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MUSIC. The Fringe call their new disc *The Revenge of the Neanderthal Man* (Northeastern), but there's nothing primitive about the way the Boston-based sax/bass/drums trio do business. George Garzone, John Lockwood and Bob Gullotti are highly advanced players who operate on the passionate tip, be they essaying a postmodern ballad (oodles of space) or a rip-snort zeffewinder (slam dunk mutha). *Neanderthal Man* is a live date, recorded last year at our favorite art hole, AS220 (71 Richmond Street, Providence). That makes their return a celebration of sorts, or at least a scene-of-the-crime deal. You wanna go? Head downtown at 8 p.m. Tickets are $5; call 831-9327.

AS220, located above Club Baby Head, kicks off an amazing weekend of entertainment beginning with tonight's spectacular line-up. The brilliant bass band Antietam perform their blazing glory tales along with NY's Love Camp 7 and Bob Evans from the rock of Boston. This killer triple bill is only $5 and begins at 8 p.m. Dial-up-a-pixie at 831-9327.

On Thursday, AS220 will present a special performance by Bob Evans, beantown rock, Love Camp 7, described as "West Coast surrealism dipped in lower East Side squalor quartet from New York" (no, I haven't listened to the record) and Antietam, some buzz trio into Jefferson Airplane southern fried rock or, jeez, I don't know, I'm just paraphrasing a press release.

AS220 will feature a rap spectacular on Friday with BASF, Badman, MC Truth, D Smooth and Shockmaster Laz, and the Nice Paper continues birthday festivities at the AS220 on Saturday. It's the Cabaret of the Oddly Normal with Sir Guy d'Guy da Portagee and His Panic Band with guest stars Christopher Glenn, the acapella, *Guests of a Nation*, an adaptation by James Dowling from the novel by Frank O'Connor, Meatballs/Fluxus and the joke-folk-spittle of Me, Rick and Slice. Shows begin at 8:30, scratch is necessary and recommended.

Bert and Susan fixed up AS-220 over the summer and for my money it's still one of the most exciting places in the city to experience art, music, and performance pieces. (Of course, it's the only place.) It's just the right size.