



ASHLEY WILLARD

DEFEND YOURSELF!

DAN PALUSKA, OF ELECTRIC LASER PEOPLE

By Barry Thompson

Somerville's Electric Laser People, in which Dan Paluska plays bass and sings a bunch, have been called a comedy rap band, an electronic hip-hop band, a dance-rock band and music for teenagers. Which is correct? Are any of these accurate? I thought they were funk rock, but if the floodgates of debatable categorization are open, I'm going to say they're power metal. They're really not, but fuck it. Power metal rules.

WHY DO PEOPLE THINK YOU'RE A COMEDY RAP BAND?

"The Makeout Song" is the most obvious single on the album. If you judge based on that song, that's definitely a conclusion you can come to. Whereas, if you listen to the whole album, or come to a show, I think you see a lot more than that.

WHAT IS "THE MAKEOUT SONG" ABOUT?

"The Makeout Song" is about making out. It's the goal for everyone, I think. It's really just a celebration.

AND WHAT IS MAKING OUT, EXACTLY?

Making out is making love with your face. Swapping spit. All that good stuff.

EW! WHY IS THAT A GOAL FOR EVERYONE?

I think at some point in their musical career, everybody who started playing rock & roll was thinking about attracting the opposite sex. I think "The Makeout Song" has a little bit of that in it.

I SEE ... DID YOU REALLY ALL GO TO MIT?

Two of the current band did, and three of the people on the album did.

DO YOU THINK YOU'RE SMARTER THAN ME?

Definitely not. We all do stupid things all the time. If you need help with your math homework, we could probably help you out.

HOW ABOUT FIXING MY PISS-TERRIBLE INTERNET CONNECTION?

That is beyond the mysteries of MIT. Comcast and RCN are working on a plane of existence beyond our comprehension.

WHEN MUSIC MAKES YOU RICH, WILL YOU FUND ANY SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH?

When we make our millions, we'd like to develop technology that freshens your breath when you play our CD backwards. So you could play "The Makeout Song" to make out with your girlfriend, but before she comes over, you play it backwards to freshen your breath, and you're ready to go.

[Electric Laser People play Wednesday, 7.11.07, with The Make, State Your Mind and Thousand Days at TT the Bear's, 10 Brookline St., Central Sq., Cambridge. 617.492.2327. 9pm/18+/\$7. ttthebears.com. They're also doing an acoustic set on Thursday, 7.12.07, with The Sammies, The Besties, Antiques, Tony the Bookie and B for Brontosaurus at PA's Lounge, 345 Somerville Ave., Somerville. 617.776.1557. 8:30pm/21+ \$8, 18+ \$11. paslounge.com]