

CAKE

VOLUME 11. ALWAYS.
ISSUE
#10
SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER
1992

THE AUTO BODY EXPERIENCE

Self-Titled/Dental Records, 1367 Palace Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55101.

Gracing this edition of DEMORAMA is the talented, clever and at times downright hilarious group known as the Auto Body Experience. Excellently produced and well crafted, this CD release is a great piece of work worthy of sincere praise. Of special interest here is the highly unusual, creative and quirky lyrical writing. The topics contained within are best described by a line from their info sheet that I received: "From a character study of a Jekyll/Hyde pool maintenance man, to a pun filled lament in which an ex-lover is likened to an overripe vegetable." These songs are all delivered in a straightforward, serious fashion, which catches the listener off guard and makes this excursion in musical humor even more enjoyable. Just as the listener has fallen under the soothing spell of Scott Yoho's wonderful vocal quality and the accompanying gentle musical refrain, you hear this: "I woke to my stomach heaving, something in my mouth...my meal had headed north while the car had headed south...my sister screamed 'you idiot! you threw up on my dress!' And I was quite chagrined to be the author of this mess." The self-parody on this CD is a riot, also evident in other tracks such as "Business as Usual." Lyrics aside,

this CD could stand on it's own simply on musical merits. You'll find a lot going on here, an overall sensible pop format laced with a cool jazz feel. I was really impressed with the keyboard and sampler work (especially on "Is Mister Carlson In?"), and also the incorporation of their CD guests, The Car Horns. Like I said earlier, the production here is impressive, right down to tasty little nuances such as the swishing sound in "They Whack Balls". The vocal harmonies here are good, the combination of involved musicians impressive. Reynold Philipsek, one of the Twin Cities hardest working songwriters, co-writes two of the tracks here. And I've got to give the people from the Car Horns a little recognition too: Al Asmus, bari and soprano sax; Dusty Cox, tenor sax; Kim Gast, alto sax; Tim Olsen, trumpet. Along with the Whirligigs and the Zen Bishops, the Auto Body Experience rounds out my top three picks for this edition of DEMORAMA, with heavy acknowledgments going to the Experience for people who like to chuckle while they listen. Conclusion? Look up talent in the dictionary, and you'll see the Auto Body Experience. Now get your butt to the nearest indie store and look up this CD. By the way Scott, thanks for the crash electronics course.

-Deneen Gannon