

More music than 'Much'

BY WAYE MASON

DEAD RECKONING is a great band from the Rock. This power three-piece from Newfoundland recently played at the Flamingo Café and Lounge. This young band was very tight both nights, and their short set rivalled that of the night's stated stars, Crash Vegas. After a brief listen to the band's new CD I became a convert and fell the album, *Hollow Reason*, may very well represent what's good in the Atlantic Canadian music scene right now.

MUSIC

Dead Reckoning
hollow reason
Independent

The music and lyrics on this album are largely dark and full of the angst you've come to expect from our cousins to the north. Far from being Christian rock a la Stryper or whatever, the religious imagery prevalent in many of their songs seems to be there because that's the way the band members would naturally describe a situation.

Newfoundlanders have a much deeper sense of who they are spiritually, and a stronger sense of place than most Canadians. A Newfoundlander belongs to Newfoundland, it's not just where they are from. It would be hard for the band to deny their heritage, so they write from what they know, including many references to hardships and God.

The album starts off with "For the Glory." The instrumentation reminds you that you're listening to a band of Newfs, with a jig and a reel unselfconsciously thrown over rock guitar and drums. "So Proud" starts with a powerful bass riff and then rolls over into one of those spiritual sort of rock songs that reminds me of U2 at its best. Perhaps some frustration flows over even into the realm of religion with lines "we drink from the chalice and the blood of God, still, here it is." *Dead Reckoning* expresses youthful frustration with all aspects of life, especially in my favourite song, "Piece of It."

This album surprised and delighted me. It's very well produced, the material is well presented, the package is professional. It's about

time. This album is a must-have and is available at Sam's on Barrington.

MUSIC BLURBS

Public Enemy's new album came out this week. The album is called *Apocalypse 91, The Enemy Strikes Back* and is very hot. The first single is "Can't Truss It." The new album is built solidly on the sounds of the *Fear of a Black Planet* album. Having heard a few songs of the advanced copy I must say I am very impressed with such songs as "Move" and of course "Bring the Noise." Look for a full review of the album here next week.

Having heard the recordings of the bands Sloan and Leonard Conan, I have to say I am impressed. Sloan recorded "Underwhelmed," a song which clearly demonstrates the lyric writing strength of the band. The album should be available throughout Atlantic Canada in November.

Much, much more

BY DEBBIE GIBSON

I THINK MUCHMUSIC helped me rediscover the Sonic Youth. I saw the Youth's video for "Dirty Boots," which made me give my neglected Goo disc another listen.

MUSIC

Sonic Youth
Goo

There. I said it. I'm not entirely happy about it, but let me explain. Sonic Youth is one of those virtu-

ous bands that wins fans by playing good tunes and not caring about commercial success. Fugazi is that type of band, and Metallica definitely used to be another (what's up with the new album).

So the Youth aren't on the Top 40 charts, and they're totally happy, and they bring out an album with this really cool comic-book cover, and that's about it for a while. Then, I don't know, I had a lot of homework or something, and I didn't give Goo a good listening to, and lots of the songs sounded really "weird," and I pretty much gave up on the album.

Then one day, something strange happened on the way from TSN to CNN - there, on Muchmusic, was a video by the Youth. I think it's good that such a cool band is on Much, though I wonder if they've sold out.

They haven't. "Dirty Boots" is a non-gloss, glamless variety of video, and it made me give a thorough listening to the rest of the disc, which is brilliant.

Public Enemy's Chuck D. makes a guest-appearance on "Kool Thing," while offbeat song titles like "Cinderella's Big Score," "Scooter and Jinx," and "Disappearance" belie a bunch of good tunes. But the song I remember best is called "Mildred Pierce." Me and a friend got absorbed by its intricately blended complexities of tortured guitar and screaming - so will you.

Anyway, that's it for Goo. Next time will be another good, non-commercial, under-recognized artist that I fluked into seeing once on Much.

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