

By Jon Smith  
Reporter

## FROM THE IGLOO TO THE STAGE

Stephen Kozmeniuk was born in an igloo.

Or at least that's what the biography found at Maplemusic.com for his band BOY says. But who would want to dispute such a claim whether it was true or not? I'm sure not going to. How much more Canadian can one get than being born in an igloo in Whitehorse, Yukon? If nothing else, it would make one helluva ice breaker at parties. After hearing about this, I decided there was no way I could pass up an opportunity to research and talk about such a person. So off to the net I went to search out the story of the igloo boy who grew up to be a Canadian musician.

The story goes that he was born in the igloo and fished out of a hole in the ice for years. At the age of 15, during a summer when the ice was broken up, he decided it was time to quit school and hit the road. After tossing around several ideas such as being a mechanic or a miner, he decided that his destiny was to deliver chopped up firewood that he cut up himself! At the age of 18, however, while hitchhiking he was rescued by the international community last week by... stranding one out off the coast of Ireland without power for a few days. Now I know what you're thinking: "We have submarines?" Yes, astonishingly enough, we do. But only four. Plus they're 24-year-old diesel subs, and are "technically" not "operational"; so don't freak out too much. Now you're thinking: "Hey, the Canadian Navy must be smart, spending what little money it does have on old subs that haven't been used in decades." I agree. Thumbs up to the Canadian Forces. Helicopters that don't go up, submarines that don't go down, and now thanks to those good old Brits, new and improved subs that also spontaneously burst into flames and kill the people who work on them. So Osama? Saddam? Who cares? Between being killed by our own equipment and our allies dropping bombs on us, who needs enemies?

Evidently the accuracy of my articles needs improvement. I was told in a letter fired off by a student last week that some of the points in my last arti-

with. The band agreed, and they were off to tour.

Unfortunately, the story goes that he was left behind in a Grande Prairie truck stop and had to work waiting tables for a couple of months as a result. It was during this time that the first idea of musical revenge popped into his head. By forming his own band, he would play the same locations as the previous band and show them up. Thus, the seed of the band Boy were planted and nourished with plans with vengeance!

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Yukon?**

But now that the beginning is the past, what's up with Kozmeniuk? Well, for starters the band has just finished recording their sophomore album Every Page You Turn, recorded on Vancouver Island. Aside from Stephen Kozmeniuk, the band consists of drummer Maurie "Tank" Kaufmann, guitarists Rolla Olak and James Robertson, and bassist Steve Payne. As a group they have a very toned-down look about them, which definitely suits the organic

sound they have. The group's new single "Same Old Song", taken from their soon-to-be album, is a breath of fresh air in an increasingly electronic music world. Though they carry some pop sensibilities with them, it works for the hallo. Very stripped-down Centre fonple, classic sound, the graduate finitely sounds like who know that could've (Kidding. I'm from a garage anywhere in Canada. Though this is here three days in music, can say, I've provides an alternative the beat-machine bub gone on my pp that is currently Day. Hell, e airwaves.

Building on it's awesomugh Every Page You complain a to be released offi-

October 26, the band no time in promoting

it early with a Canadian tour. It includes many stops in the Maritimes, including "The Wave" on Saturday, October 16 with the band Pilate (for a more-than-reasonable 6 bucks, and it's wet/dry for all you youngsters). The group has an informative web site that can be found at <http://www.boytheband.com/home.php>. Previous singles can be listened to, and there's also the video for the new single "Same Old Song" in case you're looking to get a feel for their sound.

So it would seem that regardless of whether the igloo story is true (let it be true!), Boy definitely may be another reason to submerge yourself in all the Canadian music you can get your little starving-student hands on. For myself, what selections I've had the opportunity to listen to have definitely given me cause to perk up my ears. They definitely have the sounds of a band that'll not only be a force to be reckoned with on a live stage, but may also have the skill to continually transfer that sound to an album.

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