



RAW POWER

THE BEAT OF THE STREET

By KATHERINE TURMAN

A very cool tape recently landed at my doorstep...literally. (So much for security apartment buildings!) It came courtesy of **Mighty Joe Young**, who just inked a deal with Atlantic. I caught the band awhile back at Blak & Bloo, and it was great in the **Social Distortion/Nirvana** realm. Mighty Joe Young has passion, aggression, humor, songs...and short hair. The slow groove-oriented "Where the River Goes" is one I remember well from the group's live show, with its big echo-y feel. Expect a strong, slam-danceable debut from this powerful, non LA-ish outfit. Contact: **Steve Stewart** at (818) 563-1030.

As always, there's quite a dichotomy in my musical tastes, and two of the most rockin' shows I've seen of late came from two *totally* different types of bands. N.Y.C.'s dreadlocked **White Zombie** recently inundated the Whisky, and though the group boasted a major image and stage show that could easily turn it into a "shtick" band, the Zombies don't take themselves that seriously. In the **Zodiac Mindwarp** vein, with a dash of **Danzig** thrown in for good measure, these guys (and a gal bass player) display heavy grooves, good songs, chops, and a commanding frontman. And their major label debut on Geffen (the band used to be on Caroline), *La Sexorcisto: Devil Music Vol. 1*, is a killer.

The other show that held me in a trance was the **Cowboy Junkies**, who held a record release party/gig for its third LP, *Black Eyed Man* at the Variety Arts

Theater in February. Vocalist **Margo Timmons** has a stunningly beautiful voice that can be simultaneously strong and gentle, and the **Junkies** put on an evocative, mood-elevating show.

As a lifelong equestrian, Cafe Largo's recent Rockin' Horse benefit was particularly close to my heart. Designed to raise money for Assembly Bill 500, which would require disclosure of "kill buyers" (people who buy horses for meat) at auctions and would provide humane transportation for horses sold to the knacker, the show raised about \$1000 that will go to the Horse Power lobbying group. More benefits are slated, and co-organizer **Cindy Lamb** hopes to get record labels behind the cause. For more info, the temporary number for Rockin' Horse is (213) 654-5814.

On the demo front, there's quite a buzz on for

Wood and Smoke. And rightfully so. This is a very eclectic band, at times sounding like a more organic **PIL**; at times pure folky (I loved the lilting "Up in the Air"), and at times retro-heavy psychedelic (vaguely **Cream-ish**). Terrific lyrical vignettes populate this really strong, passionate, intoxicating demo. Contact: **Wood and Smoke** at (213) 857-1078.

Congrats to **Raging Slab**, faves of this column who recently inked a deal with Def American and will be heading into the studio for a fall release. *Yeah!* ... Another strong signing to **Ozzy/Megadeth** manager **Ron Lafitte's** new Capitol-distributed label, Revolution,

is **Sugartooth**, formerly **She Died** (but with a different singer). ... In other local news, I ran into former **Grace Period** singer, **Rail**, and he informed me he's got a new band going. All he needs are guitarists! (*He should check out Molten Metal this issue!*—Ed.) ... **Black Cactus Stampede** is now once again complete and back with a bang, having picked up a rhythm section from Memphis's **Delta Rebels**. Contact the Stamp-



Wood and Smoke: one of LA's more eclectic musical units

peders through **Jim Cardillo** at Warner Chappell, (213) 273-3323.

Finally, though straight-ahead radio-rock may not be my favorite genre, I have no qualms about saying the new **Slaughter** record, *The Wild Life*, is truly amazing. Heard a sneak preview of the whole thang, and it is a *tour de force*. 'Nuff said. ■

Send all tapes, letters, and tips to Katherine Turman, c/o BAM, 1800 N. Highland Ave., #506, Hollywood, CA 90028.