

out of bounds

-by Mark Bouds

"I'm not really a good enough singer to really enjoy it, but I try to get into it. I enjoy playing the guitar more than I enjoy singing, and I can't play the guitar, either. But I know that if I keep playing guitar I can get better. On the other hand I know that I can't improve much as a singer."

-Mick Jagger

"Ninety nine of the male population of the Western world would give a limb to be Mick Jagger, and he's not happy being Mick Jagger. To me, that is unacceptable. I've got to make him happy! To me, I've failed if I can't eventually get my mate to feel good about himself—even though he's very

autocratic, and he can be a real a**hole. But who can't be an a**hole at times?"

-Keith Richards

THE LOCAL LEDGER

Cypher is an explosive alternative metal band based in Baltimore, Maryland. Since 1999, they have been performing an addictive mix of blazing guitars, thumping bass, and crashing drums backing earnest vocals.

Following the 1999 release of *Sunshine Blind*, their debut release, Cypher began supporting bands in local venues to diverse and enthusiastic crowds. At every show, the band rallied several listeners to their side and steadily began to build a fan base. Now, with the release of their intense 11-song CD entitled *Acid Kiss*, more and more listeners will become members of the converted.

Jeff Caudle (bass/vocals), the group's foreman, creates and performs songs from the depths, drawing on life experiences and transforming them into a release of musical energy. **Vee** (guitar) brings to the collective cauldron a heavier, darker arrangement style. Firm in his convictions that visual energy is as important as great songwriting, his live performances are madly energized by his aggressive guitar tones. **Steven Seagal** (drums) is the driving meter behind the power trio. His prolific knowledge of sampling technology and technical drumming ability allows the band to whip into a fluid and rhythmic fury.

Poised to drive their fans into a frenzy, Cypher will amaze all who witness their energy, songs and sound. And *Acid Kiss* (expertly recorded, produced, and mixed by **Steve Wright**) is the proof positive....

Hieronsonic is a hybrid rock outfit from Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, who unveiled themselves to the public in February of 2003. This highly motivated group is comprised of **Ben Stewart** (vocals), **Chris Bulick** (guitar), **Brandon Krotser** (keyboards), **Mike Stang** (bass), and **Mark Bohn** (drums).

The band's music can best be described as hard rock with an electronic and ambient atmosphere. Their combination of cadence and creative lyrics is displayed in their live performances and captured on their albums with precision and artistic vision.

In the Summer of 2003, **Streetwise Productions** produced a *Battle of the Bands* competition that consisted of over 400 bands from across the country. Hieronsonic won first place by receiving the most votes tallied by listeners from around the world. Only seven months after their first appearance, they were placed on 2003's *Lollapalooza Music Festival* bill where they shared the stage with the likes of **Jane's Addiction**, **A Perfect Circle**, **Incubus**, **Audioslave**, and many other well known artists. The sheer volume of fans that Hieronsonic acquired from *Lollapalooza* and radio play across the

country has caught the attention of many labels and management groups. Look for more from this up and coming outfit....

Ape House was formed in Washington, D.C. in 2001 when home recording enthusiast **J. Forte** got together with local bass player **Steve Shook** and former **Love Slug** members **Gil Hegwood** and **G.P. Shook**. While the band's initial plan was to multi-million dollar major label deal by the time they had made their 5th public appearance (sarcasm is always nice), they wisely decided to build up some street cred first, and thus formed indie label **Croftone Records**.

The Summer of 2001 saw the release of Ape House's self-titled EP. The band then honed their live act, drawing sweaty throngs with their unique mix of Byrds-like melodies delivered with **Ramones**-esque energy. In the spring of 2002, the Apes sequestered themselves in **LSP Studios** in Annapolis and emerged with the 13-song *Minutes To Go*.

Critical accolades, radio airplay, and dozens of shows along the East Coast followed. Some of these gigs included the *WHFS Big Break Showcase*, and the *Dewey Beach Pop Fest*. Ape House

now returns with their second full-length album, *Tired Of Style*, recorded at **Inner Ear Studios** in Arlington, Virginia. Check out the combo's "power pop for the smart set"....

Rude Buddha hails from the Washington, D.C./northern Virginia area that makes the kind of music played by bands that they

admire. **Green Day** and **No Doubt** spring to mind when they are asked whom they would like to share the stage with.

