

# Same ol' riff and rhythm

**George Thorogood  
Maverick  
EMI America**

review by Bill Duskoch

Listening to the new George Thorogood album is like an eagerly anticipated visit with an old friend . . . that turns out to be uneven, disappointing and ultimately dull.

Thorogood has basically offered us the same riffs and rhythms—albeit with slightly better production and different songs—as his last five albums.

This can be expected to a certain degree; after all, he's primarily been an interpreter of old blues and rock 'n' roll numbers. That fact isn't the main problem with the album as Thorogood has four of his own songs on the

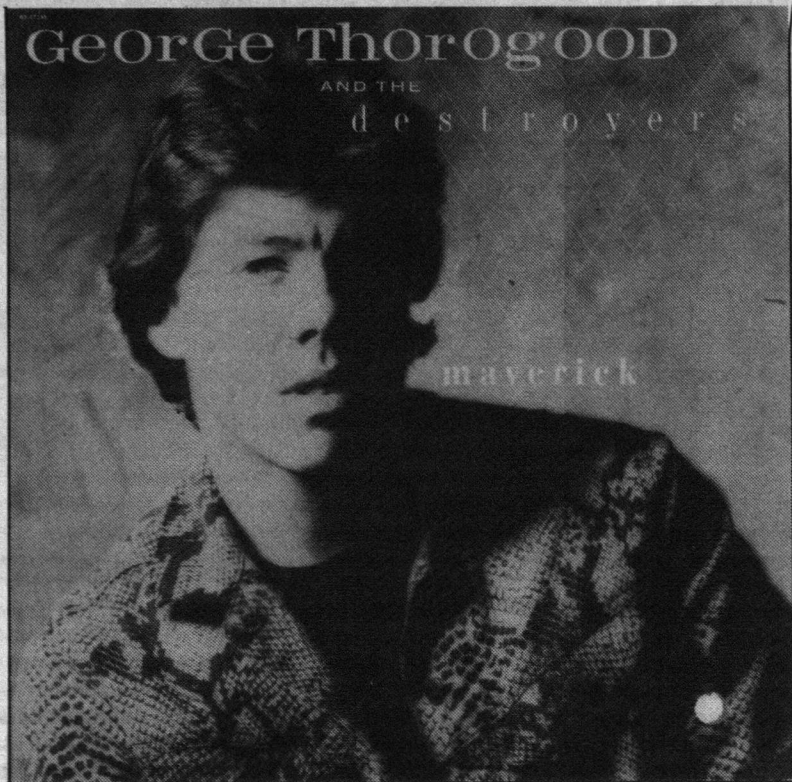
record.

What's really wrong is Thorogood's flat, uninspiring voice.

On songs where his interest level is high, such as "I drink alone" or "Long gone", Thorogood and his band, the Delaware Destroyers, are listenable, drinkable and danceable.

With other tunes where his tedium index is apparently peaking, you wind up with a waste of vinyl like "Memphis Tennessee", "Willy and the Hand Jive," or the boredom benchmark: "Maverick"—appropriately the last song on the album.

Apparently George still likes to strut his stuff on stage, as his February 16 concert in Vancouver was very enthusiastically received there. But it doesn't seem like he's having much fun in the studio anymore and believe me, it shows.



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# Roth not all that bad

**Crazy from the Heart  
David Lee Roth  
WEA Records**

review by Mike Evans

It is with no small measure of trepidation that I publicly admit to being, amused and bemused by the antics of David Lee Roth and company in Van Halen. See, it's alright for a pseudo-intellectual like myself to enjoy jazz, classical and unconventional pop artists like Rickie Lee Jones or Randy Newman or a hybrid like the sound-track from *Apocalypse Now*; but the (in)famous Roth is unacceptable fare. And so, it was with tongue in cheek that I accepted this assignment: review Roth's new EP, *Crazy from the Heart*. What a goddam gem!

