

Machine's success no mystery

Nettwerk Records has two mysteries on their hands. They have Sarah McLachlan building a mystery, and they have a band out of Chilliwack that's a Mystery Machine.

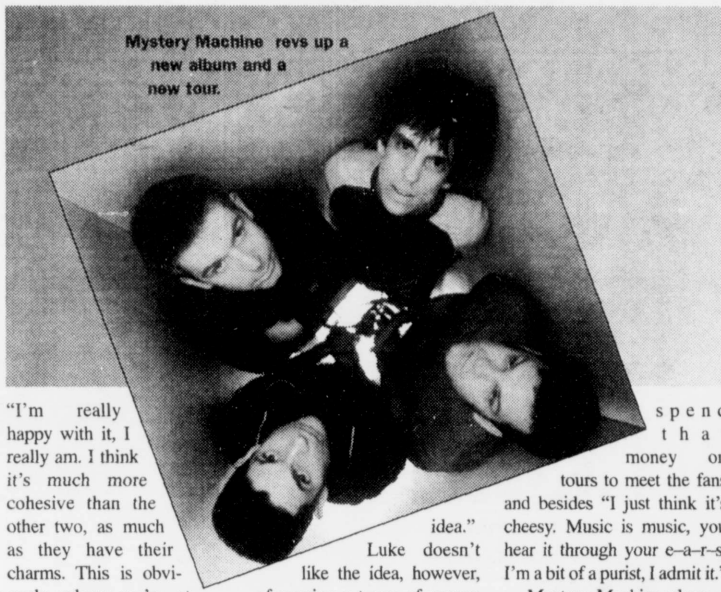
Mystery Machine is a rarity in the gravel rock / alternative music industry. They are three albums old, and still on an upward trajectory. In today's here-today / gone-later-today record business, they are emerging as respected leaders. The west coast's version of Sloan.

The new Mystery Machine album is called *Headfirst Into Everything* and that sounds like the philosophy they took in recording. They use production effects far more than in the past, they punched up the lyrics so we can discern every word, and they sound like they're having fun. It's actually a bit of a departure.

"We know more how to use a studio, now, having been in one so many times," says Luke Rogalsky, vocalist/guitarist/primary songwriter for the machine of mystery. "For the first record we were pretty green and we just went in there. I don't even remember recording that album, you know, it was enough back then just to hear our music at times other than when we were playing it. It was a huge novelty. But after awhile you start realizing that if you're going to spend \$2,000 a day to sit in a studio, let's use it wisely and make a half decent record."

So do they like this one, now that they've lived with it awhile?

"Two years of my life, I'd better like it!" Luke spouts.



"I'm really happy with it, I really am. I think it's much more cohesive than the other two, as much as they have their charms. This is obviously where we're at right now. More radio stations seem to be playing it, so it must be more accessible to them. That's just a fact."

Not only a stronger album this time out, it also contains some noticeable songs. The first single is *Wake Up Pill*, *Bring You Down* certainly won't, *Doubter* is one of the best songs of the year (featuring Kim Hardy on vocals, Luke's partner in the side-project Beluga) and the album leads off with the cheery YTV, named after Canada's youth television station.

"We were on tour a couple of years ago, I was writing songs in the hotel rooms, and we had an appearance on YTV one morning," Luke says. "We played that song the morning it was written, pretty much just the way it is now, on the show. We used it as a working title and it stuck. Kim [who also works for Nettwerk Records] says YTV likes the

idea." Luke doesn't like the idea, however, of pouring a tonne of money into TV. He says the video market is too risky to drop the prerequisite \$50,000 into a video and then have Much-Music not play it. He'd rather

spend that money on tours to meet the fans and besides "I just think it's cheesy. Music is music, you hear it through your e-a-r-s. I'm a bit of a purist, I admit it."

Mystery Machine plays at The Generator on May 11, along with touring partners The Killjoys.



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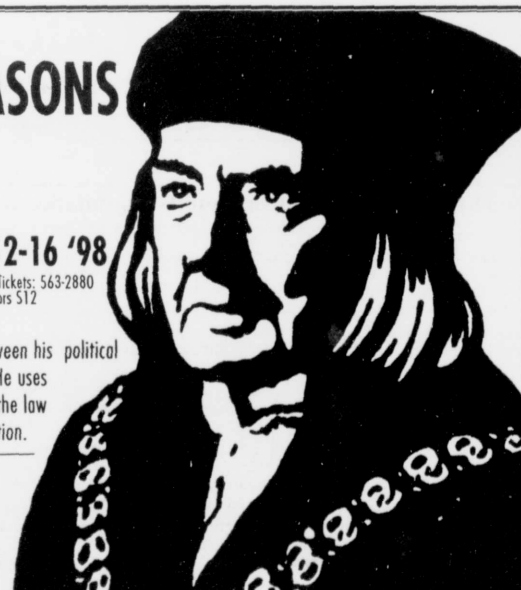
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