

The Vinyl Phyle

Steven Wayne Horton
Steven Wayne Horton
Capitol

Wanna get warmed up for Bar None, but you don't have a two-step record in the house? Have I got a deal for you! Steven Wayne Horton's first album has more toe-tappin' tunes than you can shake a leg at.

Horton is a Memphis boy, and his hometown (Elvis, Carl Perkins, Jerry Lee Lewis) roots shine through. Appropriately enough, then, it is hard to classify this record as either rock'n'roll or country, so I won't try. What it is, is easy to listen to, easy to dance to, hard to dislike rockabilly.

The first single, "Roll Over", is a good example. Co-written by Billy Burnette and Steve Cropper (Blues Bros. band alumnus), "Roll Over" doesn't try to change the world as we know it, but does have the kind of pop hooks that leave you humming it in the shower.

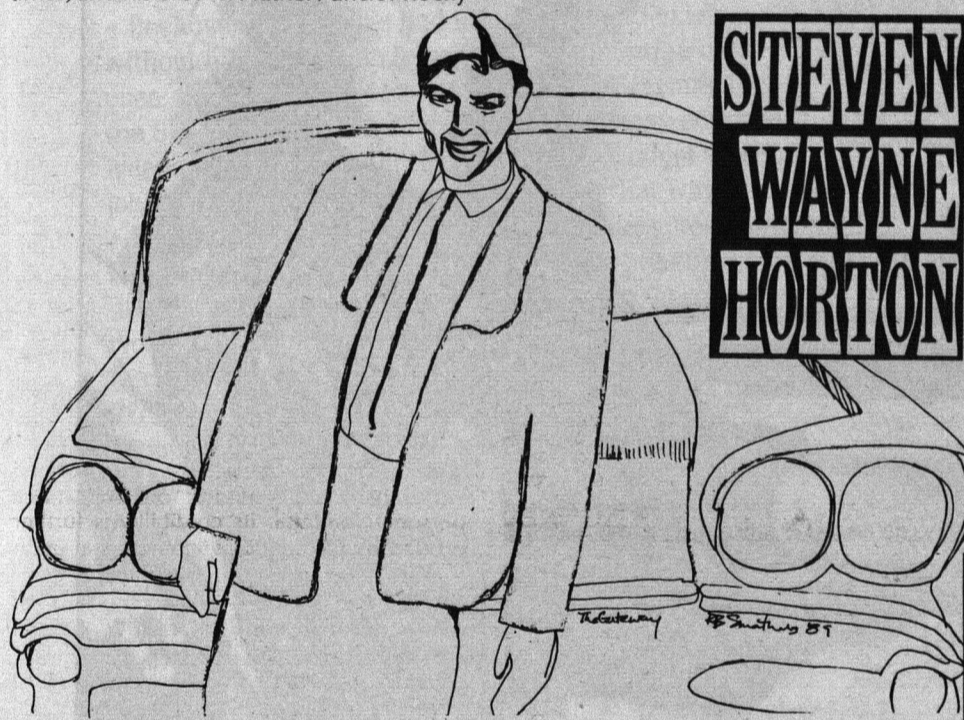
Horton is not a songwriter, but he does know who to cover. Burnette shows up three times, and his brother? father? uncle? Rocky

also contributes a songwriting credit, as does Country Tunesmith God John Hiatt.

Artists who do a lot of covers are always stuck with the choice of how much to change and how much to leave alone. Hiatt's "Tennessee Plates" remains much the same, except that Horton pushes the tempo along a little. More importantly, Horton is one of the few rockabilly singers who doesn't feel obliged to mimic Elvis—although he comes close on "Got a Lot of Livin' To Do". He does (surprise, surprise) sound a lot like the Burnette boys on more than a couple of cuts. You might remember "Tired of Toein' the Line" from a few years back.

Content to produce up-to-date, enjoyable rockabilly without doing a parody—the Stray Cats—or straight imitation of his predecessors, Steven Wayne Horton has turned out a fine little album. If you hate country music, but still have to perfect your two-step before your yearly trek to Bar None, you'd be well advised to take a chance on this album. If you like country music, there's no risk at all.

- Randal Smathers



Alpha Blondy & the Solar System
The Prophets
EMI/Pathe Marconi

Alpha Blondy is without a doubt one of French West Africa's most well known and talented artists. His music often walks the tightrope across different cultures, sometimes falling to danger, other times successfully completing the path to a flexible integration of musical/cultural idiom.

The Prophets, Alpha Blondy's sixth full-length release since 1983, is arguably one of his best efforts yet. Although the album contains no powerful anthems as did Jerusalem (1986) and Apartheid is Nazism, the Prophets manifest Alpha Blondy's ability to write creative catchy pop-reggae melodies, particularly since his work with the Wailers on Revolution, a seminal work in African reggae.

