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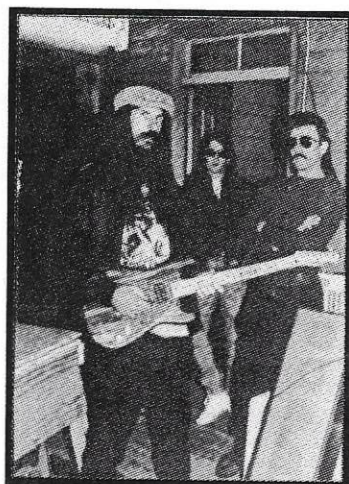
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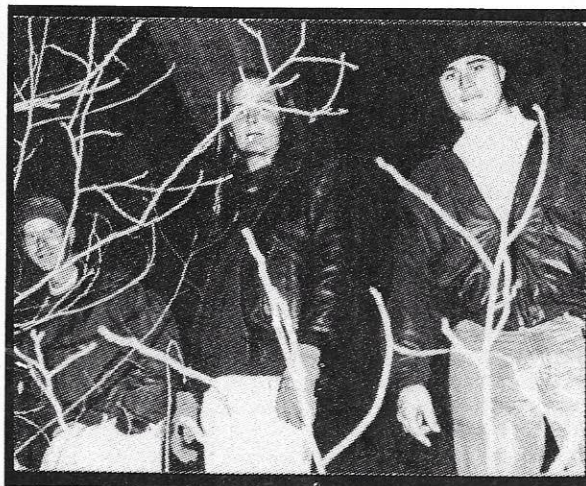


Concrete Blonde

INTERVIEW: Johnette Napolitano-Talks about life after the band & her future



String Relief



Joe's Report

FEATURES & MORE FEATURES

Rush

No Alternative

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Albert Collins' - Last Mix

Good-bye to the Ice-Man

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Old blues with a new twist

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David LaDuke

the rain chorus

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much more!

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QMF, TOO! -- TOP 40

This is Joe's Report

No, my name's not Joe, although I am sort of reporting, relating, telling, describing, jotting down, and informing you about a killer local band I'd checked out recently. They are known as...Joe's Report!

They donated their talents to the annual MERF Benefit this year, and I was fortunate in seeing their live display. If you missed MERF, you must have been on Mars, or duct taped to a cave, because you missed a ton-o-bands and an endless supply of nice people in every participating club. So don't be a loser. Go right now and mark it in your calendar for '94!

At Merf, one of my several stops included Tewligans, where I saw Joe's Report. I had never heard them before, so I had no idea what they might be playing. After their first song, I was immediately impressed with their originality, and power.

After the second and third songs, they had carved pieces of a mood that engulfed the crowd and developed a groove that you could ride quite easily. Joe's Report consists of three big time players. Joe Scheirich is an interesting guitarist. He is also the lead vocalist and primary songwriter. To simply say he's talented, is an understatement. Joe's vocals have a soft, yet haunting tenor that makes a successful marriage with the musical progressions that surround it.

John Hulcher wanders the stage playing this alembic fretless bass the size of...I don't know, the empire state building, or at least the size of the Walton's dinner table. His style of play roams from monster chops to the very bottom of the pocket. This lends plenty of space for drummer Luca Bianconcini to do a world of justice. I can say with authority, that he is one of the better drummers you will see in the Louisville area.

There were no flashy stage antics, or Eddie 'edder impersonations. There was no, as I like to call it, "I wish I had stage presence to make up for lame writing" syndrome. Just good music. After the show, I talked with the band briefly, and they gave me a copy of their seven song CD entitled *Grow Loose*. My favorite songs from this recording were "Could Have Been" and "Some Years." The only disappointment was that the CD, although well done, doesn't capture the power that this band exhibits in a live setting.

I took the CD home to Virginia for Thanksgiving, and all weekend my friends were saying "Put on some Joe dude!" Friends

have already called me, long distance requesting copies of this CD, and saying "These songs are stuck in my brain!"

