



The London-based band Swervedriver was among the three bands that performed at the Royal Grove Tuesday night. From left: Jimmy Hartridge, Adam Franklin, Jez and Steven George.

Courtesy of A&M Records

Indie bands rock Royal Grove

By Glenn Antonucci
Staff Reporter

Lincoln's Royal Grove played host to three bands from abroad Tuesday, including A&M recording artists and increasingly popular indie bands Swervedriver and Therapy?

Medicine opened the show, firing forth an impenetrable sonic wall of guitar wails, feedback and glass-shattering screeches.

Behind it all, the band harked back vaguely to early Jesus and Mary Chain (with the addition of female vocals) and My Bloody Valentine with even less structure and little of the melody. Much of the crowd, though, found the noisy five-piece hard to swallow.

Ireland's own Therapy? brought the show to an energetic boiling point, whizzing through a full set of the three-piece's user-friendly hard core.

Therapy? borrowed much from its musical library, including tunes from the just-released album "Troublegum." The band made good use of the Grove's impressive light show. They captivated a somewhat meager crowd with the popular single "Teethgrinder" and a blistering rendition of Joy Division's "Isolation."

Guitarist/vocalist Andy Cairns and bassist Michael McKeegan were in top hyper form, and

drummer Fyfe Ewing added strong vocals to his dizzying rhythms.

By the time Swervedriver took the stage, the crowd had dwindled to a few dozen. But the London natives put on an impressive performance. They showered the Grove's ear-splitting yet well-balanced sound system with their gritty, layered harmonies.

Swervedriver founders Adam Franklin and Jimmy Hartridge have developed a sort of divine telepathy, complementing each other's guitar movements beautifully.

Drummer Jez and bassist Steven George, both recently added to the lineup, complete the package with freely structured songs but fist-tight instrumentation.

Both Cairns of Therapy? and Franklin of Swervedriver said they enjoyed journeying to such uncharted territory as Lincoln. It was both bands' first appearance in town.

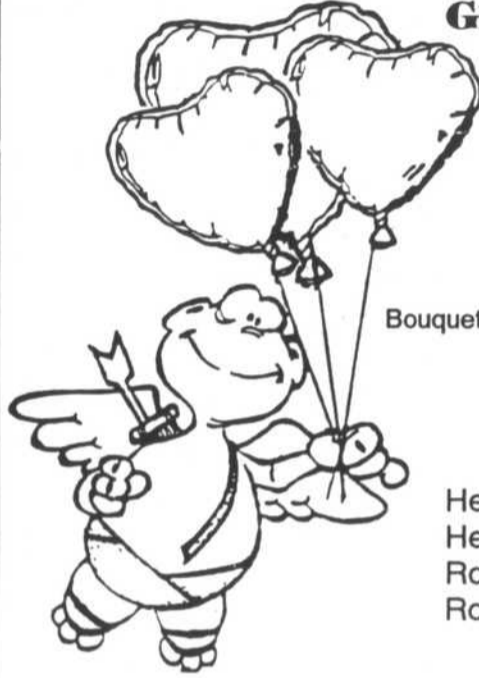
Therapy? bassist McKeegan said playing to an audience somewhat unfamiliar to his band's music was challenging.

"We still have things to prove so far here," he said.

The tempered but positive response from those who chose to brave the arctic cold Tuesday night showed that both Swervedriver and Therapy? proved a few things to Lincoln.

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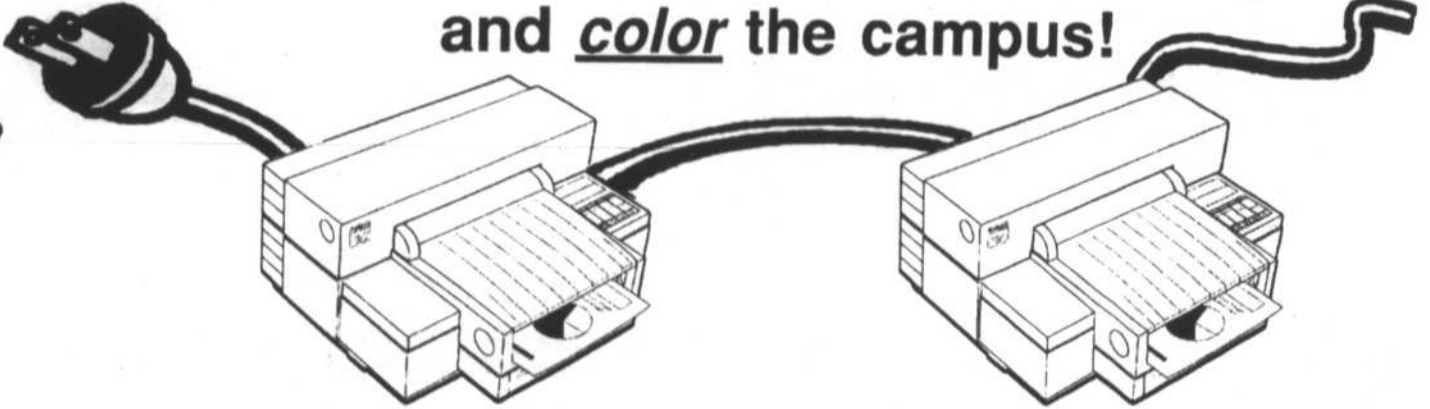
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