

SOUND/HECK

Because Everything Else is Just Fantasy

by the Cybermage

Racist, Sexist, Anti-Gay, it's about time gamers wake up!

I'm about to say some things that other gamers and the role-playing lobby may not agree with, but I want to say that the world has come a long way in the eighteen years that RPGs have been around, but we haven't.

A while ago I bought a game product that I had been expecting for some time but I was shocked; the original design cover depicted two men and one woman—all dressed in common sense adventuring garb—but the printed cover before my eyes had the stereotypical, naked woman with sword and shield wearing only a brusenhalt (that's a bra for everyone out there) and scale mail loinguard. The design made her the center of attention. I was almost ill. I groaned inwardly at the thought of some wide-eyed kid just learning how to role-play, bringing his mother to the Games section of the store to buy him something. She would think, what kind of game is this really? Way

to go TSR, you've made another "Angry Mother From Heck". This product came out only five months after they released The WOMEN OF FANTASY calendar, a poor excuse for nothing but a cheap girly magazine. Thanks, but if I want to drool over something for a hormone rush, I'll go to the Smokeshop and pick up some \$6 porn rag! No wonder women like Clarissa Fowler insist that those few women gamers should have their own newsletter/ magazine.

Now that's just the tip of the iceberg. Companies release this stuff but I've seen far worse things from their players. I was (unfortunately) present at a game where a rape took place (in the game, if that makes it any better—it doesn't). The games are also racist, not anti-dwarf or such, but pro-european. Any culture in a game that is non-Arthurian Anglo-Celt, if there is any in the game world, is portrayed as a loose collection of savages or ignorant imbeciles that cry out for colonialism.

I am now going to add a homophobic element into this little

rant. I play a lesbian character in my friend's Warhammer campaign (the same one where the rape took place). I wonder why there are no hint of sexuality of any sort, except in those save-the-princess type scenarios where it is assumed that the victor is a hot-blooded, hunk who is attracted to air-head walking silicone implants.

I think it's time to face these things and attempt to change. The way towards change? Simple, the creative staffs of the major game compaints should have more women and ethnic voices on them. Also a much simpler aspect, those who control the gaming world, the creators of the first generation of role-playing games, should grow up and stop acting like adolescent boys staring lustily at the lingerie section of the Sears Wishbook. It will take more than just talk to change things, but I hope there will be a time that a can play these games without feeling prejudice from either the game or the players they play with. If you're prejudiced, fine. Just don't put it in my games and don't play with it.

JAZZ VELOCITY

Dave Sharpe

The jazz music scene is in chaos. For instance, during the last year there was an astounding variety of jazz releases: old musicians playing new music; new musicians playing old music; cross overs from Classical, African, and Latin music to jazz. As well, there is all the music that seems to defy classification, yet sounds kinda like jazz (Is Tom Waits playing jazz on Bone Machine?)

So where is jazz heading? What is the hottest trend in jazz these days? And what should jazz fans focus on? Well, ya got me. I think the hottest trend in jazz right now is the complexity of directions and ideas kicking around. (Is chaotic behaviour a trend?)

Two sub-trends do stand out however. The first sub-trend is the large number of jazz old-timers releasing new music. There is a tendency in our pop culture to dismiss anyone who isn't the latest breaking artist. But, recent releases by Joe Henderson, Oscar Peterson, Frank Morgan, Toots Thielemans, etc. prove that Jazzers can bring a deeper understanding and sophistication to their art with age. I mean that they can find the groove, get the clamp down, soar, communion, or however you hear hot jazz; and that's great for listeners!

The second sub-trend is the continued incorporation of world music into jazz. This can be done with gross effect when music is plundered and the source of the music is cheapened. But, when jazz can approach world music as an equal, then great things can happen. As a jazz listener, you can be confronted with a whole new and well-developed musical vocabulary ... experience a whole new head space! And that's exciting to hear.

Well, all that pontification is just a preamble (and disclaimer) for my picks of the top ten jazz albums for 1992. If you are interested in jazz, why not check out one of the picks, or tune in a jazz show on the radio?

