

## ARTS

# S of M: and the crystal if you touch it

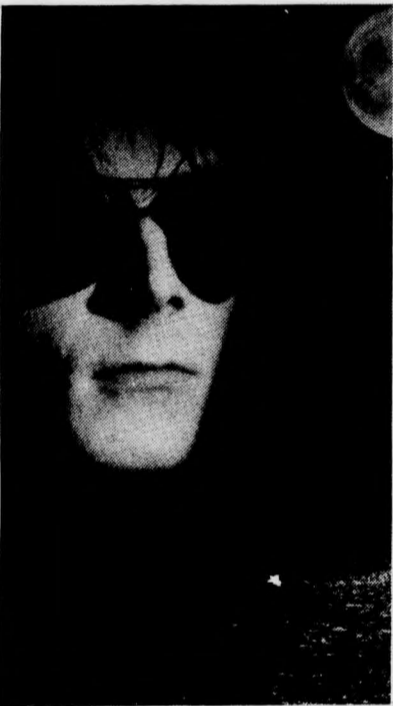
by "Switch"

**Sisters of Mercy**  
*Vision Thing*  
WEA Records

Hail the King of Gothic has returned to us in a new incarnation. Gone are the days of Doom Gloom rock, the basic black image and more recently Queen Patricia Morrison (formerly bassist of **The Gun Club**, and the **Sisterhood**) who had a falling out with Eldritch early last year.

Let's back track a bit. **The Sisters of Mercy** were a band that broke their way into radio airplay and the scene with other Gothick/Goff bands like the **Skeletal Family**, **March Violets**, and the **Southern Death Cult** from a club called the *Funhouse* in Britain.

After releasing various singles on their own Merciful label, they pressed an album *First Last and Always*. By that time the scene had changed and band members were not agreeable to the future of the **Sisters**. They broke up into three fac-



Andrew "Von" Eldritch rides in to Toronto straddling his success with Tony "Quitzal" James riding shotgun.

tions: Wayne Hussey (who some say was the brains behind the **Sisters**) formed **The Mission**; Eldritch got together with Patricia Morrison and formed the synth based group **The Sisterhood**; and the lead singer of the **Skeletal Family**, Anne-Marie headed up **Ghost Dance** with help from **Sisters** band members. The rest is history.

Tony James, the bassist for the new *Vision Thing* project has added the heavy commercial edge to what



**YORK  
DANCE**

YORK UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF DANCE  
CHOREOGRAPHY BY

CONRAD ALEXANDROWICZ, ANNA BLEWCHAMP,  
DARCEY CALLISON, SUSAN CASH, BILL COLEMAN,  
PHYLLIS LAMHUT, HOLLY SMALL

LIGHTING DESIGN BY OLIVER MERK

BETTY OLIPHANT THEATRE, 404 JARVIS ST.

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was once an underground sound. James, formerly of Billy Idol's first band **Generation X** and **Sigue Sigue Sputnik**, has become Eldritch's sidekick, co-host and Morrison's replacement.

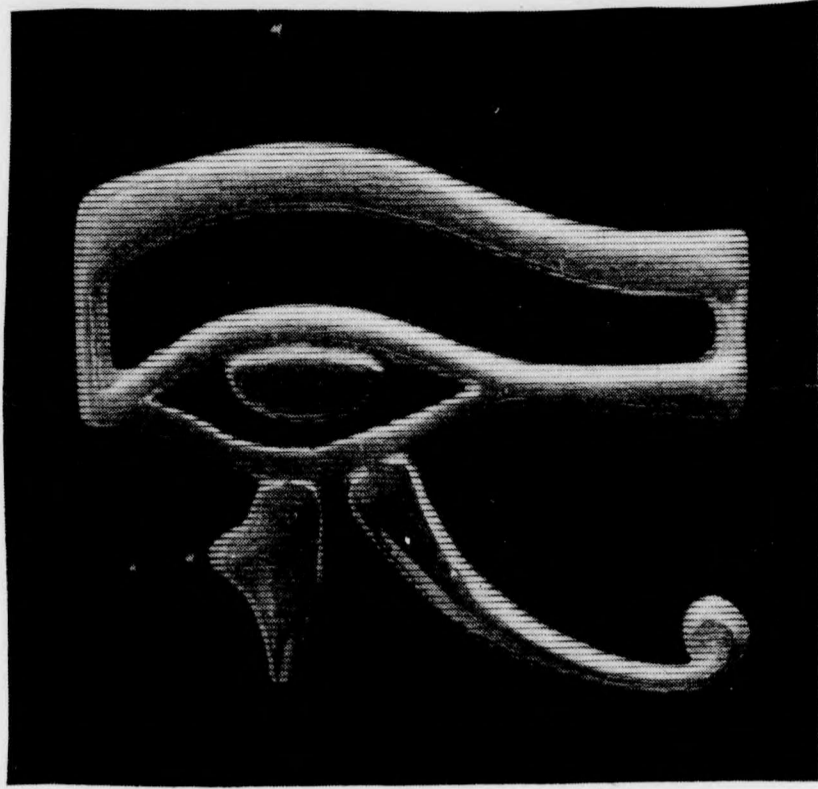
Eldritch and James, a.k.a. "Von" And "Quitzal" as they are known to each other, have embarked on the hard edge of rock leaving behind the dance market breeched by *Floodlands* the first (new or Eldritch and Morrison after they re-took the name) **Sisters of Mercy** release after the break-up.

