

CD Review



**Man or Astro-Man?
"Experiment Zero"**
Touch and Go Records
Grade: B

Put Dick Dale in a blender, toss in a few microchips and transistors for texture, lightly season with vitamin B movies, shake and place mixture in a sub-space deep-freeze and within 24 hours you'll have the unique, surreal surf sounds of Man or Astro-Man? ready to serve.

Better dressed than Devo and offering more B-movie sound clips than Mystery Science Theater 3000, Man or Astro-Man? has been an extremely productive indie band with an almost cultlike following which has developed over the past four years.

"Experiment Zero" is the latest in a series of tightly strung surf albums, punctuated with odd sound clips and whirling space sound effects. As usual, few tracks bother with lyrics. Those that do contain words are scarcely audible above the rapidly rising and falling surf of punk waves crashing against a frantic drum beat.

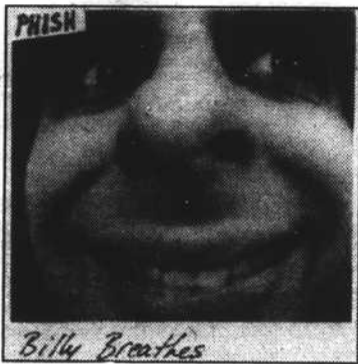
Along with a few capacious echo-

ing covers such as the The Bunnies "Test Driver" and an especially expedient version of the Talking Heads "Television Man," Man or Astro-Man? quickly zips out 13 of their own songs, visions of their dedication to the marriage of surf rock and alien life forms.

A few of their tracks include "Evil Plans of Planet Spectra," a song uncovering the heinous plans of an alien takeover through the hypnotizing powers of earth music. "Cyborg Control" opens with a Cyborg issuing threats to possibly dangerous and pesky humans.

If you have ever caught yourself getting involved in the plot of a movie shown on MST 3000 or jammed to the bubbly sounds of Dick Dale, the experiments of Man or Astro-Man? may draw you in.

—Bret Schulte



**Phish
"Billy Breathes"**
Elektra Records
Grade: B

They're pretty much replacing the Grateful Dead as the biggest touring production, but that doesn't mean they aren't allowed to release an album here

and there.

Phish's new release, "Billy Breathes" is their first studio recording since 1994. Granted, they released the two-disc set, "A Live One," last year, but you can only listen to a 34-minute track so many times.

The most instantly noticeable fact about "Billy Breathes" is that it's calm for Phish, the band that brought us energetic songs like "Bouncing Around The Room" and "Sample In A Jar."

Not like that means anything, mind you. They sound pretty damn good this way, too.

Songs like "Taste," "Bliss" and "Train Song" capture a resting time for Phish. The band, instead playing more of the extremely high power that epitomizes its live show, has opted for a more reserved approach to "Billy Breathes."

A few times on the record Phish really cut loose and let some wilder jams fly ("Free" and "Cars Trucks Buses"), but for the most part "Billy Breathes" is a little less up-tempo than Phish fans are used to.

In some ways, "Billy Breathes" is a breath of fresh air. The somewhat restrained performances offer up a new side to Phish.

However, an essential element of any Phish show is the amount of "noodling" the band does. "Noodling" is a jazz term used when musicians wander around a basic riff or melody, expanding and extrapolating.

With the band being as restrained as they are on "Billy Breathes," the immediate reaction after a full listening should be to put in "A Live One" to counter the effect.

—Cliff Hicks

Ozzy rocks Lincoln with old and new

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ing the pep-rally friendly "Ironman." He encored with "Crazy Train" and "The Road To Nowhere."

Glen Danzig, with his band of newcomers, incited more than a few mosh pits and bodysurfers.

Also opening the show Tuesday night were thrash bands Biohazard and Sepultura.

The Brazilian act Sepultura has been around since 1985 in South America, but did not get much recognition in the United States until their 1991 release "Arise."

Tuesday was the band's first time playing in Nebraska, and if the response was any indication, it won't be its last. Sepultura is huge in Europe and South America, recently heading a gig with a crowd of 50,000 in Indonesia.

But whether they're playing to a sold-out 100,000-seat soccer stadium or at a half-filled club in Ohio, Sepultura still puts heart and soul into each performance, lead guitarist Andreas Kisser said.

"It's great, we enjoy going everywhere," he said in a phone interview. "We started with small tours in the states and now we're playing with Ozzy."



COURTESY PHOTO

OZZY OSBOURNE and his crew rocked the house at the Pershing Auditorium last night.

NASA brings weather from Mars to Internet

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Want to know the latest weather on Mars? Or tag along with a Mars rover for close-up views of the terrain, practically in real time?

Tune in next year and you'll get all this and more.

"I would definitely term this the first planetary mission in the full-blown Internet era," NASA spokesman Douglas Isbell said Wednesday. "It's vicarious exploration."

NASA plans to post daily Mars weather reports on the Internet once the Mars Pathfinder spacecraft lands on the Red Planet next summer. The spacecraft is to be launched in early December.

What's more, users of the Internet's World Wide Web will be able to see what the Mars rover sees as it ambles along the rocky surface. Expect a 20- to 40-minute lag, though, for the time it takes the signals to reach Earth.

"We hope to produce and show the data that we obtain virtually as it happens and show you, in fact, not only what we did yesterday and the day before in terms of the rover traverse, but what our plans are for the next day," said Matthew Golombek, project scientist for Mars Pathfinder.

Mars Pathfinder will be the first spacecraft to land on Mars since NASA's twin Viking landers in 1976.

Back then, there was no way to share such wonders with so many people, in real time or otherwise. Even with the more recent planetary probes, there's never been anything like this.

"There will be a virtual presence on Mars, so everybody in America and for that matter around the world can participate," NASA Administrator Daniel Goldin said.

NASA plans to launch a Mars orbiter, called the Mars Global Sur-

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DANIEL GOLDIN
NASA Administrator

veyor, on Nov. 6. It will take 10 months for the spacecraft to reach its destination; once there, it will map the planet from a circular orbit for two years.

The color images will be posted on the Internet within a day or two, not as quick as the Pathfinder images perhaps, but still pretty speedy.

The Mars Pathfinder is scheduled to launch on Dec. 2 and land on July 4, 1997. If all goes well, the Sojourner rover will study the rocks and soil of Mars for at least a week, possibly months, with scientists and Internet browsers following along.

As for the Martian weather forecast, make it chilly and cooler. At its equator, Mars is a brisk, minus 70 degrees Fahrenheit and gets chillier the closer one gets to the poles.

"I would hope that every newspaper would show the weather in Timbuktu and why not on Mars, too?" Golombek said. "It's a little chilly, but a nice place to be."

Career Fair 1996

If you are interested in job opportunities in the claims area, we invite you to stop at our table at the Career Fair on October 22nd. We seek college graduates to fill our adjuster trainee positions. A rural background and an aptitude in building construction could be helpful. Candidates must have flexibility to relocate in Nebraska.

These salaried positions offer an excellent benefit package along with a company car. An excellent training program is also provided.



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