Jazz 1992 Top Ten

- Joe Henderson Lush Life (Verve)
- Bela Fleck and the Flecktones UFO-Tufo (Warner Bros.)
- David Murray Shakill's Warriors (DIW/Sony)
- Wynton Marsalis Septet Blue Interlude (Columbia)
- Toots Thielemans The Brasil Project (Private Music)
- Kronos Quartet Pieces of Africa (Elektra Nonesuch)
- Oscar Peterson Last Call at the Blue Note (Telarc)
- Harold Maburn Trio Straight Street (DIW/Sony)
- Hall Wilner, et. al. Weird Nightmare: Meditation on Mingus (Columbia)

SOUND OFF

by Tritis Bhaird

Here it is, FunDrive Week again, and you're wondering whether you want to contribute. Sure \$15.00 for a chance to pick out a CD, Cassette, or album from our little room of big prizes is tempting, but is the station worth keeping around? After all, how many people tune in?

First let me say, that you would be surprised how many really do. You my have asked your friends and most of them say "no I don't listen a lot." That's true. They don't. But a whole bunch of them listen a little bit.

Some of CHSR's would-be listeners don't tune in at all because they have decided that CHSR plays garbage. No one at the station can change their minds, so everybody gives up. Well, I'm going to take it upon myself to finally come clean.

You've been right all along. CHSR does play garbage. I know this. I can't force myself to keep my radio tuned to the station all the time, for the same reason that I can't choke down a diet of all-bran. And I'm not going to try.

This may take some stretching of your imagination, but you are not expected to listen to an entire day of CHSR programming and like everything (or even most) of what you hear. You are actually quite lucky if you enjoy more than two shows a week.

Lets say, for example, you only like pop music, and classic gold rock and roll (It happens) but you follow the university hockey teams. The only thing you are going to be interested in on CHSR is our game coverage. That's cool. We'll cover as many games as we can with the resources we have, and you have benefitted from your radio station. Your best buddy does not like sports, but is really into Jazz (we've got four of those shows weekly). Some other student likes rock and pop, but she's French. Every once in a while she feels like listening to french radio. Radio Fredericton uses our airwaves to broadcast to the french community twice weekly, and we have our own french shows. We don't expect you to like french radio programmes if you're not

French. We don't expect you to like African if you're a townie (although many do). Someone does like these shows, though, and they may hate hockey. Get it? A little bit for you...a little bit for someone else. I do not want to meet the person who likes everything on CHSR. Without all these other weird and wacky shows though, your favourite would not be around either. Filling out the schedule is what keeps us going. You have to get this concept down: Campus Community radio stations are not like commercial radio stations. They don't play good background music that you can tune in and ignore. They more closely resemble television stations—and Public Service television stations at that (You know, like PBS and Cable 10) This is on purpose. The governing agencies that let learning institutions like our two have a frequency make sure that we:

a) don't become anywhere near as popular as the big money commercial stations who don't have a student body to subsidize them,

b) provide that weird, thought provoking stuff so that the general public can get exposed to thinking and

c) play new Canadian stuff that no one has heard before so that they can get heard for the first time.

Since nobody expects to be able to turn on PBS every morning and watch it until the wee hours of the night, I doubt you could with CHSR. I certainly couldn't. I don't want to. I want to have the ability to tune into the few shows I find important, so I turn off the shows I can't bear the sound of and think of them as filling someone else's needs.

As for you. It is fairly easy to find out what you like on CHSR. We are letting you have a peak at our programme guide. Give it a glance and pick something that sounds interesting. If you can't figure it out from the guide, tune in at some time that looks interesting.

And if you want to keep student-run, community-involved radio in Fredericton. Then dial in and donate. Bring in your pledge, and as a thank you we will give up our treasures.

Buy Your Sweetheart A RADIO VALENTINE

♥ Looking for a ROMANTIC Gift?

You can record your own message to your loved one, which will be played on Valentine's Day on CHSR-FM (97.9 in Stereo) (or, if you are too shy to record it yourself, you can provide the script and have one of our radio announcers do it).

♥ You can record your Valentine Message at the following locations: ♥

• Saturday Feb 13 (9:00am - 3:00pm) CHSR-FM office in Student Union Building



A Romantic Gift for ONLY TWO BUCKS!