Ratos De Porao limited editions revive Brazilian punk's 1st wave

By Kristofer Upjohn OF THE COMMERCIAL STAFF

Ratos De Porao (RDP) was an early arrival to the Brazilian punk scene, as well as the scene at large. Angry, fast and heavy, this punk and hardcore act was also among the first wave of crossover acts in Brazil, incorporating elements of thrash into its music, metallicizing the band's sound without abandoning its punk/hardcore roots.

Here, then, is a brief overview of some limited edition (2,000 pieces per album) re-releases of classic RDP recordings.

"Brasil"

Appropriately enough, RDP announced from whence it hailed Roadrunner Records. The CD, which features three bonus tracks, kicks off with the unmistakable sounds of thrash metal, but soon the incorporates disdain for the fear

metallic groove-driven assaults on get to hear RDP further develop gration of thrashy sounds into the aural senses, sometimes boil- its welding of metal onto hardcore RDP's high power hardcore punk ing over into sound-barrier pushing speed, pushing the envelope of rhythmic control but not going over the brink. It's a mash-up of ear-blistering thrash and hardcore abrasion, raw and dirty as one would expect from such a seminal example of the genre. This was hard stuff and this new breed of gritty, defiant cranium straining was the young monster storming the worlds of rock and metal. Unheard of by many, I've no doubt, RDP is rushes on, you can hear the punk nonetheless an important part of the foundation of metal-hardcore merging and "Brasil" is its brutal with its United States debut on announcement of arrival in this

country. "Anarkophobia"

You just have to love a band that

been merged somehow. At the very same time you can hear thrash metal kicking up the dirt while RDP blending is marvelously executed. "Anarkophobia" is RDP honing its you're particularly fond. edge.

"Just Another Crime in Massacreland"

brawling input of heavy hardcore of anarchism into a CD title. At sacreland" has got a dark, heavy, the listener to dive in to a bunch joins the fray. "Brasil" has intense, any rate, on "Anarkophobia," we angry edge. It maintains the intepunk, futher cementing its signifi- musical brawling. Thickness of cance as an early "crossover" band. riffage is certainly satisfying for What's impressive about this album those with a hankering for metal. is how the thrash and punk/hard- But the band forsaketh not its punk core elements seem to coexist in roots. A rushing surge of metal the same aural space. It feels not can easily segue into a punk-laced so much like shifting between this shout-out. The album is another influence, then that, but more like good release for examining the the metal and punk styles have development of the band and the dovetailing of these branches of music. As noted, RDP is known for its crossover elements. "Just Another Crime ..." is a terrific anteand hardcore facets of the band's upper and may just have an edge personality coming out at you. The over "Brasil," at least if the metal side of punk metal is that of which

"Feijoada Acidente" And here we have RDP paying tribute to other punk bands. There's "Just Another Crime in Mas- a slew of covers on here, allowing

of classic punk songs run through the tribute filter of this particular punk/hardcore/thrash band. It was RDP's way of showing its love for all the musical soulmates out there, the band's allies in the rise of iconoclastic heavy music. The other reissues mentioned herein introduce us to portions of RDP's own canon and this re-issue lets us hear RDP re-introduce the listener to songs from fellow bands' output. Bands covered by RDP include G.B.H., Black Flag, Minor Threat, Dead Kennedys and many, many more.

RDP is getting its second shot at fame with these re-issues and hardcore and metal fans alike can be grateful for the opportunity.

On the Net:

www.musicvideodistributors. com.

► The Next 7 Days

The coming week has a this 18+ show. precious few opportunities to take in some good entertainment within reasonable driving distance.

MonoXide Project has a Street in Little Rock schedat 9 p. m. Cover will be \$6 for there, too.

have the privilege of attend- known in better days as Cining the R. Kelly Double Up ema 150 or "The Dome The-Tour show at Alltel arena in ater," on Asher and Univershow at Juanita's on Main North Little Rock next Thurs- sity in Little Rock. Tickets day night. Ne-Yo, Keyshia start at \$22, but raincoats uled for Wednesday, starting Cole and J. Holiday will be will be priceless.

Melon-smashing comic Gallagher is set to per-For only \$46-76, you can form Friday at The Village,

— Stewart Fuell

Willie Nelson takes to the airwaves to push Ga. lawmakers to pass dogfighting bill

Nelson is looking to become dog's best friend.

The country music star has filmed a television spot supporting an anti-dogfighting bill that is moving through the Georgia Legislature.

97

99

100

101

102

103

One of the Twelve

Bobby of "Bye Bye

unit in

NBA part

Short life?

Birdie

105 Housing

That woman

Actress Claire

ATLANTA (AP) — Willie the camera while "Georgia on My Mind" plays in the ony for anyone to sell, trade background.

