

Music

# Gruesomes excellent - for hearing loss

Gruesomania  
The Gruesomes  
Og Records

review by Colin Green

According to the liner notes, from its humble beginnings in a basement in Montreal, Gruesomania is sweeping the nation. If this is indeed the case, beware, the disease could very well be fatal. The symptoms include a distressing feeling of temporal disorientation (oh wow, it's 1968!), the nagging feeling that someone is having you on (are they serious?), and the suspicion that you've heard it all before. And it all starts out so promising, too.

The self-dubbed Tyrants of Teen Trash have opted for the nostalgic touch in this, their second album. The cover photos of the band hark back to the glory years of garage thrash bands, when ? and the Mysterians,

and The Standells, and The Count Five were all pounding out their own brand of grunge.

These were the days when anyone who could tell where C and G were on a guitar wanted to lead a band — and anyone who couldn't, played drums. When anyone who had ever had a shower was a vocalist, or at least wanted to be because hey! I can sing as good as that guy! You know, the good old days! And these Gruesome characters want to bring them back.

Not only do these guys look like they belong in the sixties, they do their best to sound like it too. Okay, fair enough, but I can listen to the originals... so these upstarts have to do a bit more than cover old tunes to justify their use of vinyl, it being composed of scarce petroleum and all.

This is where things get a bit dicey. It's not that the music is bad exactly, or that I really hate the band or something, it's just that I've

heard it all before.

The most fun I had listening to this album was playing Name That Riff. Gee, that sounds just like Dirty Water, or was it Psychotic Reaction? Surf City? Well I guess there are garages on the beach too. The production is right out of the what-the-hell-it's-produced school of button pushing and knob twiddling (I wonder what this one does?) and catches that great, dirty sound quite well. And ya

gritta like that. So a solid B for sound and feel, and, alright, an A- for being true to their roots. But, sadly, a C for originality.

Actually, I think I'm being too hard on the band. There is nothing really bad here, and if this was brand new and still the sixties, it would be great. In fact if this was even a crowded bar, with the Gruesomes on stage, it would probably be great. (Actually being in a garage with them might be pushing it a bit.) And I must admit, some night when the landlord is out, I'll probably drag this album out and drop it on the turntable, and do some nasty damage to my eardrums, at about 100 decibals.

## Modern bands interchange

Calenture  
The Triffids  
Island Records

review by Mike Spindloe

CALENTURE: "Tropical fever or delirium suffered by sailors after long periods away from land, who imagine the seas to be green fields and desire to leap into them."

Well, that's nice guys. We too desire to see green fields and leap into them. In fact, we should be able to any day now.

At the moment, though, I'm imagining all the different bands that these guys sound a lot like, and the numbers are unfortunately getting to the point where I have neither the spare or the patience to do so.

The tragedy is that The Triffids (good name!) in general and principal songwriter David McComb in particular do on occasion

demonstrate respectable quantities of imagination, but somehow far too much of the rest of it comes out sounding merely derivative.

For instance, the album opener, "Bury Me Deep In Love" sound like a cross between Air Supply and recent Stranglers. Or is there a difference... OK, OK, I like the Stranglers too so put that gun down already. But lets face it, even the title sounds like a cross between Air Supply and the Stranglers. Now I've gotten started with these comparisons, a trend which we really must nip in the bud.

- Done.
- Roxy Music. Tears For Fears. Simple Minds.
- The Cult. U2.
- Aaaaaaaaaarh.
- Oops.
- Homogeneity.
- Sigh.

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## WRITING COMPETENCE PETITIONS: NOTICE TO STUDENTS

This notice is intended for students who have not met the University's writing competence requirement and whose deadline for meeting that requirement occurs on or before September 1, 1988.

**If your deadline is May 1 or July 1** and you plan to register in the Spring or Summer Session Term or in a subsequent session, you may be able to petition the GFC Writing Competence Petitions Committee (WCPC) in March provided that you are currently registered and have written the writing competence test at least once.

**If your deadline is September 1** and you plan to register in the Fall term, you may petition the WCPC in March for an extension of your deadline provided that you are currently registered and have written the writing competence test at least once.

Students are urged to seek advice on preparing their writing competence petitions. Such advice can be sought from the **Student Adviser's Office** (300 Athabasca Hall) which is offering information seminars on preparing petitions; call **432-4145** for dates and times or for an information pamphlet. Also, advice can be sought from the **Student Ombudsmen**, (Room 278, Students' Union Building 432-4689).

The regulations and procedures used by the WCPC are available in either of the above-noted offices.

Petitions must be **received** in the University Secretariat, 2-5 University Hall, **by Thursday, March 17, 1988, 4:30 p.m.**

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