Van Halen has made a career out of producing cover versions of other people's hits with a dash of their own pizzazz. There is little reason for tampering with this success formula, and so, Roth's EP presents four songs that were someone else's first. But they are *magnifique*.

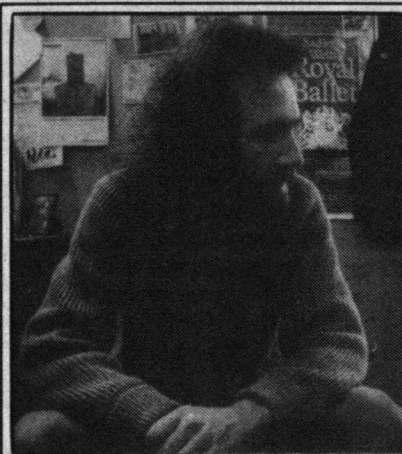
No doubt you are familiar with Roth's version of the Beach Boy's "California Girls"—hardly a novel interpretation, but success-

ful. It is however, the "worst" cut on the album—no mean praise that. Roth's rendition of the old torch song "Just a Gigolo" (performed by such luminaries as Bing Crosby) is a beaut. In addition, to being consciously posturing, Roth also manages to evoke strains of, well, Louis Armstrong. And the subject matter of the tune could hardly be more appropriate. He provides a lyrical finish with "Coconut Grove" and displays a vocal control seldom exploited by the band.

The first song on the vinyl, is "Easy Street" and it too is a charmer though more in the rock 'n' roll tradition we expect of Roth.

Roth gives special thanks to Edgar Winter on the liner and his efforts are well displayed. All the arrangements on the EP are tight. The rhythm section is spot on and the horns step into the spotlight invigoratingly. Background vocals are supplied by Carl Wilson and Christopher Cross (yes, really) and make for a wholly satisfying aural experience.

EP's are generally a waste of time but there are no shortcomings to this one. It is well worth blowing the bucks to purchase. And what the hell, if Roth is simply testing the waters for a full-blown effort, I'd recommend it solely on the merits of these four tunes.



Brian Paisley

### Coming in Thursday's Paper:

- Interview with Chinook's Brian Paisley
- The much coveted *Friday the 13th* review
- The long-awaited Cyndi Lauper book review
- Review of Clemont Leibowitz's novel *Memoirs of God*



The Album Playlist is based on Airplay — a combination of programmer preference and listeners' requests. Tune in every Sunday at 12:00 for the Alternative Countdown — the favorite albums, EP's singles and tapes.

#### TOP 10 ALBUMS

1. The Smiths — Meat is Murder (Sire/WEA)
2. Norman Salant — Sax Talk (C.D. Presents (US))
3. Dougie MacLean — Fiddle (Dunkeld/Celtic)
4. Tupelo Chain Sex — Spot the Difference (Selma (US))
5. Van Morrison — A Sense of Wonder (Mercury/Polygram)
6. Richard Thompson — Across a Crowded Room (Polydor/Polygram)
7. Michel Petruccianni Trio — Live at the Village Vanguard (George Wein/A&M)
8. Hugh Marsh — The Bear Walks (Duke Street/WEA)
9. The Pale Fountains — . . . From Across the Kitchen Table (Virgin/Polygram)
10. Jeannie Cheatham — Sweet Baby Blues (Concord Jazz/A&M)

#### SINGLES, EP's & TAPES

1. The Enigmas — Strangely Wild (Zulu (Canada))
2. Rip Chords (Big Dog) — The Need to Laugh in Uncertain Times (Canada)
3. B.O.A. — The John Peel Session (Alternative Tentacles (UK))
4. The Thelmas — I See Red (Rubber (Canada))
5. Various Artists — The Last Nightingale (Re (UK))
6. Various Artists — Starvation (Jarjazz (UK))
7. James King & the Lonewolves — The Angles Know (Swamplands (UK))
8. The Color Field — Thinking of You (Chrysalis (UK))
9. Za Za — Well-Fair (tape)
10. Go Four 3 — Go Four 3 (Zulu (Canada))