*Vision Thing* isn't as bad as everyone makes out. Believe me the die-hard but open minded **Sisters'** acolyte. I decided that since the single is often the worst track on an album, I would wait and listen . . . "More" complete with technicolour chords, cellophane and Gospel babes —well it couldn't be much worse.

So they release *Vision Thing* and donning the appropriate mind-set and wearing the usual black to set the mood, I listened. My first reaction wasn't strong, the title track had a great bass line so it grew on me and with subsequent listens I even started to like it.

I made it through the album in one sitting (and that must say something) cutting through only two tracks "Detonation Boulevard" and "Dr. Jeep".

"Detonation Boulevard" annoys me, the lyrics are lame?, The music is



*Vision Thing*, the new album by the Sisters of Mercy sports this cover depicting an Egyptian hieroglyph.

unattractive?, not exactly sure why, but I program it out on the C.D.P.. "Dr. Jeep" does the commercialism rant n' rave, it sorta works 'cause it's commercial but I still don't like it.

"When You Don't See Me" has kick-ass bass, great guitars and the lyrics work. "Something Fast" and

"I was Wrong" are slow and show off Andrew's writing abilities which haven't left him. Eldritch's voice sounds like a 15-pack, three-day hang-over but well, there's no synth on the mike. He manages to hold these melodic tracks together despite his gruff tones. The only thing I'd

change? . . . Lose the Gospel babes dude, they destroy not enhance.

As an album *Vision Thing* is certainly a change of sound for the **Sisters of Mercy**.

Eldritch said in an interview that the intention was to return to the roots. Well, metal I guess could be the roots of rock n' roll to some, but metal bands aren't glam rockers and that's what the **Sisters** are now obviously influenced by.

*Vision Thing* is a worthwhile purchase, for you that the majority have labelled Gothick/Goffs/Goths and anyone else with a penchant for alternative music. (Especially if you don't mind the glam rock influence of bands like **Cinderella**, **Faster Pussycat** and **Guns and Roses**). As far as a driving album . . . (without the two tracks previously mentioned) . . . you'll be driving a little faster than normal.

Most **Sisters** fanatics will be disappointed with *Vision Thing* but probably just because they're narrow-minded. The essence of the **Sisters** is still in the music and words, you just have to adjust to the new terrain.

By the way, the **Sisters of Mercy** appear for the first time ever (in any incarnation) in Toronto on March 26 at Massey Hall.

I believe it's sold out . . . so I guess someone else likes the new album too, even though Eldritch said that *Vision Thing* won't comprise the meat of the show.

## Tax Tips for your 1990 Return

*"Why should I file a tax return if I don't owe anything?"*

Revenue Canada doesn't just collect taxes, it also delivers federal and provincial credits you could benefit from, including the goods and services tax credit, the child tax credit, and this year, for the last time, the federal sales tax credit. But if you don't file a tax return because you don't owe any taxes, you could miss out.

### Is tax filing easier this year?

Revenue Canada has introduced new measures to simplify the tax filing process. The guides use clearer, plainer language, the Special return has been trimmed down and there are two new "no calculation" returns. The one-page, gold 65 Plus return is for seniors with income from pensions or interest. The white Short return is for people, like students, with simpler tax situations. If you choose one of the "no calculation" returns, we'll do all the calculations, including any federal or provincial credits you may be eligible for.

### Got some tips?

First, look in the Guide that comes in your tax package. It gives you step-by-step instructions and helpful tax tips. Read the explanations for the lines that apply to you, and ignore those that don't. If your income situation hasn't changed much from last year, you can use last year's return as a reference.

### What if I have questions?

If you can't find the answers in the Guide, you can call the people at Revenue Canada. The best times to get through

are before 10:00 a.m. and after 2:00 p.m. From February 25 through April 30, Revenue Canada's phone hours are extended to 8:00 p.m., Monday to Thursday. There's also an automated phone service called T.I.P.S., for answers to common questions. For a complete list of services and phone numbers in your region, see your Guide.

### What other services are available?

You can visit Seasonal Tax Assistance Centres in convenient locations, like shopping malls, for information, guides and forms. See your local newspaper for times and locations. There's also a video called "Stepping Through Your Tax Return" that you can borrow from public libraries or your district taxation office.

### Anything I should watch for?

Make sure all the personal information printed on your return is correct, especially your address. Before you start, make sure you have all your receipts and information slips. Check your calculations, and attach all the information that's asked for in the return. These steps will help avoid delays in getting your refund.

### If I move, will I still get my cheque?

If you're moving, call or write Revenue Canada with your new address, so we can make sure your cheque gets to you. If you have more questions, talk to the people at Revenue Canada Taxation. They're People with Answers.

## PEOPLE WITH ANSWERS



Revenue Canada  
Taxation

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