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entertainment Shopping list no. 2

By Elliott Lefko

I've just come from the funeral. Francis, my twenty six year old brother had died yesterday. Entering his dark apartment in downtown Toronto I looked around hoping to come to know him better.

I turned on the turntable and played some albums. Next, I explored his extensive stacks of books.

Charles Mingus/Me, Myself and Eye is the first album on which Mingus does not play bass. He wrote the four songs and supervised over every detail of the performances. The musical cast is big, bright and grouped to pay tribute to the great bassman.

Oregon/Out of the Woods,

marks the commercial debut for these four fine musicians. Many of their past albums, on Vanguard, are in the \$2.99 bins now. However, the new album continues in the same spritual/good playing format that makes them an exceptionally creative band. David Greene is the perfect producer to transmit the four personalities to vinyl.

I look up and immersed myself in some deep red paintings. Lewis Furey, Canada's answer to Tom Waits, is singing from his third album, *The Sky is Falling*. I see angels performing summersaults across my mind as Furey raves about past lovers, circus melodies and pretty babies. Furey has returned, on this album, to the warm arms of producer John Lissauer.

Flying Fish Records, out of Chicago, have a repertoire of classic jazz albums. *David Amram-Havana/New York*, is a record of the historic US-Cuba musical exchange of 1977. Musicians include Amram, Thad Jones, Pepper Adams, Los Papines, Papine and others. The record is so hot, I can see the steam rising from the grooves.

Ira Sullivan plays trumpet, flugelhorn, soprano sax, and flute. On his latest album, *Ira Sullivan*, he has recorded six standards including, "Stranger in Paradise" and Dizzy Gillespie's "That's Earl, Brother." After the heads of each of each tune are introduced the five-piece band lets loose for some inspired playing.

Hey Hamilton, are you the centre of the universe? Hamiltonian David McFadden says so, and after reading his latest book of poetry, *I Don't Know*, I will believe anything he

says. McFadden is a brilliant writer who talks of bus stations, young lovers, his poetic experiences and many other things. His style is free to the point of looseness but underneath there is a strong foundation. I'm on my way to the bookstore for more.

Murders in the Welcome Cafe by Andre Farkas is another book on the Véhicule Press publishing list. The book with its checker-board table-cloth front cover invites one into a world of sinister Chinatown. "I was eating some Chinese food when a dark shadow fell over my Chop Suey" - Philip Marlowe (from the introduction in the book). The book promises any resemblance to persons and places living or dead/existing or demolished is purely coincidental. Something is very weird about this book.

"Nothing is accident, and no man no less than Nature, does nothing without plan or the discipline to make plan fact." - Charles Olsen, *Human Universe* (from the inside cover.) *Ken Norris' The Perfect Accident* contains such poems as "Red Cabbage," "She Sleeps" ("I want to open her up/with a surgical instrument/but it's so hard to cut open/an angel,") "Houdini" and "The Drunken Bus" (for David McFadden) ("I wait for the bus driver to shed his French face/ & eyeglasses, to be revealed as a 4 foot 8 inch member /Of the Japanese Red Army.") The humour cuts deep in the forty odd poems. I find myself laughing again.

So night has arrived. I shut off the power, close the door and walk quietly out into the pouring rain.

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Musical Snowaxe

By Elliott Lefko

Taking refuge from the biting cold last week, Ed McDonald of *Snowaxe* came to York to talk about his band. *Snowaxe* is a three-piece band that is difficult to categorize. "We play according to the feelings that an audience radiates to us. One night we may be a heavy rock and roll band while on another night we may sound jazz-rock or even classical or progressive sounding," admits McDonald.

Snowaxe recently did a concert at Glendon where they left quite a few people wondering just what *Snowaxe* is all about.

The record company they record for is called "From the Vortex." The title hopefully suggests some of the power that is behind these individuals. The label, while organized for *Snowaxe*, will be used to record other bands.

While *Snowaxe* recently added a new bassman, the lead guitarist and drummer have been working together for almost eight years. They hope that the band is now ready to challenge the Canadian rock establishment. A single "Working On The Line" has been released and the band is now on tour spreading their unique sound.

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