

In Loving Memory Of...

**Big Wreck
WEA**

In Loving Memory Of... is the debut album of Toronto rock band Big Wreck, and is one album that shouldn't be overlooked.

The band's refreshing style of music steers away from the work of today's average pop-rock artists — most of whom are indistinguishable from each other.

Big Wreck has definitely drawn some influence from classic rock groups, creating a relatively different — yet comfortably familiar — sound.

In many of the songs on *In Loving Memory Of...* you can hear music reminiscent of the Doors, Aerosmith and even Jimi Hendrix.

However, Big Wreck has rolled all of these influences into a style which is very much their own.

The songs on the album range from rock ballads to metalesque tunes to blues-style jams. It is a diverse album which would appeal to many different tastes. The majority of the songs are written by Ian Thornley, the sole Canadian member of Big Wreck.

The success of the album has earned the group several number one hits, appearances on MTV and MuchMusic, and a recent Canadian tour.

This is one of the better albums I've listened to in a while. Big Wreck is definitely a name worth remembering.

PATRICK SHAUNESSY

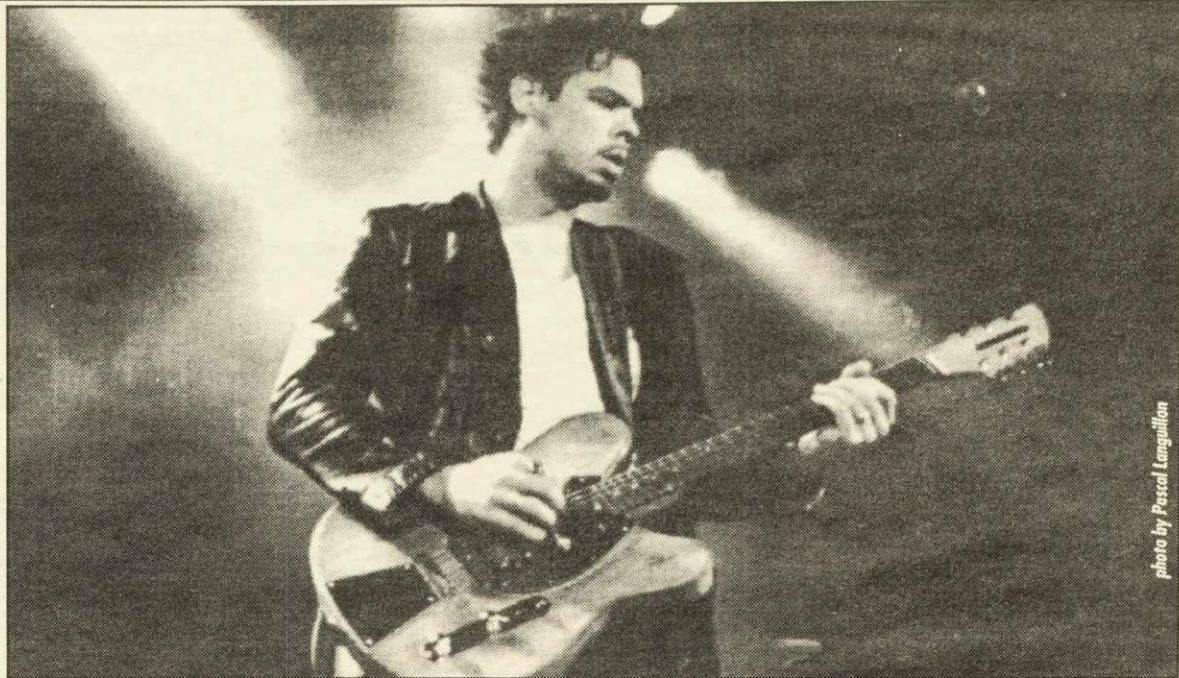


photo by Pascal Langlois

ROLLED INFLUENCES: Big Wreck debut CD worth remembering.

Goin' Down the Road, again

BY DANNY VAN BEEK

Goin' Down The Road, Don Shebib's recently re-released film from the 70s, is about hard times.

The film details the travels of a pair of boisterous, beer-guzzling hard-core Easterners who, always ready with a kind word or an antagonizing barroom catcall, make their way to the skyscrapers of Toronto to find some decent work.

Shebib's film was re-released on big screens last Friday at Park Lane and across the country in Vancouver, Montreal, Ottawa and St. John's.

Hailed as English-Canadian cinema's first major artistic success, William Fruet's script portrays the two small-timers, Joey (Paul Bradley) and Peter (Doug McGrath), as innocent, honest men who are dazzled by the splendour of the 'big city'. They mix explorations of this 'new world'

with the pursuit of the comforts of home — the sound of Celtic music issuing from a Maritime bar becomes as comforting a sign of home as the Canadian flag to a backpacking Canuck.

The simplest aspects of big city life become dazzling through their eyes, and the magic continues as they carve out a spot for themselves.

"I don't hafta take out the garbage! I just walk ten feet down the hall to a chute. Where it goes, I dunno."

As they take up residence and enter the 70s Canadian dating scene, they make some Maritime-influenced observations to one another: "These Torontonians women, they talk and talk and talk, but they don't say anything; they're just fluff."

