

Mind-blowing noise

FESTIVAL

Wolf Eyes bring the first Version festival to an ear-splitting conclusion

Total f***ing noise!" screams one of the unnerving gig posters replicated on the inlay card of *Burned Mind*, the latest LP from Michigan-based sonic terrorists Wolf Eyes. A Wolf Eyes concert is not, then, the ideal choice for that first date. Unless, of course, your prospective paramour prefers to be subjected to music with the potential of turning his or her internal organs into primordial ooze, rather than the latest romcom at the flicks.

Initially a front for programmer Nate Young, Wolf Eyes is now a three-headed monster that comprises Young, tape and horn-player John Olson and new recruit, Mike Connelly, from Kentucky's fellow ear-bleeders, Hair Police. Echoing the extemo-industrial bands that sprang forth from the UK's tough manufacturing cities during the 1980s, Wolf Eyes' use of homemade keyboards and hulking drum machines seems similarly inspired by Michigan's history of automobile production.

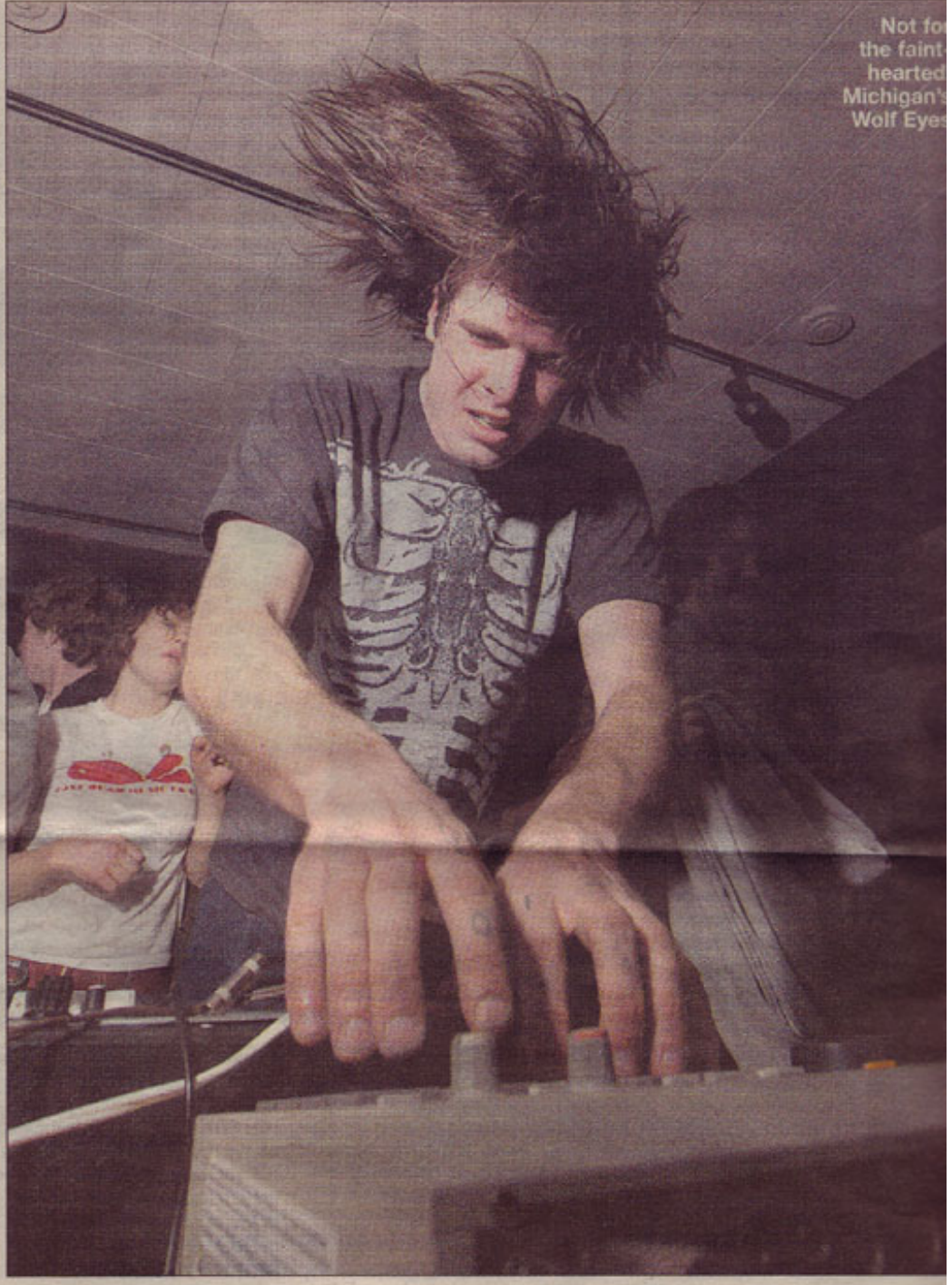
But *Burned Mind* is much more malevolent than that rather playful description suggests. Featuring popular ditty *Stabbed In The Face* and ole fave *Black Vomit*, as well as such intriguingly titled tracks as *Urine Burn* and *Village Oblivia*, the album is a seething pit of mutilated loops, knives-on-railings percussion and stomach-punching bass, while, on occasion, Young erupts into a frenzy of indecipherable screams.

It would perhaps be comforting to think that if we were to play Wolf Eyes backwards, instead of finding Led Zeppelin-style odes to Satan and his tool-shed, we'd actually find Young singing gentle love songs to his cats.

Joining him on Sunday at the closing session of the inaugural Version festival are Battles, the math-rock trio of Ian Williams, Dave Konopka and Tyondai Braxton; Scottish producer Alasdair Roberts; acclaimed Vermont-based teenager Conor Kirby-Long (aka Khonnor) and folk-tinged electronica outfit Tunng, promoting their album *Mother's Daughter And Other Songs*. *Nadine McBay*

Sun, Version, MS Stubnitz, Quayside, Newcastle upon Tyne, noon, £55 weekend ticket, £16 session ticket. Tel: 0191 232 1232.

Metro: Central Station. www.version.org.uk



Not for the faint-hearted Michigan's Wolf Eyes