

# RECORDS ON REVIEW

NINA HAGEN---FEARLESS

What happens when Nina Hagen teams up with producer Giorgio Moroder? It's more than just a superb rap song about New York: it's Nina Haden's strongest, most consistent effort yet. Yes, it's more accessible, but there's still a force at work here that's not of this world. This lady has the most powerful set of pipes we've heard in a long time. From the guttural,

almost Satanic to the high-pitched squeals---she even throws in a yodel for good measure.

As always, the lyrics here are a bit absurd. There's a lot of rock n roll allusions and images which is always interesting, but for the most part, the lyrics are silly and funny. Mostly silly, like the song Flying Sauvers. There is one serious note though: the cut entitled The Change, about death. 'We've all got to make the change', Nina says. It's one of the albums

standards.

Nina Hagen can't be taken too seriously. She claims her baby came from outer space and she named her Cosma Shiva. I recently read in the 1984 Rock Year Book where Nina said 'I am a man now. Freddie Mercury loves me because I am a man.' This, from the woman who discovered God on an acid trip.

Fearless is much tamer than Nunsexmonkrock but just as entertaining and much more listenable. A definite must!

## Music Past,



## Music Future...

Woe to him who seeks to pour oil upon the waters when God has brewed them into a gale! Woe to him who seeks to please rather than to appall! Woe to him whose good name is more to him than goodness! Woe to him who in this world, courts not dishonor!

Herman Melville, Moby Dick

As we slide into 1984, witnessing the recent discovery of 'new music' by the 'industry', I think it's time to reflect on how this came about---lest the lessons of 1976 and 77 be too quickly forgotten.

The entire 'new music' phenomenon (including CHSR-FM) is a child of the punk/new wave scene, bastardized, of course: time gives the 'industry' that opportunity. A short time ago I discovered an old article on the break-up of the Sex Pistols. I was simultaneously shocked, disturbed, amazed, motivated...but mostly disappointed, because the whole spirit of punk has been betrayed. This is certainly not a new revelation, but that article really hit it home for me. Punk/hard-core may well be flogged

by now---that is not my argument---but worse still it has become accepted and tolerated. It is rarely challenging. I recall a time (start violins) when the over-30 crowd (the Establishment, to use an out-dated term) became incensed when presented with punk music or fashions. Punk has become an accepted form of self-expression. The over-30s haven't changed; the youth has changed. Ergo, punk has lost all value for society: that's a reflection on its revelation, not its musical worth.

So where does this leave us? Waiting for the next wave to ride? Probably, although we shouldn't be waiting. 1986/87 isn't too far off. It's up to the individual to make his own frontal assault of society's/the Establishment's evils. Somebody's going to have to get off his/her ass soon, or risk the equivalent of becoming an aging hippie. I'm not about to list a horde of 'important' bands because the label is a misnomer. I am going however, to suggest a few important values: anarchism, humanism, and optimism. Rock n roll from its inception has been indicative of the flame of youth and a challenge to the accepted order. Don't let the spirit waste away again.

Billie Jean is not my girl...

Modern love gets me to the church on time...

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## OPINION

Video's prime value is reputed to be its success in regenerating record sales, the promotion of an artistic medium that has failed in itself to sustain genuine interest. The result: videos which tantalize the senses but rarely stir the passions. A top video executive recently admitted that a video's success depends mostly on its ability to dazzle and to hold the attention of the viewer. 'We measure in IPMs---ideas per minute,' he says. 'If you keep up your IPMs, you'll do alright.' The concern for stimulating musical appreciation is virtually nil.

Where music strives to capture the essence of living and feeling on an ethereal plane, when united with pictures it loses emotional depth and becomes a static object rather than a concept always alive to be grasped by minds keen enough to pursue comprehension of its unique

language.

Most videos clearly exploit the typical viewer's inability to explore his own deeper thoughts. Concentration on sound alone naturally triggers imagination. Music designed not to be heard, but to be seen, loses this introspective quality. Video brings music to its knees, repressing spontaneity, forcing it to crawl on the same intellectual level as those whose minds it manipulates.

The overwhelmingly positive response to video is, I think, a manifestation of our desensitized culture. It's now 'Music should be seen and not heard.' Now most record buyers taste only what they are fed on the video screen. It's obvious that the promotional function of video is highly manipulative, specializing in liberal doses of sex, violence, and freakiness (eg., Vanity 6, Bryan Adams, and Herbie Han-

cock.)

Video is popular music's make-up. It arouses on a purely sensual level, tempting with fantasy, lust, and bizarreness. If artists automatically channel their creativity into contriving audience response to music via video, it's inevitable that popular music's expressiveness will diminish to an artificiality equal to that of the plastic society in which we live.



## Contest!

Send us in the name of your favorite video, and why. The most interesting answer will gain its writer a free album.

Send entries to Radioactivity, c/o CHSR-FM, Box 4400, UNB. Remember, campus mail is free!

Name  
Address  
Phone  
My favorite video is  
Why?

### VIDEOS---WHERE TO CATCH 'EM

TV:

Friday Night Videos, Friday 1:30AM WLBZ-TV  
A glitzy New York production with predominantly mainstream music, fluffy interview and behind-the-scenes reels, and the empty glamor of over-hyped superstars. Features the ultimate, the Video Vote...

All Hit Videos, Fridays 2:30AM WVII-TV  
A lot less slick but infinitely more palatable than the above, this one's hosted by a friendly dj named Chuck Foster who takes requests and makes mistakes! A nice touch of humanity...

Atlantic Canada Choice, Saturdays 10PM ASN  
The top -20 video countdown of the playlist of C-11], Halifax. Silly, wooden presentation and a bit repetitive if you watch every week, but, hey, it's (almost) local...

Live on MTV at the Chestnut and the Rollin Keg. Sometimes too loud and sometimes too fuzzy but the question is: can you afford a satellite dish of your own?... Pre-recorded videos at the Club Casmpolitan. Primarily dance-oriented though not totally. Emphasis on sex and sleaze (referring to the video screen, of course...)