



# The Music Beet



## The Rhythm Method-The Rings

The Rings are a Boston based outfit, one of several reasons why they are being compared to The Cars. The comparison is not without merit. The debut albums of both bands were well recieved and their sound is essentially the same. (simple lyrics set to a thick rock beat.)

The Rings seem to be going the Car's route, ie: the potential is evident but the arrangements are all over the place. This is a characteristic of a lot of the new British groups of this genre (eg:XTC and to a lesser extent, U2). Is it because the band is doing what it wants to do as opposed to what the market wants it to do? If that is the case, then fine- I'd bent over backwards justifying them before I would so much as

turn an ear to the feather-weights that have cornered the American market.

The shelf life of The Rhythm Method probably will not be too long because a) the band has yet to establish media push; and b) the l.p. lacks the all important breakthrough single. But The Rings do too many things right to be written off as a bunch of hackers. There are several cuts which grab you on the first listen (notably "Uh, Oh (Here I Go Again)") and a couple which improve with age- and to me that's usually a sign of a pretty good record.

## Non-Stop Erotic Cabaret-Soft Cell

Listening to this album is a lot like walking into

a room full of poorly arranged furniture- you recognize the effort but at the same time you can't help making mental notes of things that should have been done differently. But since this is a first effort, one shouldn't be too picky.

If you havn't heard the single on AM "Tainted Love", is in itself almost worth the price of admission (It's simple, sincere and haunting melody reminds me of a mid-sixties group whose name escapes me). It is when Soft Cell keeps it simple that they impress the most. "Frustration", the L.P's opening cut begins as a genuine statement of, well ... frustration. But suddenly the singer gears down into a tirade of unnecessary screaming which really makes a chore out of listening to

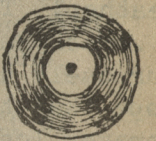
the song a second time. I suppose the purpose is to drive the song's message home but all it does is drive me out of the room.

I also have a bone to pick with "Sex Dwarf", a tune that's so off the wall that it's not even in the room. I'm sure the guys had fun recording it, but it's damned annoying to listen to three synthesizers and six vocalists performing the seemingly impossible feat of all being out of key simultaneously.

Aside from the intermittent silliness, Non-Stop Erotic Cabaret is an honest enough debut. After all any band that pull off something like "Tainted Love", can't be all bad. Hopefully Soft Cell will take a cue from the song's success and give us more of the same in the future.

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# Sam The Record Man



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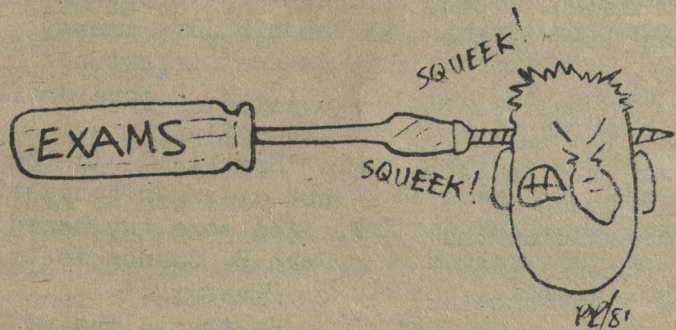
## UPEI JAZZ BAND

From Marita McNulty  
PEI jazz fans are looking forward to another performance by the UPEI Jazz Band which will entertain on Valentine's Day, February 14, at the Steel Recital Hall. The 18 member band, composed of students, members of the university community as well as music teachers from Island High Schools,

is directed by James Montgomery of the University's Department of Music.

The program which pays tribute to Valentine's Day will include such oldies as My Funny Valentine, Swinging Shepherd Blues, Satin Doll, and Watermelon Man.

The concert, open to the public free of charge, will begin at 2:00 p.m.



## A DAY IN THE LIFE ...

