book is fantastic and the movie slaughters it. Not so. The electric version of "Linear Thinkers" is tremendous! Too short. I'm going to put this typewriter on pause and listen to that again. Excuse me....

Another tin whistle tune, slow

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Eye Level birthday

by Ken Faloon

The Flamingo Cafe and Lounge, noted for its support of the local arts community, was the fitting site last week for the Eye Level Gallery's 15th birthday bash.

Performances included Janine Fuller and Marilyn McCallum, Bryden MacDonald, Mary Lou Martin, Jett in Time Theatre and

a host of others.

Eye Level took the opportunity to thank its many patrons and to announce their upcoming dance series, beginning November 8 with Dulciea Langleider and running until the spring.

Although it was the Eye Level's birthday, they were the ones giving out the presents. Among the many door prizes given away were tickets for two to Montreal.



Happy birthday to you

photo credit: Rochelle Owen: Dal photo

MAD CAP PARTY
Friday, October 13 th
at the

Harbourfront Bar

from 7:00 pm to the



"WITCHING HOURS"



We're having a warm up to Hallowe'en....

If you think your costume would stand a *ghost* of a chance to *scare* the devil out of everybody, then wear it, and get your cover charge free.

If you're shy, bring your University ID and Cover Charge is only \$1.00

Lots of prizes for crazy contests including:

- *MUMMY WRAP*
- *SCARY NOISES*



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