

New album "Are You Crazy?"

Just a minute, I'll check

by Michele Thibeau

Fans of local talent had a great treat last month when, for \$5, the House of Usher, the Five Loggers, and DTK recording artists the Stratejackets performed at the Sir James Dunn.

The Stratejackets, home to promote the release of their debut album entitled *Are You Crazy?*, sold copies at the door, along with t-shirts.

House of Usher, a relatively new local band, warmed the audience up with a great rendition of Joy Division's "New Dawn Fades". Except for one Beatles cover, all their other material was original. Their songs were familiar to me because of their demo tape up at CKDU which has been getting a lot of airplay. Steve, on lead vocals, gives the band a strong voice, while Lucas and another member whose name has slipped my mind, jammed on guitar and bass to create quite a concrete sound.

They have a drummer now, but at the gig they used a drum machine.

The next band on were local high school favourites, the Five Loggers, who have been around for a couple of years now, and like being told that they sound like the Killer Klamz (or they act the same). This is because, say the guys, "We're from the Grammar School and they used to play there". The Loggers are; Sean Kirby on vocals and bass, Derek Linzey on trombone, Paul Baskett on guitar, and Andy Kim on drums. They played a lengthy set of mostly original songs which were great to dance to. Sean's a good joke teller too!

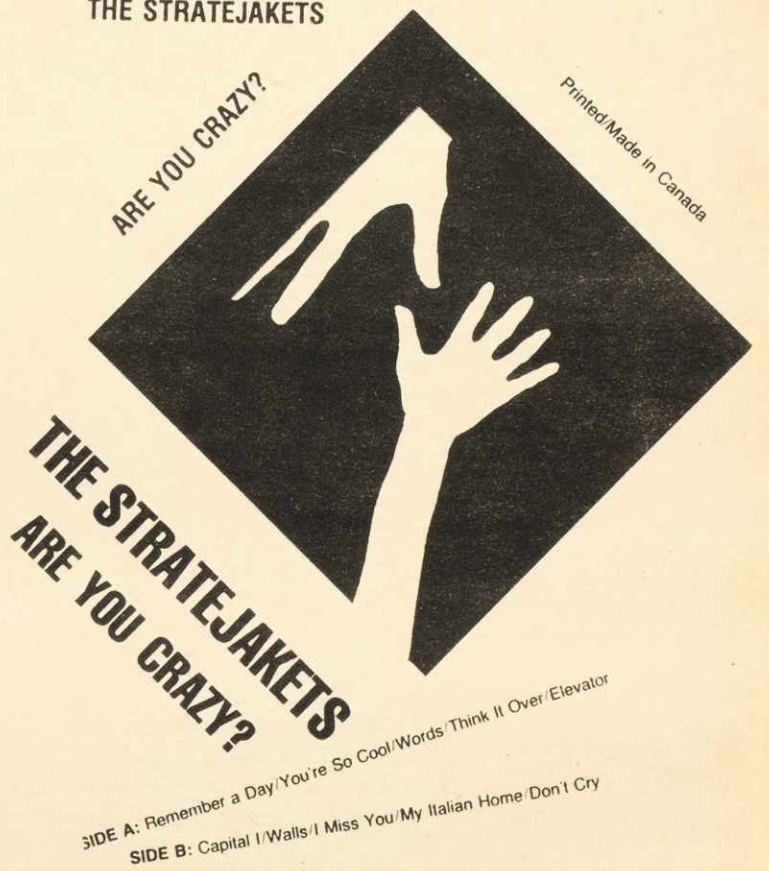
All Good Children unfortunately didn't play. They are a band I personally wanted to see. Kearney Lake Rd. made an appearance on stage minus one member so other than seeing them get ready, nothing much was heard.

After a rather long intermission, the Stratejackets moved in for the kill. Since they were glad to be playing for friends and fans at home, and proud of their album, they played up a storm. Consequently the dance floor was filled with bodies thrashing, smashing, hopping and bopping to their old and new tunes. I purchased a copy of their album at the show and it's worth picking up if you're into fast music.