I hate to compare, or to say that a band sounds like so and so, but when you describe a group's music or show to someone that has never heard or seen them, it's hard not to compare or present some sort of mental image. Joe's Report makes this hard to do, because their style is so much their own. But I'm a sucker for punishment, so here goes.

If you took the mood of The Cure; added the hypnosis of Pink Floyd, some bass and drum licks from Rush. with a touch of The Breast Milk of Jazz, you would come semi-close to a comparison. I had gotten together with the band recently, for an interview, but I just left the tape player off and, well, actually I turned the recorder on but didn't put a tape in!

They were very pleasant to hang out with, and their perspectives were as sincere as their music. Their main concern is to write quality songs, and play quality music. They seem to be doing just that, as far as my ears are concerned. Naturally, they're hoping to widen their listening audience, and to bring their act to more clubs, both locally and regionally.

Whether you're a club owner or just a fan of great music, done live or recorded, Joe's Report deserves your attention. It was a pleasure to write about a local band with integrity and vision. I'm looking forward to hearing some of their new material, which they're very excited about.

Joe's Report will be at Tewligans on December 23. So, take a break from Christmas shopping madness, and come out to support a worthy local group.

—Phillip McCormick

DAVID LA DUKE — ROCK HARD ROCKER

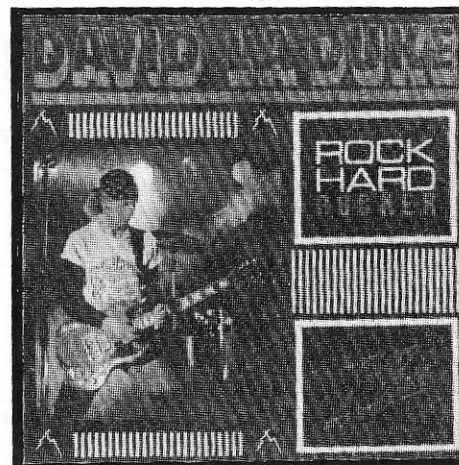
Well, *here it is*. David La Duke's first full length CD. If you want to get your ass rocked, *here it is*.

It is a solid theory of mine that from the most raunchy sounding basement tape to the finest major label production, there are people out there who will love it. This is no raunchy piece of work. Nooooo. This is not a major label thing. It is David La Duke, and the man rocks hard, no doubt, and this record is, for lack of a better term, a piece of work.

For anyone who used to love it (or still does)

when MOM screamed "Turn down that damn rock & roll." Here's your chance to crank up the stereo and scream back.

LaDuke is simply put, hmmm...Picture the Sex Pistols meet the Clash meet Alvin Lee meet Jimmy Page meets Elvis; add a raw "Kick in the Ass," and you've got it. *Rock Hard Rocker*. Crank it up. You deserve this.



"Takin' My Chances," which is climbing up several college radio formats, across the country and moving in the top five pushing down Pearl Jam's "Crazy Mary" and Midnight Oil's "Outbreak Of Love," says something about La Duke's music. "Right From Wrong" is a song that could easily kick some butt on the more progressive public rock stations. That's a fact. This is a great song. The guitar takes you there.

This hard rockin' & rollin' CD reminds me of the days when Jimmy Page would pull out the violin bow and Alvin Lee would use his mike stand as a slide while screaming out "I'm Goin' Home," and embedding his vocals in your brain.

What really messes with your head is LaDuke's vocals. If you can picture Sid Vicious doing an Elvis or a Zeppelin tune, you're close. He screams from the gut, but not nearly as well as his guitar. The guitar work and the killer instinct is apparent here. The production is meaty. It's clean and it's fun.

