Having more fun with X

X at the Orpheum Theater, Nov. 27
More Fun in the New World; X on Elektric Records.

When X burst onto the Los Angeles music scene in the late '70s they were tabbed as the "punk Doors" — not an entirely fair label, but one with some justification. Singer-songwriter John X. Doe and Exene Cervenka hung out in the poet-workshops of Venice frequented by one and all as well as on television, on which appeared Door keyboardist Ray Manzarek's "Soul Kitchen." Philip Morrison, as well as Door saxophonist "Big Black Sun" — one Elvis and the Fab Four were still gigging in Germany. Before joining X, he worked with rockabilly great Gene Vincent and the Stompers.

But X, with their latest album, Wild Gift, are released on the independent Slash label, and they sold remarkably well, garnering the group an avid nation-wide following and good press to boot. When it was announced that X's third record (Under the Big Black Sun) was to be released by the corporate moguls at Elektra, many of the punk purists shuddered in antipathy, but occasionally shows some dynamic restraint and even slows down the frenetic breakneck pace on many (but thankfully not all) cuts, Doe's electric bass thing accentuates the rhythms while adding a dark, brooding texture to the mix.

Ever-smiling guitarist Billy Zoom is an unabashed rocker; his pedal steel guitar often shows some dynamic restraint and even slows down the frenetic breakneck pace on many (but thankfully not all) cuts, Doe's electric bass thing accentuates the rhythms while adding a dark, brooding texture to the mix. Hopefully, X won't have to be not withstanding their lament:

"Please bring the flag!"

Most reviewers assume X's continued technical improvement on the early recordings they more or less agree or disagree on an attainably ambitious level of musical proficiency, but now they can play their instrumentally sophisticated, their vocal coach on the album's credits: this dedication to improving her singing exquisitely X's approach to quality musicianship, setting them apart from many of their punk brethren.

On More Fun in the New World, X has X undertaken major label, but one with some justification.

Singer-songwriter John X. Doe and Exene Cervenka were known to the fans of Western Civilization's credo: "the only things worth doing are those that are very difficult to do." They never seem to be quite in tune with each other, yet produce an extra spine-tingling effect which many other duos can only attempt to duplicate. These unique vocals are the most distinctive aspect of the X sound, adding an off-beat counterpoint to the straight-ahead musical attack.

What really makes X different are their lyrics — often lounge in cozy, sometimes oddly alliterative, but unmistakably poetic. Sometimes it might be a quick, catchy phrase ("You're phones off the hook, but poor X") to jackhammer-force rave-ups ("We're Having More Fun") and "Make the Music Go Bang!"). The one which is the one song most representative of X at their least and most diversified.

Trucks roll ominously in low gear, shifts into overdrive as aimlessly as my old Buick, then drops back into a steady rumbling waiting to explode again. A touch of such as this requires a breath after, but three slow-paced songs in a row are too much. A total of $500 in Coop gift certificates will be awarded. Prizes furnished in part by the Harvard Cooperative Society

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Essay Contest

- Essays shall be on the topic 1984
- Open to all members of the MIT community
- Entries must be typed, double-spaced, on 8½-by-11-inch paper, and between 500 and 1000 words in length.
- Entries must not have been published elsewhere
- Entries must be received in Tech's offices, Student Center Room 483, before midnight, November 30.
- All entries will become the property of The Tech, and will not be returned.
- The Tech reserves all publication rights to odd-numbered entries.

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- Black-and-white prints only (any size)
- Open to all members of the MIT community
- Three entries per person
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- Entries must be received in Tech's offices, Student Center Room 483, before midnight, November 30.
- All entries will become the property of The Tech, and will not be returned.
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