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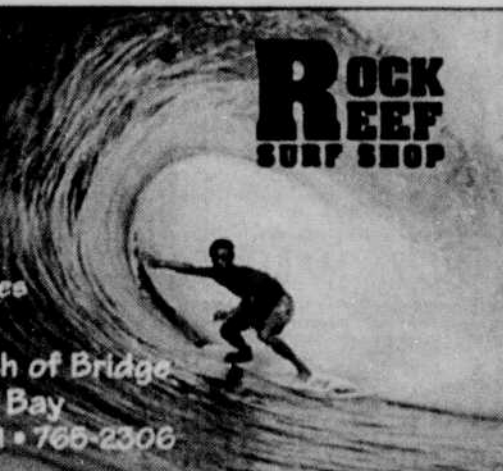
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MUSIC

Skiploader makes powerful music

I must admit that this was the first time I've heard Skiploader. This Portland band has been around for a couple of years, and has put out two albums before signing to Geffen and releasing this five-song EP. Unfortunately, for some reason I kept missing their shows and never got around to buying their albums.

With this band on a major label, we should all be hearing Skiploader a lot more in the future, and for a good reason. This band can write good songs and make powerful music.

From the opening track, there is an overwhelming feeling of intensity and power about to be released. The guitars and bass swirl to form thunderous riffs, drums pound away, and the vocalist sings with passion. Although it's difficult to place the sound of the band, a cross between a less psychedelic version of Pond and Afghan Whigs



**Anxious,
Restless**
Skiploader

★★★★

lyrics make you feel like the vocalist is confessing his innermost secrets to you, as in "N2O," the first song. "Nothing hurts like thinking, I'm so afraid of being me, so afraid of what that means." On the CD-foldout is an explanation of each song and why it was written.

"All Smiles," tells the story of a friend lost to heroin addiction, and his feelings of guilt associated with her death. The song is built on an interplay of a changing tempo - slow to fast, and

can be a good reference.

What really takes the band apart from a lot of its peers is the poignant, very personal songwriting. The

back to slow again.

"Trademark," probably the best track on the album, introduces a crushing guitar line, while the vocalist belts out frustration with his father who left the family. "I'll give dad one last chance, to earn his household name."

Finally "Stunt Double," the last song, permeates with a feeling of chaos, and as the guitars built up, and you think the music will explode, it retracts, slowing down again. This track is finished with a mellow instrumental jam, that shows a quieter side of the band.

This EP is hopefully only a preview of great things to come, and they are sure to because Skiploader has great talent. If you haven't had a chance to experience their music, this is a good way to catch up.

— LES ZACZEK
Oregon Daily Emerald

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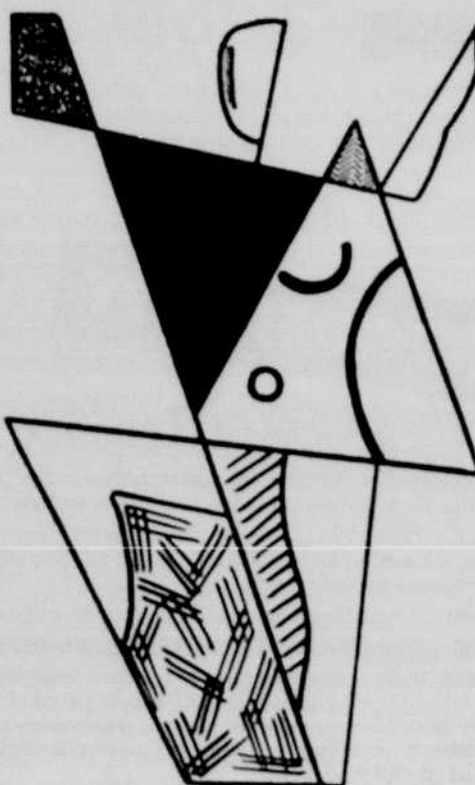
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