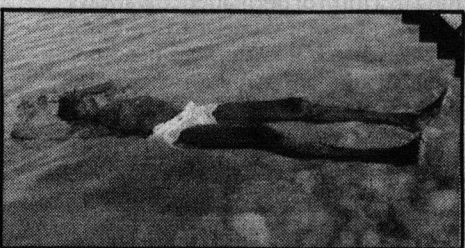
The album kicks off with smooth and flowing melody lines on "The Prophet" and "Banana," and then moves to a more traditional reggae sound in "Coup d'etat" and "Kolombaria." On the B side "Face to Face" and "Corinthiens"—a testimony to the relevance of Biblical scripture—move the beat back to the pop reggae folk rhythms that have brought Alpha Blondy the success he has attained. "Black Men Tears" and "Jah Music" are once again, a return to a more traditional reggae style.

However, Blondy does experiment with some new sounds and ideas on The Prophets. On the title track, a harmonica and a kora add interesting twists to Blondy's catchy

melody. A traditional flute on "Kolombria" help Blondy create a melancholic mood in a song about the failure of world leaders to guide humankind to peace and freedom.

In the few songs that are written in English or French, one could argue that Alpha Blondy's approach to the problems of the world are a little naive. But as usual, what he lacks in lyrics is easily made up for in Alpha Blondy's music.

- Mehboob Rahemtulla



BAILET BRITISH COLUMBIA

...a marvellous troupe of dancers...

Patricia Neary, Artistic Director
MYER HOROWITZ THEATRE
(formerly SUB Theatre)
U of A
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5 - 8:00 p.m.

Tickets: All BABS outlets
HUB/SUB/CAS Info Desk
Charge by phone: 451-8888

CO-PRODUCED BY **Aberta**
CULTURE AND MULTIMEDIA FUNDING

...saucy, erotic, clean-cut, spirited, moody, giddy, brazen, endearing. They all fit the bold and beautiful Ballet British Columbia.
Rod Currie, Canadian Press

Tour Sponsors:
Air Canada, Greyhound, etc.

DEVO
Now it Can Be Told
DEVO at the Palace 12/9/88
Enigma

"THE DEVOLUTIONARY OATH"

"Are we not men? We are DEVO. Are we not men? D-E-V-O." The now-familiar refrain of "Jocko Homo" hit Disco Beach on the crest of the original New Wave a decade before this concert was taped. At the time, no one would have picked the authors of this quirky little ditty as one of the longest-lasting of the New Wave bands.

1. Be Like Your Ancestors Or Be Different. It Doesn't Matter.

Perhaps it came to pass because DEVO's midwest accents made the intelligent lyrics of head writer/frontman Mark Mothersbaugh accessible to more Americans than the Cockney accents of many of their co-Wavers. Perhaps it was because they actually have some talent. Perhaps it was because DEVO never met a dance beat they didn't like.

2. Lay A Million Eggs Or Give Birth To One.

If you've seen DEVO live (Remember their great tv debut on Saturday Night Live?) you know how much they depend on manic intensity and weird antics. This tape captures that intensity, and the liner photos capture the rest: flowerpot hats, coveralls, hornrims with funny eyebrows, skateboard pads, Superman costumes, public school uniforms.

3. Wear Gaudy Colors Or Avoid Display. It's All The Same.

Any live album must include the band's greatest hits. That is true of this one, to wit: "Working in a Coal Mine," "Happy Guy," "Jerkin' Back and Forth," "Whip It," "Uncontrollable Urge," and of course the geek version of "(I Can't Get No) Satisfaction."

4. The Fittest Shall Survive Yet The Unfit May Live.

Any greatest hits package should have at

least one truly unique version of a hit song to make all the fans of the band buy the record even though they've got everything else the band ever did. Would you believe an acoustic version of "Jocko Homo"? Yes folks, buy this album and stump your friends! They'll never guess what the song is before the chorus!

5. We Must Repeat!

DEVO display all their best attributes on this album, topped by their black humour. As Mothersbaugh says between songs: "You might wonder why we're sitting down. Just to prove we can after ten years in this business." Oh yeah, I think I figured out how these guys survived. They are a very smart, hip (now mature) band, and after a decade they can turn out an entirely cool album. Devolve now and avoid the rush.

- Randal Smathers

Now It Can Be Told

How man came into being through cannibalism - intelligence can be eaten. More than one hour of uncensored sonic proof.

ROOM 250 S.U.B.
492-4266

Student Help

**ARE THINGS GETTING YOU DOWN?
DO YOU NEED SOMEONE TO TALK TO?**

Since 1969 Student Help has been a volunteer organization offering a quiet place for:

- PEER COUNSELLING
- CRISIS INTERVENTION
- INFORMATION and REFERRALS
- TUTORS and TYPISTS

Please phone or drop in.
Confidentiality Respected.

**EXAM BLUES??
Maybe we can help!**

WE CARE!

A U. OF A. SERVICE SPONSORED BY THE STUDENTS' UNION