

Bigger than Buddha Limrock Continues....

Britpop, Grunge, Madchester and now "Limrock". Eugene Coffey examines Earthface, a band involved in the latest geographically concentrated music explosion right here in Limerick.

Earthface, have produced a four-track demo entitled Attack of the Mind-eating Aliens.

The result? A wild take on Zeppelin blues-rock is about as close as you get when you try to qualify their sound. Lyrically and musically, there's a fun sense of good time rocking out (Alabama style) tainted with dark and subversive undertones. What people look for in a demonstration tape is the core potential and Earthface have that in spades.

Three members of the quartet, Vocalist Paul O'Keeffe, Bassist Shane Starr and Drummer Michelle Pazcy (Guitarist James Griffin not present) spoke to DROP about the demo, and their music.

The tape was recorded at Lakeland Studios in Carrick-on-Shannon, the middle of nowhere. So, why there? Shane explained; "It was good to get away from it all. They had quarters in

the studios where you can sleep over..." "And we locked him in the sound-booth because he snored too loudly", Michelle interjected. The demo has recently been remixed and Paul said there has been some feedback. Shane told me that the band has two albums worth of original material, B-sides included and his aim was to record a masterpiece, "I'd like to make one great album because no matter how good a gig is, it only exists in the memories of the people that were there."

"We are a live band", Paul said that was the crucial point he wanted to communicate. Shane explained why crowd energy was the vital ingredient in a great gig, "If the crowd are quiet and listening carefully you start to get nervous; if on the other hand, they're thrashing around and enjoying themselves, you can relax and not worry about playing the wrong chords."

The band played it's first gig around December '94, although the line-up has changed consid-

erably since then. Paul, originally from Cork, joined the band last year, taking over on bass before becoming the vocalist. He now writes a substantial part of the groups lyrical output and doesn't prescribe to making the words fit around the melody, "You might think this sounds pretentious, but I view lyrics as the new poetry. Not that I'd describe myself as a poet."

More than three years old now, the band's aim, much like their music is a wicked slant on a proven rock formula. Shane proclaimed; "we want to bigger than Buddha, Jesus has already been done."

If you are in a Mid-West band send in a demo (any quality) , a short letter and a phone number to Eugene Coffey, C/O Drop magazine, Imperial House, Roches Street, Limerick.



Max Steiner speaks his minds.....

Strangely this week is without doubt a week of glory and utter disaster. Now I do not wish to bore you with my dull stories of saving damsels from the clutches of death or skewing each of the Hanson kids. I know that I'm rambling a bit, but it is one of those weeks. Titanic wins eleven golden statues, the kids of America go mad and the Verve sell out the Point Depot twice.

Saint Etienne release a new album 'Good Humour', its there first studio album in four years. Recorded in Malmo, Sweden, with The Cardigans producer Tore Johnansson. Maybe this is why you feel like the Cardigans lead singer will burst into song any second. I'm not saying that this hinders the Saints any bit, quite the opposite the album is retro-pop cool. A fine return to form.

Monkey Mafia 'Shoot the Boss', is the first long play record from the Mafia crew. At the helm Jon Carter the Heavenly Social DJ, the man responsible for many a lager fuelled night of mayhem at the Social. The beat-fest begins straight away and your dragged in for some hyperactive dance floor insanity, with tracks like 'Beats in the Hall' and 'Work My Body' leading the charge into the mincer. But amongst the head spinnin' delirium there's the softer side to the lads a hint of soul and a

sprinkle of dub. Overall the album is a fine first release from Monkey Mafia, and should find a home in a C.D. player near you. Get Carter Now.

The Divine Comedy 'I've Been To A Marvellous Party' is Neil Hannon trying to barge his way on to the club floors and hopefully he will be barged straight off again, Hannon and Co. should be hanged for this shit. More effluent comes from Bedlam Ago Go, a mix of Massive Attack and the Lighthouse Family and also contains some bloke moaning away to himself, please lads piss off. Talking of Massive Attack their new album 'Mezzanine' is released on April 13.

REM are set to play their first concert without former drummer Bill Bery, at this year's Tibetan Freedom Concert, which is also expected to feature U2 and Beck, takes place on June 13 in Washington DC. It will be REM's first live outing since the 'Monster' tour in 1995.

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