



ERASEHEADS: THE CAROL KINGS!

BY SALLY BABES

Once upon a time, in a far away land called Fruitcake Heights, there was a group of people who call themselves the X-mas Comm. who rule the town like a mean-old-high school principal who had a bad childhood. 'Twas like, the whole town was under martial law, man.

And like, they even call he shots every Christmas (how to spend Christmas; banning parties and stuff like that. . .) and every year, Christmas for all Fruitcakeans (folks of Fruitcake Heights) was a real drag.

Now, there were these our cool dudes who call themselves the Carol Kings, who always get to sing the same old Christmas carols every year because the X-mas Comm. orders them to.

But unknown to the X-mas Comm.'s knowledge, the Carol Kings have looked up some real cool and new stuff for the coming Christmas celebration and they were planning to play it for all their fans - the Skid

Kids - outside Fruitcake Heights.

After they recorded the songs in a music box, they packed their things, rode their van and head out-of-town. But they were already outside town when they realized they had the wrong box and they have to go back to Fruitcake Heights to find it.

When they got back to town, they found out everybody was getting sick because of a mysterious and contagious virus called Monovirus. while searching for their missing music box, they met a lot of weird characters - Shadow, the Gatekeeper, the Fabulous Baker Boy, Fruit Fairy, Lord of the Rhum and the Motherpackers (the town mums who pack the fruitcakes) - and they were helped by a person named Frannie Wei. They have to find the missing music box which happens to be also the cure for the dreaded Monovirus.

This, more or less, is the story behind the

Eraseheads latest opus, *Fruitcake*, which they say is their only Christmas Album. It was released last December 6 and its press launching on December 9 at Makati's Hard Rock Cafe.

Fruitcake, a lot of people would say, is another sure hit for the Eraseheads, but their ever captious critics are saying otherwise. They say the masses might not dig the 'Heads' latest all-English collection of new songs and they are predicting a clear (and first ever) flop for the local fab four.

"Hindi naman kami concerned sa sales, eh," says bassist Buddy Zabala of the remarks put out by their detractors. 'Basta kuntento kami sa kinalabasan ng album."

'Fruitcake', the album, also happens to showcase the songwriting debut of Zabala. He has 'Fruit Fairy', 'Fabulous Baker Boy' and three short instrumentals; 'Shadow Boxes Accountants,' 'Shadow Reads The News Today, Oh, Boy' and

'Shadow@ButtholeSurfs. Com" to his sole credit, although in the past, he has helped his bandmates in their own songs.

Lead singer **Ely Buendia** says he doesn't really know if BMG has any plans of marketing the album outside the country, and he carries no illusions of really making it in the international music scene.

'Marami pang mas magagaling sa 'min diyan. Sa Japan lang ang damping

that has no gap at all.

"Kung puwede nga lang, kahit na lyung pinakamaliit na space no'ng tape, lagyan na rin namin ng song, eh," we remember him telling us.

Each song seems to be connected with each other, and this is so because, as they explained in their past interviews, "Fruitcake" is really a concept album; an album they have been longing to do in the past.

As usual, fans and, especially, music lovers

parts were synthesized by **Buddy's** keyboards.

But one song that comes to us as a surprise treat and instantly caught our fancy is lead guitarist **Marcus Adorols Iggy Pop**-like rendition of his song, 'Lord Of The Rhum.' It's a sonic feast! I, especially, love the really loud guitars and the frantic howls of Ely, Buddy, Raymund and their guest friends.

Speaking of guests, check out the personalities

"Hindi naman kami concerned sa sales eh,"

who appeared in the album: **RiverMayal's Rico Blanco**, **KeltsCross' Jeng Tan** (who actually sang lead in 'Christmas Ball'), jazz band Parliament's **Richard Gonzaga** who did a trumpet part in the song; 'Fruit Fairy', **Michael Guevarra** of **Ugoy-Ugoy**, **The Youth's Robert Javier**, **Pia Arroyo** and her sister **Myla** (collectively known as the Evil Step Sisters), **Francism** (who not only appeared in this album, but was also casted as the arresting policeman in the "Fruitcake" music video), the now defunct **True Faith's** vocalist; **Medwin Marfil** (whose name was intentionally erased from the album sleeve - for what reasons, sure beats the fart out of me!) and some real close friends who rendered their services in the album for the sake of friendship (read: TY!).

The **Eraserheads** are also going to come out (or already has come out) with a book especially made for the album. Watch out for "Fruitcake" the book to be published by **Anvil Publishing**.



magagaling na hindi pa napapansin, kami pa," Ely humbly says in one interview we had with him not long ago.

Deeper scrutiny of the album reveals the 'Heads' effort to come out with something different from their past albums.

Here, they start off with a backmasked version of the last track on B-side ("Merry Christmas Everybody, Happy New Year Too"), then segueing to the title track, "Fruitcake". In the past, drummer **Raymund** (yes, the latest spelling of his name according to the sleeve credits) **Marasigan** told us of doing an album

would be reminded again of the Beatlesque feel when one begins to listen to "Fruitcake". Especially in the songs, "fruitcake", "Old Fashioned Christmas Carol", "Shadow" and "Christmas Morning." Ely also gives a Billy Corgan (of the Smashing Pumpkins, also Aa favorite band of his)-like way of singing in some of his songs.

He also made use of a real string section (made up of some violins, violas and cellos) in the song, "Lightyears" for a classical-effect of the song. Unlike what they did in "Cutterpillow's" "Huling El Bimbo" where the violin-