

Album Review

Girls Color World Indigo

David A. Blymire
Capital Times Staff

That period in our lives when the passionate idealism of youth runs head-on into stone-cold reality is the main theme of this self-titled, acoustic guitar album by the Atlanta-based Indigo Girls.

Amy Ray and Emily Saliers express with unusual clarity and genuineness this process of stumbling through maturation in search of both an absolute to live by and peace with oneself and others.

I would even wager they chose indigo for their name because of its suggestion of being somewhere between blood-red passion and depressed blue, which is exactly what their songs are about.

"Closer to Fine" has captured the ironic truth that the more we seek an absolute to live by, the harder it becomes to yield to it:

"There's more than one answer to these questions pointing me in a crooked line

The less I seek my source for some definitive

The closer I am to fine"

The coy spirituality and relational pain expressed in their lyrics are balanced by their deeply rich vocal harmonies and upbeat song arrangements, which keep the record from sounding completely hopeless.

Although much of the album is about doubts, it ends on a haunting, but positive note, in "History of Us":

"So we must love while these moments are still called today

Take part in the pain of this passion play

Stretching our youth as we must, until we are ashes to dust

Until time makes history of us."

The Indigo Girls have created some bitter medicine, which the wise among us will be able to swallow, to our credit.

Concert Review

Band stirs with original name



Local rockers Loop Garoo.

file photo

Karen L. Peiffer
Capital Times Staff

If for no other reason than its unique name, be sure to check out Loop Garoo, a four-member, rock-n-roll, blues and reggae band with a decidedly different sound.

Named after the hero of an adventure story, Loop Garoo is taking Central Pennsylvania by storm. Not only do their local audiences seem inspired, but the ever popular band Little Women from Boulder, Colorado seems to agree. Usually performing without an opening act Little Women specifically asked the management of Gullifty's in the Cedar Cliff Mall, Camp Hill to precede their shows with performances from Loop Garoo.

Originating in 1983 Loop Garoo's members separated for a time but regrouped in 1988 and are back with a vengeance.

Keeping a steady beat on drums is "Tom Cat" Lloyd; with panache on rhythm guitar is Patrick Martin; bass player and back-up vocalist is Art Bittner; and, lead vocalist, lead guitarist, flutist, and violinist is the very talented Matthew Racey.

Racey is no newcomer to the Central Pennsylvania music scene having worked under the direction of conductor Larry Newland and the Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra for four years. Racey, with a look of grim determination, sets his chin to the violin and makes it sing with practiced precision. It is a catchy, captivating and

totally unexpected sound to add to a rock piece, and the crowd that gathered at the Midtown Cafe in Harrisburg seemed genuinely impressed.

The crowd and band were not the only ones enjoying themselves. Bartender Frank Colombo IV struck his best Chuck Berry pose and strutted the length of the bar and back again.

The band creates an energy entirely its own without the theatrics upon which other rock bands have been known to rely.

Loop Garoo is not to be compared to the flamboyant rock group Poison who also originated in the Harrisburg area. "We're here for the music," claimed Bittner. "We want people to look at the lyrics and listen to the music."

When it comes to appearances Bittner referred to the group as "definitely anti-glam". "Poison aimed themselves at a [gimmick-filled] market," said Bittner, "and that's all they wanted -- sixteen-year-olds to go 'wow!'."

"Our music doesn't fit into a mold so how can our look," said Bittner. "Let's face it, we're all funny-looking."

Relaxed, entertaining, and a fun bunch of funny-looking guys, Loop Garoo hopes to continue capturing Central Pennsylvania audiences with their unique style, unique blend of instruments and, of course, their unique name.

Loop Garoo will appear Sept. 6, 13 and 27 at the Paradise Nightspot in Mechanicsburg; Sept. 16 and 23 at the Midtown Cafe in Harrisburg; and Sept. 20 and 21 at Gullifty's in Camp Hill.

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October 11	MARCIA BOWERS, Eclectic folk, dulcimer, autoharp, banjo
October 25	KARL WILLIAMS, Country blues, original material, acoustic guitar, mouth harp
November 15	STEVENSON TWINS, Jazz, spiritual and cultural
November 29	FRANK BOWKER, handbells

All concerts will be held Wednesday, 12:05 to 12:50 pm in the Gallery Lounge, Olmsted Building, and are FREE and open to the public.

My Place Restaurant & Lounge

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