12 manic tracks comprise their latest release, *Fighter*. The songs immediately capture the listener, convincing them to believe and understand this young band. After securing *Best Alternative Band* honors at the 2004 *New York International Music Festival Awards Ceremony* this year, it didn't take long for the buzz on the band to spread like wildfire.

Formed in 2000, Rude Buddha has played over 700 shows with bands such as **Sugarcult**, **Taking Back Sunday**, **The Pietasters**, **Slightly Stoopid**, and many more at clubs and festivals all over the East Coast. The band is currently gaining serious ground and major label interest. Add their hot new release, *Fighter*, to the mix, and you can expect this musical cherry bomb to explode in your ear in 2005....

VIDEO GLIMPSE

Devo:

Live In The Land Of The Rising Sun:
Japan 2003
Sick Video/MVD

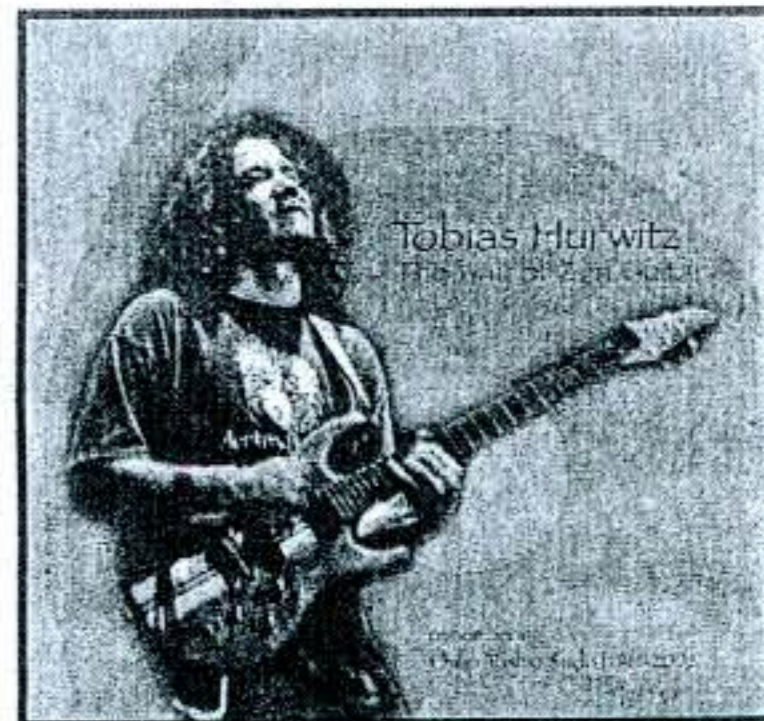
Where do you go in Western influenced, post-industrial, technological society and feel like you are on another planet? Japan, of course! Live In The Land Of The Rising Sun; Japan 2003 provides a Devolution-

ary impression of the alien experience. 25 years ago as young primates, Devo experienced this dislocation as men with a plan to change the world before the world changed them. They were making history and the Japanese were willing subjects. The band was calling the shots and they reaped the rewards of hoards of adoring fans.

In the Summer of 2003, Devo returned as living legends, revered for what they did and said right in the first place. The members of the groundbreaking group were overwhelmed by those who came out to celebrate their belated return. Audiences were treated to a set of Devo classics, including "Whip It", "Jocko Homo", "Freedom Of Choice", "Girl U Want", and "Mongoloid" among many others.

Aside from the 15 songs performed on the DVD, additional features include extended interviews with Devo, backstage footage, and never before seen footage from 1980. It's 75 minutes of (time out for) fun!

That's it for now. See ya next time. MB.



At last, the new CD from **TOBIAS HURWITZ** is out!

Hear Baltimore's amazing guitar legend at his best on *The Way of Zen Guitar*. Available at all Record and Tape Traders locations or on-line at www.tobiashurwitz.com

SHOWS

BY JOANNE

Thurs. 12/9-Chester Stacey, Blood Meridian @ The Talking Head
Sat. 12/11-The Hidden Hand, Trepine @ The Otobar
Sat 12/11 Baltimore Blues Society Fundraiser @ Funk Box
Sat. 12/18 The Wrens, Twelve:01 @ The Talking Head
Sat 12/18- APHILE, Ballyhoo, Vote Quimby @ The Royal
Sat 12/18 Sidebar Holiday Benefit @ The Sidebar
Fri. 1/7 The Muddles ; The Mishaps; Black Forest Locomotive