

Idyl Tea classic rock 'n' roll story

by Don Teplyske

It's a classic rock and roll story.

Two high school friends are looking for a drummer to complete their first band. "Drummer Wanted" notices are placed on school bulletin boards, where they are seen, but ignored, by an apathetic senior. Later, the senior stumbles over the two friends playing acoustic Neil Young songs in the school halls. A band is soon formed by adding a fourth member. After months of hard work and well received gigs, internal tremors split the two original friends from the senior and other guitarist (who eventually goes to university). After months of quiet jamming, the two friends and the senior are drawn back together. A new band is struck.

Such are the origins of Idyl Tea, one of the premier young Edmonton bands.

"We didn't know each other in Route 66 and just figured that we didn't get along," explains Ev LaRoi, Idyl Tea's guitarist, when speaking of their original band.

"I was itching to get into a band again (after Route 66 disbanded)", continues Craig Metcalfe, the 'senior' and Idyl Tea's drummer. "I talked to Ev and (discovered) through the year that Route 66 had been broken up, that we had changed our musical ideals and (had begun) listening to the same artists," Metcalfe concludes.

Thus, Ev and Craig with bassplayer Henry Engel, formed Idyl Tea out of the ashes that were once Route 66.

As a band, Idyl Tea hope to transcend

pigeon-holeing labels and fashions. Still, many people are tempted to classify them.

"I've talked to people who say we sound 60ish," Craig explains. "I don't agree with that but at the same time there is currently a general revival in 60's fashion and music. But with many bands (including Idyl Tea), the (60's) influence is there but they are taking it beyond anything done during the 1960's," he concludes.

The band's philosophy towards music and themselves is uncomplicated but encouraging.

"I don't think any of us are thinking about the big record contract, getting the big deal," says Ev. "What we care about right now is experimenting, trying new things, becoming better songwriters, writing as many songs as we can and seeing what we can come up with. We're just interested in improving because we are very much beginners," LaRoi concludes.

Idyl Tea enjoy recording in the studio, but financial realities do not escape them.

"(When recording) we like to take our time and sit in a corner listening to the play back over and over again, finally saying 'that doesn't sound right — why don't we try this instead'," Craig says when discussing the band's studio sessions. Metcalfe explains. "It's a very expensive way to work in the studio."

Studio time is not Idyl Tea's only expense. Their upcoming show at the Chinook Theatre will not be a generator of financial profit.

"We're going to lose money on this gig — even if we fill the place," says Engel. He and Metcalfe then list their expenses, including rental and damage deposit for the hall and PA, soundman and roadie, radio ads and posters.

Recording may also be in Idyl Tea's distant horizon. The band has a desire to release a record but are delaying that commitment until they are sure they have the strongest material possible.

Ev explains that "all of us have the desire to say "we have five good songs — let's go for it. But then we think about three months from

now when we have five better songs to choose from."

Henry concludes that "if we ever do release anything, it'll be on our own label as it's difficult enough to get a consensus between the three of us, never mind who ever owns the record label."

Idyl Tea is composed of three personable and eager young men who want to become proficient at their craft.

Idyl Tea will be appearing at CJSR co-sponsored show at the Chinook Theatre October 26. Tickets at the door.

Lady Blue offensive

by Mark Wolfe

Okay, I thought *Hometown* was bad — innocuous, although perhaps insidious, but not in-itself evil. *Lady Blue*, the first prime-time, completely feminist television show, promises to be all of these and more.

This program is so cliché it's offensive. We have the lady cop, busting-in on the big bad male, just as he's about to you-know-what to some pathetically defenseless and witless female victim. And not just once has this happened, but show after show some encounter comes up in this form. Last week's scenario posited a gang of hoodlums manhandling the boyfriend just as the leader of the gang moves in on the chick. Who should arrive — stoney-faced, steely-eyed and toting a small piece of phallic artillery in her hands — than our heroine. She muscles up to the baddie — close enough to have the weapon easily turned against her — and brow-beats a Son of Sam into vacating the premises. After the gang leaves, trailing a stream of bad vibes, the victim-to-be collapses wordlessly into the arms of our lady in blue who explains to the boyfriend something to the effect that: I got him where it hurts the most — his macho(ness).

This program symbolises and caricatures the very worst of a bottom-of-the-barrel feminist ideology and one suspects that while every week hordes of women with "bad complexion and lank hair" are getting an adrenalin rush while watching this program, the real feminists are gasping in horror.

The scenario outlined above — which promises to be a possible staple in this insult of a program — is actually a caricature of the worst form of chauvinism directed at women

viz, feminism itself. For in order for the show to survive, given its premises, the mindless and defenseless female victim will always have to be present. Certainly nobody will care much if lady in blue stops one male gang-leader from neutering another. But what cuts ice in this program is the vengeance factor — the turning of the male organ against the male. How subtle.

My sympathies lie with the females in this program, not to mention the females who might inadvertently turn the set on to this program. If I were a female, I would be so angry at the insinuation of utter defenselessness — as some sort of biological necessity — I would initiate a national boycott of the station carrying this nonsense. This program is nothing short of degrading of women and points up the mindlessness of street-level feminism.

The question will automatically be posed: If you are so offended by this program, why don't you initiate the boycott? Answer is equally swift: I'm not female. And although I'm as concerned — if not more so — about the integrity, intellectuality and morality of women in Canada — it is up to females to halt this rubbish. Females bought into this moronic ideology, and so they are going to have to buy their way out, as intelligent females have been doing for some time now. No wonder Germaine Greer finally threw up her hands. With writers or programs like *Lady Blue* in operation (and making money off the bruised backs of their victimized "sisters", perpetuating the mythology all the while), females don't need males to be degraded. Feminism is more than effective in this regard.



Edmonton's Idyl Tea

Photo: Bill Doskoc

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