There are some very strong tracks on this CD. "Rock & Roll Fever" literally makes me want get up and scream at each point in the song where he screams "I got rock n' roll fever." It makes me want to explode. It follows into a one minute "Axe Trax," and it is. Then he breaks into "Tellin' Me Lies." More serious guitar with an added piano that brings this song home. "Hey There" is another very immediate and accessible cut. It speaks for itself.

Although much of LaDuke's material is not

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From RICKY page 21

For us, it was like getting divorced and remarried at the same time. We were getting new record deals, and still trying to get out of the other thing. We're pretty much through all that. We feel real good about everything. We just feel very fortunate to be back, to be involved in country music again. I think people respect you for standing up and doing what you want to do. It's not real easy to jump off a cliff, when you know there's not a net under you, you know? (laughs)

What are your long term goals for the Brother Phelps career?

Well, we're still touring and just trying to get up and runnin'. There's still a lot of things to get going with, and the second songs just hitting the airwaves. We've got probably three more singles we're going to get off that album. **Do you and Doug have families, and how does that effect things on the road?**

I have a wife and my brother's got a wife and two children. Most of my children have tails. For the most part we just jump on the bus, us and the band, and we go. The wives stay behind, at this point, because we're not really making enough money to stick everybody on a plane, and some trips are too long to have the families on the bus. Any show that's pretty close to home, within a few hours, we always try to make sure they go, because I just don't feel right without my wife.

Well, that's a nice incentive to create some nice ballads on the bus.

Oh yeah, definitely!

This just came to mind. You must know that Garth Brooks is so heavy on trying to stop the sales of used CD's. How do you feel about that subject?

Well, it's not that important to me. I don't

know why Garth gets all tore up about it. He's got plenty of money. I think, as long as they buy the record one time at the record store, it's gonna do nothing but help us. If it's re-sold again used, it does nothing but spread the word. I think I take the Grateful Dead approach. I don't even care if they all come and tape us. It don't matter to me. (laughs) Garth just tries to get up on a soap box or something once in awhile. I don't understand all that, and I don't know why.

I'd recently heard "Dixie Chicken," and I thought it was a digital re-release, because it sounded so perfect. It was so perfect I thought it was Lowell George singing, only to find out it was a Garth Brooks cover. I thought, man if you want to cover a song you've got to do it your way. It was so verbatim I was shocked. Now, when The Headhunters covered a tune, you guys turned it around into your song. You've got to do it your way.

Exactly. You have to do something to them to make them yours. There's no need to mess with 'em if you ain't gonna do nothing different.

I see so many artists out there who do have enough vision and do know enough, that they can run their own show. They can kind of do their own albums, or at least be more involved. Then there's some artists who don't have the slightest idea. They're just singers and don't know anything about that stuff. But the ones who do, need to be listened to.

They do, and those are the artists we want to expose. Brother Phelps impresses me, and I'm a rock lover. Being a rock lover, the real country music is going to be the only thing that will impress me.

That's exactly right. That's how it should be.

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for everybody, with a total of 14 tracks, this is a truly unbridled "rock & roll kick in the head." If you can somehow connect "in your mind" the highly unusual vocals of LaDuke, with his high strung rock & roll, this record should knock you upside your head. There's still a dent in mine.

I've read several local reviews on David LaDuke's *Absolutely Raw*, and although the reviews were a bit harsh, the music was not nearly as well produced, but it was *Absolutely Raw*. So maybe it wasn't great, but again, "No music is trash." If that were the case, in many people's opinions, rap and death metal would not exist today. OK.

I think the reviewers should be a little kinder to LaDuke on this outing. It really is deserving. But beware: This is no ordinary rock & roll. It's David LaDuke. He's got me "Shakin' all over." What can I say but, *Rock Hard Rocker* is a rock-hard rocker.

—Fred Grajek

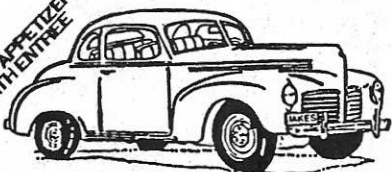
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