"Dogfighting is against the pose of dogfighting. law in Georgia, but the laws are so weak, the beautiful state of Georgia has become animal welfare organization, a haven for dogfighters from In the ad, Nelson looks into around the country," he says. Nelson to participate.

The bill would make it a felor transport dogs for the pur-

Utah-based Best Friends Animal Society, a national produced the piece and asked



One of Religious Right's founding fathers recalls being 'Crazy For God'

By Susan Campbell THE HARTFORD COURANT

With a title like "Crazy For God: How I Grew Up as One of the Elect, Helped Found the Religious Right, and Lived to Take All (or Almost All) of It Back," Frank Schaeffer — author, filmmaker and one-time heir-apparent to a religious dynasty — sets a table any mortal would be hardpressed to clear. One of the elect? Helped found the Religious Right? Whew.

But Schaeffer, with his self-effacing humor, for the most part backs up his claims while unraveling the reputations of some evangelists whom the elect hold dear.

If you've never heard of Francis or Edith Schaeffer (his parents), you are probably not blessed to be numbered among the Protestant evangelicals of the 1960s, '70s and '80s.

Francis Schaeffer, an evangelical of the old school, was an intellectual who loved art and classical music. Edith Schaeffer was, in a word, a nut. Both published wildly popular religious books (that rarely got

cation, ministers nervous ple, his father. about the modernity creeping into their congregations.

The senior Schaeffer was erudite and learned but believed the Bible was to be interpreted literally. And while his wife conducted a lifelong competition with him as to who could be God"s prettiest baby, young Frank was there, taking note.

At home, the beloved Bible teacher abused his wife, and they both ignored their children. The man people traveled to hear was prone to locking himself in his bedroom to avoid his students. The cheery family that Edith Schaeffer so lovingly wrote about actually was fraught with serious issues. And yet in matters of faith, the Schaeffers practiced what they preached. Their doors were open to anyone who came to them. Theirs was a fascinating blend of the sacred and profane.

Frank Schaeffer is an astute observer. "Fundamentalists never can just disagree," he writes. "The person they fall out with is not only on the wrong side of an issue; they are on the wrong side of God," and so, he posits, groups that keep splintering grow more shrill in their doctrines. Schaeffers," "We he "never compromised," and a lot of family discussion was about who was following God properly (the Schaeffers) and who was falling short (pretty much the rest of us). (Frank Schaeffer calls them skilled writer, this might taking back all - or almost come off as a screed, but Schaeffer obviously loves Schaeffers sequestered his parents, and he loves his When the opportunity comes to try filmmaking, gious landscape, the reader he jumps at it and makes can rest assured they're in popular documentaries, the hands of someone who tion for seekers — single including "Whatever Hap- knows.

pregnant women, seminary pened to the Human Race?" students dissatisfied with and "How Should We Then chapter-and-verse edu- Live?" starring, of all peo-

That leads to relationships with some religious leaders - including Jerry Falwell, who once told the Schaeffers that if his dog showed homosexual tendencies, he would shoot it.

The younger Schaeffer becomes disillusioned with the Jesus dollars he is making, and with his fellow travelers, people his father calls "co-belligerents."

"What I slowly realized was that the religious-right leaders we were helping to gain power were not 'conservatives' at all in the old sense of the word," he writes. "They were anti-American religious revolutionaries."

But he keeps on and helps encourage the religious right to adopt abortion as its big-ticket issue.

The money is good, until he writes a novel that is a less-than-laudatory fictionalized version of his family, and that pretty much confirms his public breach from the religious right.