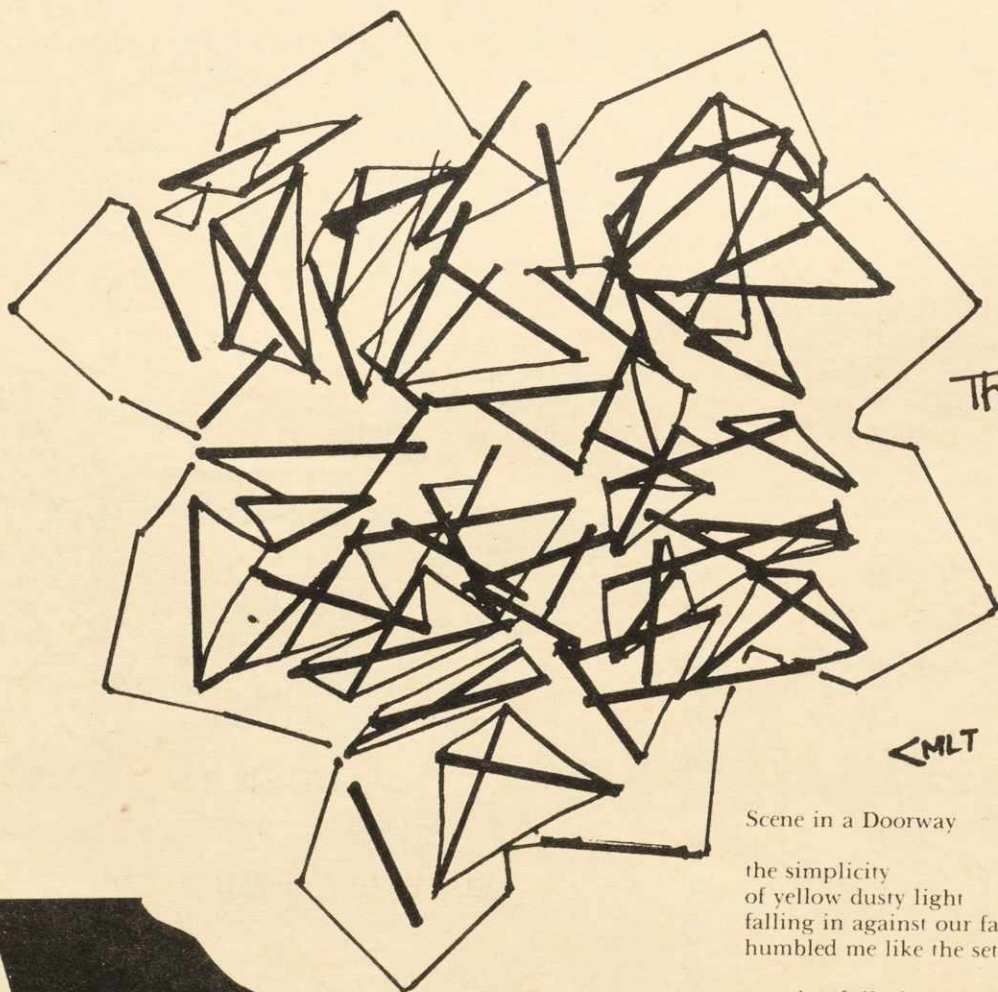
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In the middle of the performance the band read out a note from their union which reminded them that they are not allowed to play a gig with non-union bands. This did not please the crowd. It did not please me because without the Stratejackets playing fewer people would have shown up to see the underground bands. The Stratejackets until recently were considered to be an underground band. Sound like cause for further debate? Wait and see.

THE STRATEJAKETS



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The inner workings of a snowflake

Scene in a Doorway

the simplicity of yellow dusty light falling in against our face humbled me like the setting winter sun

that full plum broken beneath a heel of cloud at the lip of the grassland

and I wanted to follow your smile with the tip of my finger as it slid from your eyes and settled in the corners of your mouth

— anonymous

Screams in a Vacuum

If I could make you understand,
If I could utter a word to communicate
My very deepest of thoughts,
Then, you would know me.

If I could paint you a picture,
If I could tell you what I feel,
If I could slip you into my mind
To let you see
Merry-go-rounds and
Warm, dark and mysterious city
nights
Or days in the country:
Peace and world harmony,
Then, you would know me.

But, you call me strange!
You,
With your judgemental attitude of
Prejudice and disapproval.
Telling me I should be set aside and
Looked upon with curious stares.
That is sad. That is strange.
And you call me strange? How can I
be?

You do not know me,
For you have not experienced me yet.

— Lisa Neily
Bridgetown, N.S.

