

New Records: Midnight Oil Live, Helmet, Stray Cats

SPIN

QUEEN
Freddie's
Dead: Our
Tribute

UGLY KID JOE
Everything About Them

L.A. RIOTS
You Say You Want
a Revolution?

**PERRY
FARRELL
AND**

LOLLAPALOOZA

'92 Exclusive Interview
and Concert Guide

**PLUS: The Cure Live, Lemonheads, TLC
Bad Religion, del Amitri, *Twin Peaks* Movie**

August 1992 \$2.95
Can. \$3.50 / U.K. £1.95





Buffalo Tom, from left: Chris Colbourn, Tom Maginnis, and Bill Janovitz.

The press is really into this nerd angle on us," says Bill Janovitz, guitarist-vocalist of Boston's Buffalo Tom.

"We've been called 'Nerd's Atomic Dustbin,'" admits Chris Colbourn, bassist of the guitar-driven threesome, a worn Steinbeck novel poking out of his Oxford shirt's breast pocket. Tom Maginnis, the drummer, is silent, as usual.

"Here's a story," Janovitz adds anxiously. "There's a thing in *Sassy* called 'Cute Band Alert.' For ours, it was more like 'Cute Drummer Alert.' *Sassy* used only Tom from a picture of the three of us, and went on to say 'the other two have very good personalities.'"

Buffalo Tom is an intelligent, musical, near-comedy routine, which further blurs the line between sarcasm and truth. These are the kind of guys who lie in their press bios as a guffaw at the absurdities reprinted in dinky-town newspapers (for the record: Janovitz's dad isn't a funeral-home owner, he's an accountant). The band formed in 1986 at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, where the Buffalo boys roamed with Dinosaur Jr.'s J Mascis, who produced their first two albums. These records crowned Buffalo Tom a college-radio success and earned the band the nickname "Dinosaur Jr. Jr.," a coinage that irritates the trio less than one might expect.

"People assume we're going to be defensive about it," Janovitz remarks. "Anyway, I think now we've gone more in our own direction."

Buffalo Tom's new album, *Let Me Come Over*, shows off the trio's acoustic guitar capabilities, and is more heartbreaking than burning. Janovitz cites the obligatory Hüsker Dü as an influence, but he's flattered to hear he has been compared to Bob Dylan.

Janovitz muses: "I hope they mean more as a musical genius than as a reclusive weirdo."

AMY TALKINGTON



the trudell truth

Far more than just another singer-songwriter politico, John Trudell is a man who's lived his worldly words. This Santee Sioux artist, activist, and self-styled leader's résumé (replete with 17,000-page FBI file) reads like a manifesto of modern Native American history. He served as spokesperson during 1969's historic Indian occupation of Alcatraz Island, he was National Chairman of the American Indian Movement from 1973 to 1979, and he was a founder of the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee in 1976. On the lighter side, he acted in *Thunderheart* with Val Kilmer and Sam Shepard and is featured in the recent documentary on Peltier, *Incident at Oglala*.

Trudell turned to poetry in

1979, after the suspicious arson death of his wife, children, and mother-in-law, which occurred only 12 hours after he burned an American flag in front of Washington, D.C.'s J. Edgar Hoover Building, home of the FBI. The author has since unleashed a litany of books and spoken-word musical works, culminating in his new release, *AKA Grafitti Man [sic]*, a 12-track retrospective coproduced by Jackson Browne. While endorsed by politically-correct pop spokespersons such as Bob Dylan and Midnight Oil's Peter Garrett, Trudell gets downright pissed-off when patronized as some newfangled Noble Savage of rock, preferring to let his multicultural observations on the perilous condition of Western civilization speak for

themselves.

"As an outsider, I tend not to think from the typical rock'n'roll approach," says Trudell. "My spoken words are merely an avenue of expression to get beyond all the lies we deal with every day. It's been said that the truth will set you free, but from a tribal perspective, history un-

fortunately doesn't seem to prove that. All I can do is put forth truth in my words and hope they make a small impact on the listeners' psyches. If nothing else, I can go to bed at night knowing I've stood up to the lies and hypocrisy in my own little way."

STEVE BLUSH



John Trudell:
Native American
renaissance
activist.