Schaeffer, who has con-

et Scottish site of a Cromwell victory 16 Swiss mountain 19 Ladd and Alda 20 Between ports 21 Still green 22 Eerie writer 23 Booty of Oregon's capital? 25 Pluck 26 Org. of Woods 27 Linguistics suffix 28 Booze, butts and bullets bureau 29 Holm oak 31 33 Eaves hangings Blunt refusals 36 Tax-sheltered \$\$ 37 Exist as a characteristic 38 God, in Hebrew text 39 Bit controller Semi-soft cheese 40 41 Holy cow! Tropical ungulate 44 45 Executioners' professions? 47 Nemo's creator 48 Seer's letters 49 "The Threepenny Opera" dramatist 51 Militarize Wisconsin college 52 (C) 2007 Tribune Media Services, Inc. 11/25/07 53 Look after All rights reserved. 54 Male offspring 56 Sorrowful Verse or cycle transition? 34 Last Sunday's Cros d Solved 57 Number sequence 109 Egyptian god lead-in of sums 35 110 Card game for German chemical 61 Bullies cartel. I.G two 63 Short sweeper 111 36 Architect Pei's first Bad sign 64 Adored one 112 Branch of Islam name 65 Great dads 37 113 Hwy. sign abbr. Sub weapon the 67 Joan & Tarkington novel 39 Highly ornament-114 Blackhearts 115 Knocks lightly ed musical com-68 Speech on Sun. "Barnaby Jones" 116 positions 69 Spa employee 40 Beet soup star Likely legal prec-70 DOWN 42 Bring to life edents 43 Sniffs out Standard charge 72 Touching at a sin-Tree-shaded walk-45 Bottom line 2 gle point 46 Singer Jackson ways Urgent acronym 74 47 Gate 3 Heaven's Two-finger signs 76 Actor Cassidy cultist's comet 50 Ron and Nancy Brendan Behan's 77 Says Dijon donkey 52 78 One-tenth of MDX 5 Belief system Boy 83 Maryland player 79 Against adversity 6 Soda-shop orders 53 Costa del 81 85 Feminist Betty Foldaway bed From 55 Last of Scarlett Knightly titles 86 84 Sierra Classic Olds auto-56 8 Adoration Clean air org. 88 85 Maximum squat? Abscess duct 57 mobile Beasley of "Moon-90 87 "The Family Cir-9 Lampooners 58 Conceives lighting Innately promiscucus" cartoonist 10 Patsies 59 92 Venison 89 Hebrew lvre Trademark DOS ous? 94 Throat prob. 90 Culturally showy 60 the best 12 AEC's replace-Under Like Napoleon on 95 91 Fails to be ment conditions Elba Scoop for liquids 92 13 Two-piece suits? 62 Woods' first stroke 96 Gives a wide berth 93 Actor Nielsen 14 Cochise or Geron-66 Flintlock musket 95 Pupil setting Stenerud or Steen 67 imo Brief wd. 96 Forum VIP 15 Bind anew

97 Pure and simple Artist Mondrian 98 Actor Macaulay 99 Choir part subdivi-Artistic Dance movement 100 sions 104 Make a mistake Requests Thurman of films 106 107 U-turn from WNW

- Subtitles
- 82 Head-to-head
- 69
- 71
- 73
- 75

Like some Beatles

recordings? Section of the the-

Little legumes

Moroccan port

Angler's baskets

Country way

16

17

18

24

30

32

ater

- 78 Winsome
- 80 Soprano Lily
- 81

the attention of the mainstream media) and were sought-after speakers and seminar leaders.

Yet they mostly flew although Edith doesn't sound as if she liked it - under the cultural radar. Francis writes, Schaeffer had no desire to be the next Billy Graham, with whom he dined, and certainly not a Pat Robertson, whom he thought mentally unbalanced.

Instead, although riches "Jesus dollars") could be made as evangelists, the themselves and their chil- Lord. dren at their Christian community, L'Abri, in Switzerland.

L'Abri became a destina-

tributed articles to major newspapers, has co-written (with his son, John), "Keeping Faith: A Father-Son Story About Love and the United States Marines Corps."

If anything, in this work Schaeffer lingers too long on the family's faults, and material he includes from family and friends — which look like cut-and-paste jobs — is jarring. He doesn't In the hands of a less spend nearly enough time all — of what he helped start, but maybe that's the subject of another book.

When Schaeffer comments on the American reli-

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Being cooperative and congenial when involved with others in a joint endeavor will be far more gratifying than running the show. Don't forsake your instincts and do otherwise.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) This could be a rewarding day to be with, and do much for, those you love. You'll be happy with this mindset, but if you start to feel unappreciated, it'll be another story.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) -Select companions who set good examples of generosity and kindness, because they'll inspire you mentally. Persons who are just the opposite could put you in a state of depression.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) -Better have an alternative plan in place with regards to what you hope to do with your day and with whom you plan to spend it. If things don't go well, you could be greatly disappointed.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) - Trust your concepts, ideas and dreams, especially those that stem from following your heart. Don't let anybody who isn't emotionally involved talk you out of them.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) - It's good to be generous to those who truly deserve your kindness, but don't think you have to reward someone who hasn't lived up to expectations just because he or she happens to be around.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) -When dealing with a forceful individual, heed your own wise and sensitive counsel instead of allowing this person to impose his or her harsh views upon you. You know what's best to do.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) -Your objectives may be well-intentioned, but be cognizant of whether or not another truly wants your help. Don't butt in where you're clearly not wanted and are only interfering.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Get out and enjoy yourself with friends, but if you're involved in a group endeavor, make certain everyone who should be there is included. If someone is left out, hurt feelings could result.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) - Early in the day, you might be sensitive to the needs of your family and loved ones. Should an invitation to do something fun occur, however, it could be another story.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) - To your credit, you always put yourself in someone else's shoes and react accordingly - yet as time goes by, you might start to think only about yourself. Be kind.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) -You're apt to be happier managing things for others than you would be merely for yourself. Joint endeavors offer you the most satisfying rewards right now, so don't be a loner.

Copyright 2007, Newspaper Enterprise Assn





108 Chicago ballplayer