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News Short Takes

Philadelphia, PA

by Ken Weiss

Elliott Levin (sax, fl) holds down the first Monday of each month at Tritone. His band is called Interplay and includes assorted regulars and guest artists each month. The May 2nd hit was really special with German legend, **Gunter Hampel** (vibs, fl) and NYC's **Earth People** (**Andre Martinez**, perc.; **Doug Principato**, el g; **Jason Candler**, as). Under Levin's direction, the ensemble turned out one of the year's most happenin' shows. Things started off on a calm footing as Hampel struck his vibes for a few before being vioently joined by surging horns and guitar. Each man had his own bonfire burning strong until the tension broke and a group dynamic spread. The second tune found Hampel and Levin on flute with Martinez blowing through a 14 inch curled gas flex hose before laying down a pulsating drum beat with gunned guitar support. **Earth People** should be checked out by those not familiar with them.