

Modern Artist PROFILE

# THE EVOLUTION CONTROL COMMITTEE

INTERVIEW  
BY JEFF CHENAULT

The Evolution Control Committee is the epitome of everything that is Cool and Strange in the music world. Try imagining what Spike Jones, Bruce Haack and Negativland would sound like mixed into an audio blender and this will give you some idea of what to expect from this audio prankster from the Midwest. From his use of Napster Nuggets, and inventions like the Thimbletron to threats from CBS for his "Rocked by Rape" single, the ECC is a tour de force in audio depravity and culture-jamming.

I had been picked up at a pre-arranged meeting point, blindfolded, and then transported via hearse to the headquarters of The Evolution Control Committee — some where in, or nearby, Columbus, Ohio. It was an uneasy feeling. "Okay Jeff, you can take your mask off now" Squinting in the fluorescent lighting, my first sight was that of Mark Gunderson, a tall, lanky man with a slightly crazed expression. He looked like he should be the son of Christopher Lloyd from Back To The Future. The room we were in wasn't too far



landed jobs as part of the initial staff. Since then, we've spent 15 years collecting, manipulating, and creating sounds." "Where's Mike now?" "He's right over there. See that tall guy in the lab coat?" I spotted a tall, lanky man intently working on... something. It was a device with many knobs and a digital readout, but the case was open and Mike seemed to be having a problem with it. "You two are related, right?" "Twins." "Ah." "But I'm the talker. I usually end up doing the interviews and most of the performances."

JURY DUTY • KURT VONNEGUT • WAR • 230+ REVIEWS • COMICS • FUN!

# HITCH

#34 • \$4.95  
summer 2003  
www.hitchmagazine.com

the journal of pop culture absurdity



Bob & David of  
**R. SHOW**



The Evolution Control Committee  
**Plagiarythm Nation**  
(Sealand)

This is what sampling should be all about — making something new with it, not just stealing a Police bassline to rap over because you're not talented enough to write one of your own. ECC hijacks songs and other sounds from various media to create cuts that are subversive, original and a whole lotta fun. Famously, ECC laid Dan Rather soundbites over AC/DC's "Back in Black" to create the egghead rap "Rocked by Rape," and it appears here along with more than two dozen other mashups that combine the Oscar Mayer singalong with our national anthem ("Star Spangled Bologna"), Public Enemy with a kids' anti-drug record ("No Time for Yes") and, across various tracks, the Muppets, Sammy Davis Jr., Gloria Estefan, Vincent Price and Spandau Ballet. I also loved the reworking of Nat King Cole's Christmas classic ("The Christmas Wrong") and the rearranged sex education record ("Sex Re-Education"), but hell, I loved it all. Don't mistake it for novelty; this is art. It just happens to be a wonderful joke, too.

**TIME & DISHMENT**  
Issue  
Featuring  
**ICE ACADEMY**  
**GNMENT HELL**  
much Gutterberg  
one man take!

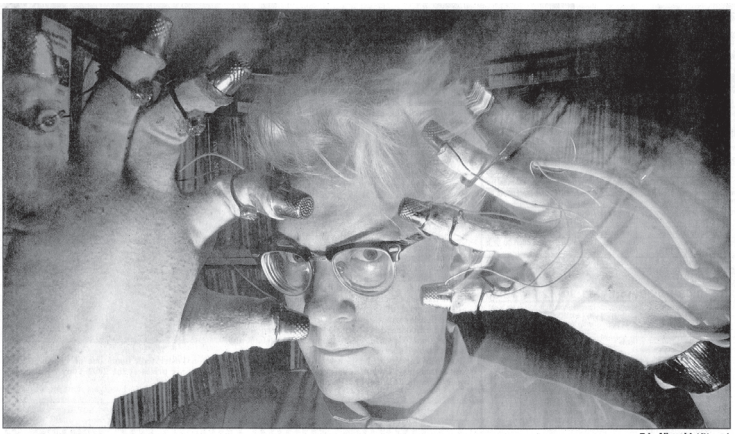


to Make Music with a  
**PY MACHINE**

PLUS:  
Imitation Electric Piano  
Orchestra Superstring  
Briggs • Italian Horror  
en 2 • Matrix Reloaded  
e Squirrel & Much More

# The Columbus Dispatch

VOL. 131, NO. 338 MONDAY, JUNE 3, 2002 50 CENTS



Mark Gunderson with the gloves of the musical instrument called the Thimbletron. Eric Albrecht / Dispatch

The Columbus Dispatch  
Monday  
JUNE 3, 2002 **E8**

# Bootleg boom

10 years after Columbus man mixed some music, HYBRID TUNES are sizzling

By Erik Battenberg  
For The Dispatch

radio and draws international listeners via its live Internet feed at www.xm.co.uk. (The show airs from 4 to 6 p.m. Fridays.)

hot musical trend exploding in England and spreading around the world began in Columbus.

The scene began to explode late last year after a bootlegger known as the Preelance Heilbriser produced

probably the first bootleg when he mixed the angry, attitude-soaked vocal track from Public Enemy's *Robot Without a Pause* with a whimsical, happy-go-lucky song by Herb Alpert & the Tijuana Brass.

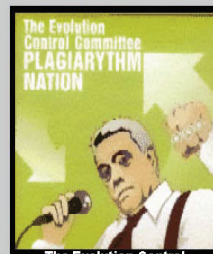
"I had picked up the two records at a thrift

**SPLENDID**

REVIEWS | FEATURES | DEPARTMENTS | BOOMBOX | FORUM | MISC

Alpha Index SEARCH:

splendid > reviews > 6/6/2003



The Evolution Control Committee  
**Plagiarythm Nation**  
Sealand

Format Reviewed: CD  
Soundclip: "Sex Re-Education"  
buy it at...  
**Insound**

I'm not really going to have to sell you on this disc's surreal brilliance. I'm just going to have to point you in the direction of the **Boombox**, where you'll find "Rocked By Rape". After you recover from the combination laughing fit and shellshock that the track engenders, you'll find yourself pulling out the old credit card in no time at all. Dan Rather over AC/DC -- it sounds like a great topic of conversation for a room full of people who are whacked out of their minds on drugs, but to have the patience, skills, and sheer balls to pull something like that off...if ever any group of artists deserved support for their art, it's The Evolution Control Committee.

Given this group's *modus operandi*, it's hardly surprising that their brilliantly subversive and questionable legal work is being distributed by the darlings of Fair Use (and the bane of U2 and Casey Kasem), Negativland. ECC has close ties to those other infamous copyright-ignorers, but while the two groups' styles are similar, ECC's style and whacked-out presentation (live performances involve one group member manipulating an instrument called a Thimbletron, consisting of thimbles on wires that play samples on cue) more than allow them to carve out a unique niche.

High points abound, including "I Want A Cookie" (a self-help tape manipulated to reveal an underlying Me-generation self-obsession), "Don't Miss The Great Snatch" (which only upon reflection becomes the words of an evangelical preacher, and not the come-on of a porno barker), and "Star Spangled Bologna" (the "Oscar Meyer Weiner" song to the tune of the "Star Spangled Banner"). Each of these is enough to induce both giggling fits and reflection, a combination that is passing rare and undeniably impressive.