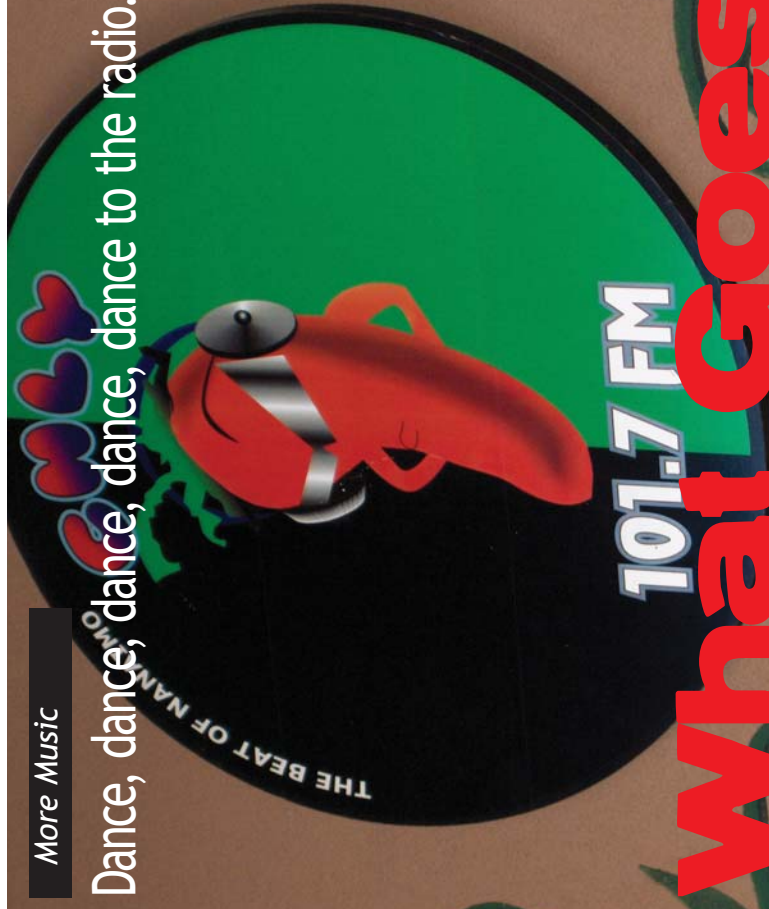
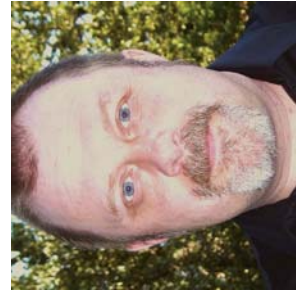


Dance, dance, dance, dance, dance to the radio...



What Goes On?



by David Morrison

As I type, I'm experiencing joy unbridled in listening to DG307, an excellent underground rock band from the Czech Republic. The source of this entertainment is a genre-mashing French show on Internet radio, a medium I've enjoyed for many years: due to the accessibility of so much undiluted, un-

sored, wildly eclectic content. One such cornucopian online resource is sited right here in Nanaimo, being the stream of Radio Malaspina Society's CHLY (at 101.7 FM on your terrestrial dial.) Striving for an "intelligent and innovative alternative media experience," chly.ca has enthralled and educated me in equal measure since my arrival in this city last December. Its fearless programming is as impressive as any Internet station I've encountered to date, giving a selection of music, spoken word and alternative news shows so diverse that CHLY has become a compulsive, all-but-addictive listener.

As a former "Americana" presenter for Totally Radio—a UK Internet station of similar daring—I wholly appreciate this bold scheduling philosophy. From extreme metal to bluegrass; reggae to "riot grrrr!"; Punjabi folk songs to cavernous psychedelia from distant galaxies: it's a dizzying selection with something for most, bar perhaps the hardcore Toby

Keith fan. And by observing the required minimum 35% Canadian content ('Cancon') in those shows not already entirely dedicated to homegrown talent, a vital platform for local artists of all musical persuasions is readily available. A particular early CHLY favourite of mine after was the superb "Rockabilly Psychosis," as pulsating a Friday brunch-time listen as you're likely to encounter. Presented with typical CHLY enthusiasm by obscenely knowledgeable quiffmeister Frazer Johnson, it was a hi-octane two hours examining the global rockabilly and psychobilly scenes, Johnson's passionate delivery remaining consistently infectious. I say 'was,' as he left the show with heavy heart in July to take up an out-of-town job. Going to press, the show's future remains uncertain; adequately replacing Johnson is an unenviable task.

Despite my arriving at the party just before the keg ran out, "Rockabilly Psychosis" is an example of dedicated CHLY programming that has provoked me to re-

consider a genre I'd never previously dived to any great depth. It's easy to be put off by the vastness of a category of music (especially when you're as broke as I am), but now armed with scores of hot names endorsed by an expert, I'm off and running on another new musical adventure.

On the other hand, certain CHLY music shows abandon singular pigeonholing entirely and wiftly roam free, caring little for broadcasting convention. For a discerning listener such as myself, a stimulating listen is usually guaranteed from such experiences, where surprise and imagination are as important as the actual content. Presented by ebullient radio veteran and independent music champion Paul Suffron, "Immense Brain" (Tuesdays from 4:00 to 7:00pm) is one such regular musical journey, a show seemingly constructed with as much deliberation as randomness and packed with quite incredible music. "I do whatever I like," states Suffron "and if I want to play Billy Bragg, then King Crimson, then Joanna Newsome, I will."

Perhaps a little more reined in, but certainly in the same maverick spirit, is DJ Doc and MC Mic Control's amusingly monitored "Impending Loom," running riot on Fridays from 5:00 'til 8:00pm. Throwing it all at the wall, you can expect to hear anything from Frank Zappa to Rick James, XTC to Shirley Bassey. It's irresistible.

Sure, I may well be preaching to the converted here, but we truly have something very special in CHLY. Where else will you find a 4-hour lounge classics show ("Elevator Club, Sundays from 7:00 to 11:00pm) or hip-hop all through Thursday's small hours? With the addition of a kids show; spoken word elements including political commentary, social issues, the oft-neglected art of radio drama and... yup... yoga, CHLY is a cultural entertainment and information resource par excellence. So tune in, log on and rock out! ■

Listen to CHLY at 101.7 FM or online at www.chly.ca



CHLY 2007 Street Fair



Frazer Johnson, quiff about town. Photos: David Morrison