



Buffalo Tom, from left: Chris Colbourn, Tom Maginnis, and Bill Janovitz.

The press is really into this nerd angle on us," says Bill Janovitz, guitarist-vocalist of Boston's Buffalo Tom.

"We've been called 'Nerd's Atomic Dustbin,'" admits Chris Colbourn, bassist of the guitar-driven threesome, a worn Steinbeck novel poking out of his Oxford shirt's breast pocket. Tom Maginnis, the drummer, is silent, as usual.

"Here's a story," Janovitz adds anxiously. "There's a thing in *Sassy* called 'Cute Band Alert.' For ours, it was more like 'Cute Drummer Alert.' *Sassy* used only Tom from a picture of the three of us, and went on to say 'the other two have very good personalities.'"

Buffalo Tom is an intelligent, musical, near-comedy routine, which further blurs the line between sarcasm and truth. These are the kind of guys who lie in their press bios as a guffaw at the absurdities reprinted in dinky-town newspapers (for the record: Janovitz's dad isn't a funeral-home owner, he's an accountant). The band formed in 1986 at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, where the Buffalo boys roamed with Dinosaur Jr.'s J Mascis, who produced their first two albums. These records crowned Buffalo Tom a college-radio success and earned the band the nickname "Dinosaur Jr. Jr.," a coinage that irritates the trio less than one might expect.

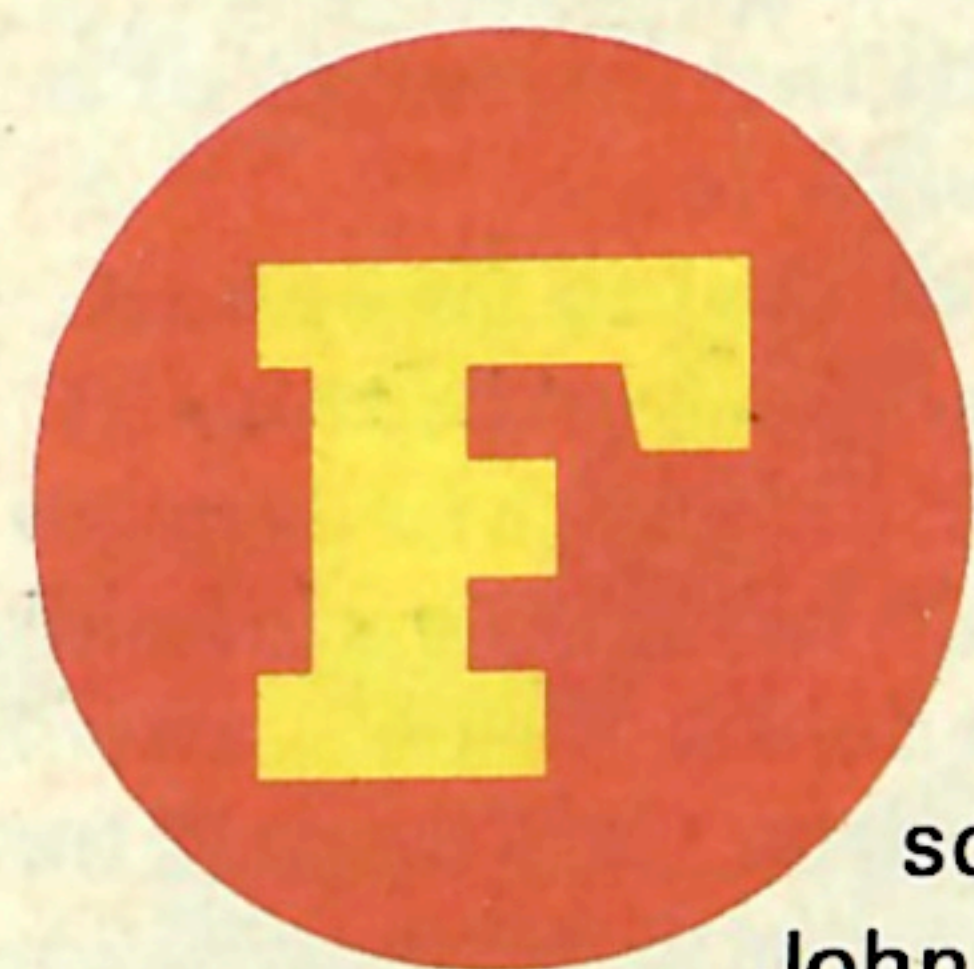
BUFFALO GUYS

"People assume we're going to be defensive about it," Janovitz remarks. "Anyway, I think now we've gone more in our own direction."

Buffalo Tom's new album, *Let Me Come Over*, shows off the trio's acoustic guitar capabilities, and is more heartbreaking than burning. Janovitz cites the obligatory Hüsker Dü as an influence, but he's flattered to hear he has been compared to Bob Dylan.

Janovitz muses: "I hope they mean more as a musical genius than as a reclusive weirdo."

AMY TALKINGTON



the trudell truth

Far more than just another singer-songwriter politico, John Trudell is a man who's lived his worldly words. This Seattle, Washington, artist, activist,

1979, after the suspicious arson death of his wife, children, and mother-in-law, which occurred only 12 hours after he burned an American flag in front of Washington, D.C.'s J. Edgar Hoover

John Trudell:
Native American