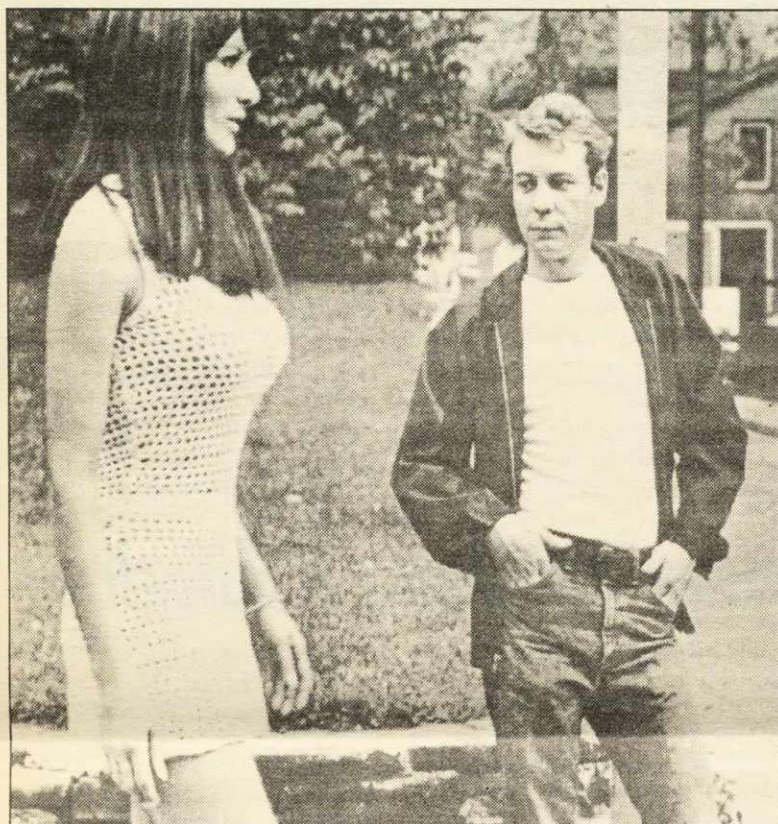
And then the *Toronto Star* Classifieds are sampled: "Hey!

What is this? There's tons of jobs in here. Three pages of them!"

Three pages of rejection, as it turns out. Turning on the ol' Cape Breton grizzled-steel-factory-worker charm doesn't seem to do the trick.

The film is a modest, clever look into Canadian life from a handful of perspectives. It is well-acted and full of heart, and the soundtrack, scored exclusively by Bruce Cockburn, adds a folksy depth to the story.

I was a little worried that an early 70s Canadian film about a couple of guys looking for work would be uninteresting, but I was impressed by some very funny and touching moments. It was great as a stand-alone film, and with the references to Toronto ("A toast to the women of Yonge Street!") and the humorous culture clash, I thoroughly enjoyed the experience.



DAZZLING: East coast boys awestruck by TO's skyscrapers.

WRITERS



IT'S A LIFESTYLE

THE GAZETTE

room 312, SUB, 494-2507,
meetings every monday 4:30pm.

New fee added to blank CDs, tapes

BY SHERI BLOCK

REGINA (CUP) — The price of blank tapes and CDs is about to increase thanks to a new levy introduced by the federal government.

While no one is sure exactly how much more consumers will have to pay, industry insiders speculate the increase could range from \$1 on the price of tapes to \$2.50 on the price of CDs.

The actual levy will not be determined until next fall after hearings are held into the matter. Importers and manufacturers will not be required to charge the levy until a decision is made.

The levy, which came into effect Jan. 1, was introduced to compensate for the revenue lost by musical artists, composers and producers when copies of tapes and CDs are made.

"The levy is really geared toward the consumer who walks in and tapes a CD onto a blank," said Marian Donnelly, executive director of the Saskatchewan Recording Industry Association.

Until recently, copying a pre-recorded CD or cassette onto a blank one was illegal. But under new federal legislation, this is now allowed for private use.

"The music industry did not want [dubbing] legalized — the levy was the trade off," said Al Mayer, owner and president of Attic Records.

So far, some consumers don't seem to mind the fact that they'll soon have to dig deeper into their pockets to purchase blank media.

"I think it's probably a good idea because there's so many people out there taping," said Jennifer Melville, a first-year science student at the University of Regina. "It's like stealing."

But some people in the music business are concerned that since distribution of the levy is based on factors such as radio play and record sales, only big-name artists will benefit from it.

"It will benefit the big guys but not the little ones," said Joe Wood, owner and president of RDR Music Group, a Toronto-based CD manufacturer.

"Their music would have to be in such a demand [for an artist to benefit]."

Mayer agrees.

"It's probably safe to say bigger artists will get bigger shares," he said of the levy.

Todd Rennebohm, who plays

in the Regina-based band FTA, says he doesn't expect the levy will make a difference for independent groups.

Instead, he says independent bands will end up being harmed by the levy because they often buy blank CDs to make copies of their music.

"Being an indie artist, it's a drawback because you're paying [the levy] for your own discs," he said. "Instead of saving us money, it's costing us more."

But while Mayer says the levy has some unfortunate consequences, he says it's important to

compensate for unauthorized taping if the Canadian music industry is to grow.

"When the industry is not maximizing its profit there is not much to invest in new bands," he said.

A joint body, including the Society of Composers, Authors and Music Publishers of Canada and the Canadian Musical Reproduction Rights Agency, will collect and distribute the levy.

