



Courtesy of Johnny Reno

Reno goes without sax

For some hot saxophone-powered rock 'n' roll, check out the Johnny Reno Band tonight at Oscar's, 800 O St. Reno, who released "Third Degree" earlier this year, has stepped away from his old band, the Sax Maniacs, and cut the troupe down to four. Although Reno has moved a bit away from roadhouse music, he still drives straight ahead through Rockville, U.S.A. Lately, Johnny Reno has cavorted across NBC's Nightly News. The NBC crew filmed the band at an outdoor show at San Antonio's River City Fair on June 22, while San Antonio police were standing by measuring decibels because of a new city ordinance. River City Fair was fined \$500 for the Reno show. Wow. Reno told press "it was one of the quietest shows we've ever done." Cover for tonight's show is \$5. The show starts around 9 p.m.

Love

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hand, have remained somewhat of a novelty, and real credibility has eluded them.

Formed in 1986, Love Dolls is a band of lace-clad "valley girls" who made two B movies ("Desperate Teenage Love Dolls" and "Love Dolls Superstar") before getting around to cutting their first album, "Love One Another," in 1988. Two years later, their debut has been released, and as their press release promises, "beauty and love will emanate from their amps."

Recorded in a Hollywood parking lot, "Love One Another" takes its name from the Chet Powers tune that became a 1960s catch phrase.

Although the the band's name, appearance, and even the album jacket is sickening clichéd with images of "flower power," the

songs themselves are reminiscent of early '80s bands like the Waitresses or Blondie.

Lisa Freeman's vocals are irritatingly flat, particularly with the pouty "Pearls at Swine." And her adolescent lyrics don't help much: "It makes me sick, the way I throw myself at pigs like you! The way I throw my pearls at swine."

Despite their sappy, hackneyed lovesongs, these Dolls do have their moments. "The Last Beer" is a driving number about a man who prefers his beer to his women, and Freeman breaks away from her monotone delivery long enough to make "Ain't No Sin" stand out.

The Love Dolls are adequate musicians, and Janet Housden's drumming is actually pretty good. After listening to "Love One Another" though, one is reminded of the woman in the John Cusack film "Say Anything," who wrote 80 songs about "Joe," her ex-boyfriend.

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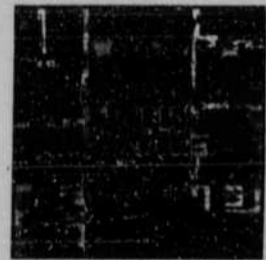
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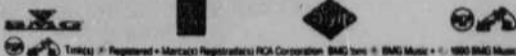
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