

PETER MENDIA'S TOP TEN

Bad Brains *Rock For Light*
ASG *The Amplification Of Self Gratification*
Fleetwood Mac *Greatest Hits*
CKY *Infiltrate Destroy Rebuild*
Jane's Addiction *Ritual De Lo habitual*

Slayer *Seasons In The Abyss*
Fugazi *13 Songs*
T.S.O.L. *T.S.O.L.*
The Rolling Stones all of them
Bob Marley all of them



STAFFORD



The Crimea
Lottery Winners On Acid EP
Double Dragon

The young raspy vocals on this EP will draw you in and introduce you to original, quirky lyrical content. The genius vocal style is backed by innovative musicianship that spreads thick layers of syrupy pop. The tone produced by the guitars and keyboard creates a deep sound that echoes hints of recent **Get Up Kids** releases and less frantic, cleaned-up **Bright Eyes**-style epics. This small taste of the Crimea will have you begging for a full-length.



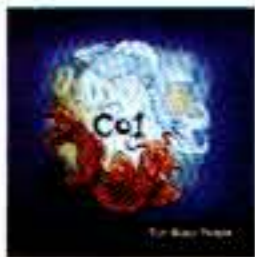
Mos Def
The New Danger
Geffen

Rap albums are usually bought and judged by the hits they produce. The hit, in my opinion, on this album is "Close Edge," which was first heard on *Chappelle's Show*. Mos Def consistently brings in live musicians to lend a rock sound to his records, and this one builds on his previous efforts with heavy distorted guitar, booming drums, and rock-like singing. Expect a flurry of different styles and some political statements (mostly anti-whitey).



The Firebird Band
The City At Night
Bifocal Media

The modern electro-indie movement has begun to swell in the underground with bands like **The Faint** and **Granddaddy** making big moves out of small-time indie status to well-known buzz bands. This band has an amazing and reputable pedigree with major contributor Christopher Broach coming from the seminal indie-rock band **Braid**. This album overflows with style and emotion, and should propel this obscure band into the ears of a wide array of music fans everywhere.



Coi
Too Many People
CR

Summertime music should be mellow, catchy, reggae-inspired, and even a little bit irie—Coi's maiden voyage onto compact disc is all these things. Coi plays simple easy-listening music in the vein of **Sublime's** reggae stuff, but with a lighter edge. The guitar and drum work is inspired, and the rotating vocals are ideal for afternoons at the beach or evenings cruising with friends.



Frausdots
Couture, Couture, Couture
Sub Pop

Sub Pop always gives you goods, and yes, this is another electro-indie-oriented release with heart and a foundation in emotional pop. The male singer and songwriter in Frausdots, Brent Rademaker, was previously in one of my personal favorite bands, **Beachwood Sparks**. This new project is a huge departure from the dreamy cowboy love-pop he used to create with his old band. Frausdots is sexy, nightlife-inspired electro-pop. This veritable super-group also features appearances by members of **The Warlocks**, **Rooney**, **The Cure**, and **Brian Jonestown Massacre**. The music is said to be inspired by "fashion, drugs, and the city"—that's cool.



Bear Claw
Find The Sun
Sickroom

This Steve Albini-engineered band from Chicago brings back the sound of **Big Black** and **Shellac** with power and finesse. The big-room sound echoes with smashing drums, rampant edgy vocals, and two pounding bass guitars—that's right, no pussy little electric guitars here, just two badass basses battling for supremacy like two psychotic Lemmys having a war. **Rapeman**, **Big Black**, **Shellac**, and now **Bear Claw**—you've been warned, the **Bear Claw** will tear your face off.



Joan Of Arc
Joan Of Arc, Dick Cheney, Mark Twain ...
Polyvinyl

Joan Of Arc never ceases to amaze me on how weird they can get. Songs on this album range from glorious to unlistenable—and that's why I love it. Describing Joan Of Arc is like describing how water smells—you just can't do it. Experimental, gadgety, wired, lovely, obscure, and freaky are all words that can be used to hit at their sound, but the listener should be free of all labels before entering this world. The eleven members of J.O.A. come together and create a freak show, which is mixed by the legendary John McIntire (which should be reason enough to try this disc out).



Drive Thru South/Central America
14 Day Productions

To put it simply, this is the best *Drive Thru* yet. The surfing, the comedy, the music, the editing, and the overall feel of the video make you feel like you were there. From wedging beachbreak peaks to long Chilean point breaks, *Drive Thru South/Central America* is a DVD you need to have floating in and out of your player. The stars of this *Drive Thru* are **Kalani Robb**, **Benji Weatherley**, **Shane Dorian**, **Donavon Frankenreiter**, and **Ozzie Wright**. For the record, I love this DVD!



Last Name First
Chris Gabriel

It's interesting that a good chunk of the world's best have siblings. Everyone from the **Irons** bros to the **Ho** bros rip in this video. **Michael Ho's** switch-foot Pipe attack is legendary, and the interviews are honest and interesting. Look for great waves from the **Alexanders**, the **Slaters**, the **Beschens**, the **Currans**, the **Currens**, and more. The list goes on.



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

Sure, the members of Devo could be your father, but they're still Devo—therefore still one of the best bands on Earth. Watch as Devo shatters the language barrier and puts on a show of epic proportions. These guys still throw electronic blood, sweat, and tears into every song, and all the hits are here including "Mongoloid," "Smart Patrol/Mr.DNA," "Gates Of Steel," and every other hit you may desire. Long live Devo!

Make sure to check these discs out, too ...
U.N.K.L.E. *Never Never Land*
Karate *Concerto Al Barchessone Vechio 24/02/2002*
The Ocean Blue *Waterworks EP*
Sing The Body Electric *Sing The Body Electric EP*
Prodigy *Always Outnumbered, Never Outgunned*

—All reviews by Chris Coté