



Moth Macabre produce horror for listeners

by David Cherry

Moth Macabre's self-titled debut release on Interscope Records is a lot like a candy bar. While it may taste pleasant enough to the palate it never really quite satisfies.

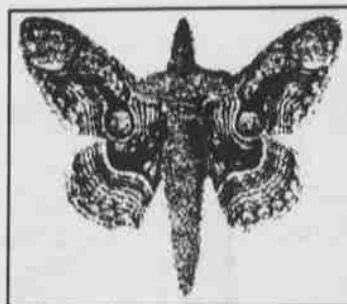
Produced by singer-songwriter-guitarist Daniel Presley, Moth Macabre is an intriguing blend of wailing guitars, industrial-strength

drumming and abstract lyricism. Add to this Presley's sing-scream vocal style and the bubbling bass of Michelle Muldrow and you have a sound that at times blends the intensity of punk and industrial with ethereal melodies and dare I say it, an occasional touch of grunge.

Averaging less than three minutes each, most of the 11 songs on *Moth Macabre* end

before they ever get a chance to really grab the listener. Throwaways like "Malibu" and "AEIOU" offer little musically and even less lyrically. A typical example: "Planet of Sea, you're alien/ longer than 18 times 10, and again/AEIOU/AEIOU/ Dr. Lilly made mistakes/ Teaching us what we can't say, hey hey hey/AEIOU."

Fortunately, not all of the album is quite that bad. Moth Macabre songs like "All Great Architects are dead," and "Pale," create an in-your-face style that sets the perfect mood for driving carelessly down the freeway at an exhilarating rate



of speed, humming along the entire way.

"Blow," the album's most memorable moment, features Presley accompanied on the hook heavy chorus by Muldrow's seductive "little girl" vocals. Trading back and forth the pair sings, "Blow baby

blow, blow blow baby blow, blowwwwwwwww," over a simple melody ending in a spacey crescendo that sends the song happily over the edge into oblivion.

In spite of its obvious shortcomings in flying too close to the flame, *Moth Macabre* does offer the listener an intriguing look and listen into the world of Presley and his band. The question still remains however, is it as painful for Presley to scream his songs' lyrics as it is for the audience to listen to them?

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organized religion as the "opium of the masses" with their loss of spirituality and "connection" with Jesus Christ.

"My faith is in the living person, not the system," he said.

He shouts at passing students: "You will burn in hell" for not following the Word of Jesus expressed in the Bible.

He slaps his black Bible and urges the small crowd gathered around him to "read His teachings, you will find peace."

Peace is offered by most religions in regard to "finding Jesus" however some have followed a different path and found "fulfillment."

"The idea of Taoism does not predispose itself to any theology," said Russell Rader, a Taoist.

Rader believes the Tao is "the way." Rather than a religion it is a "philosophy" for him which he has chosen to live by, letting his Catholic beliefs fall behind.

"Taoism is a direction," Rader said. "Anything that is against the Tao is destroyed...it becomes very difficult to be happy in the fullest extent."

Rader agreed with Woroniecki in comparing modern religion with "opium of the masses."

"It is not necessarily a bad thing," said Rader, "in saying it is an 'opium' it is taking religion out of the hands of the people." Rader continues that religion is a cultural defense mechanism in that it alleviates the fear of the unknown therefore making it easier to live life.

"In having a universe we don't understand," Rader said,

"we feel that it is uncontrollable so we create a universe that we consider palatable and in being the creators we are able to manipulate it."

Rader described modern religion as a "symbol system" which, if removed, would be replaced by another set of symbols.

"Ritual is religion. The ritual itself becomes our symbol for God," said Rader. "It is the physicalization of our concept of the universe which we have created."

"The only way that religion is important is through our minds, our beliefs."

Shay O'Dell (not his real name) does not believe in the paths which the above people have taken. O'Dell is an atheist. He turned from God because he believed God turned his back on him which he did not think a "good God" would do.

"Due to past events in my life, it was easier for me to believe in myself rather to rely on someone else," O'Dell said.

If Bieber and Rohach believed in pleasing God to get into heaven, then O'Dell is their detractor.

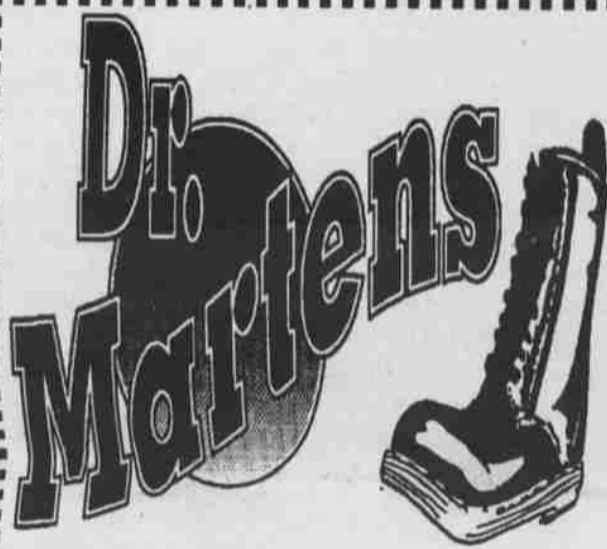
"Hell is what we live through everyday. Nobody has a great life. Everyone has their problems. Everyone has their own personal hell."

To him, "religion is to find inner peace. To find answers to questions that you can't answer."

O'Dell does not feel that any religion is wrong or right, "all of it is theory."

How does someone lead a "good life" without religion?

"A parent once told me that he wants to raise his child on ethics and morality rather than have the child follow something blindly." O'Dell said. "I try to treat people as humanely as possible."



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like it," Fisher said. "We need to...prisonment and he said that fu-