

MC LARS**"The Graduate" CD**

Being that MC LARS infuses hip-hop with his punk / pop sound, this may not appeal to many people reading a punk zine, but as of right now (with the obvious disadvantage of there still being 9 months to go) I'm going to say this will probably be the best album released this year, so stay open minded, because ethically, this is one of the most punk guys out there right now. If not simply the best, MC LARS is definitely the smartest new musician out there. A recent graduate of Stanford University, there seems to be nothing that escapes the commentary of LARS. Heavy criticism of the music industry is evident in a number of songs: "Download This Song" [f / Jaret Reddick of BFS] & "Signing Emo" (on the way labels operate), "Hot Topic is Not Punk Rock" [f / The Matches] (obvious), and "Generic Crunk Rap" (a direct attack on artists bastardizing the genre). Humor reigns on tracks like "The Roommate From Hell" [f / MC Chris] "21 Concepts," and "Space Game." His English major is evident with the Moby Dick track, "Ahab." Our generation is labelled and challenged in "iGeneration," and further critiqued in "Internet Relationships." Simply put, this is one of the most well-rounded albums currently released, and if an album were needed for a time capsule from our generation, this is the only record that belongs there. (WDJ)
(Horris Records / www.mclars.com & Nettwerk / www.nettwerk.com)

MELEE**"Every Day Behavior" CD**

A re-release of their 2004 debut, with a new version of "The War" (plus a video) added. They produce some of the better indie-pop out there, with a healthy dose of keyboards. Not sure about the debilitating injection of God, but you can't have everything, I guess. (RK)
(Hopeless Records / www.hopelessrecords.com)

THE MEMBERS**"At The Chelsea Nightclub" CD****"1980 - The Choice Is Yours" CD**

A welcome, and long overdue, resurrection of the first two MEMBERS LPs. Formed in '76, the members came to prominence early in '77 and '78, with the release of their classic "Solitary Confinement" and "Sound Of The Suburbs" singles. Like many of the 'punk' bands of that era, they combined a rambunctious attack with lots of melody, a fair dash of reggae, and much of what would be called in a couple of years "new wave", or later on, looking back, (and probably a lot more accurately) guitar driven "power-pop". Think EATER, mixed with XTC and the first POLICE album. Both records are bona-fide gems, and in the ever-sumptuous Captain Oi! repackaging job, all their 7"s are included as bonus tracks on the respective discs, together with excellent, witty, and informative liner notes, and a song by song commentary...from singer Tesco on the first disc, and guitarist JC on the second. Sheer class. (RK)
(Captain Oi! / www.captainoi.com)

THE MODERNETTES**"Get It Straight" CD**

The Modernettes were an early '80s Vancouver, Canada pop-punk band. The album is a compilation of some of their EPs along with several live tracks. They combined punk with new wave and even a hint of '60s influenced pop. It's upbeat, feelgood music from a group that's getting some well deserved attention more than 20 years after the end of their career. If you were too young or just missed them the

first time, don't miss the chance to discover an excellent band. (CB)

(Sudden Death / www.suddendeath.com)

THE MOMENT**"Showdown At The Discotheque" CD**

On first listen, I took this to be the typical indie-rock / screamo fare. And don't get me wrong, it is! But, they manage to squeeze just enough bombastic (INTERNATIONAL) NOISE CONSPIRACY-esque keyboard tinged melodic rock to make it a touch above the pack. That isn't saying all that much, I know. But, er, I guess it is something....(RK)
(www.themomentrock.com)

THE MORMONS**"Statement of no Statement" CD**

What an interesting album from a very interesting band, almost worthy of their crazy stage show in which they come out in black ties atop white dress shirts, wearing bike helmets, and carrying nap sacks across their backs. The album is near as eccentric, with an eclectic mix of punk / future wave sounds that come closest to DEVO's "Uncontrollable Urge" phase. Don't let the name fool you, these guys are no Joseph Smith supporters, hell they probably even eat sugar, and why not, when you have real MORMONS like Brandon Flowers stinking up the rock seen while he rips off everyone for JOY DIVISION to the SMITHS, why not have some real rockers blaspheme his religion with tongues in their cheeks. Though a warning to them, and all other false Mormons, Joseph Smith was stoned to death before he ever made it to the Mormon promise land, so there you go. (RPC)
(www.nickelanddimerecords.com)

MULE TRAIN**"Be On Your Way" CD**

I expected to hate this CD. I don't know why, I tend to judge things sometimes, before I even give them a chance. Man, am I glad I listened to this. Folk-rock with a punk voice, somewhat like the mellower moments of FILTHY THIEVING BASTARDS. Kind of a dirty South

feel to it. Either way, it's great. While it probably won't appeal to those of us who solely listen to the punk rock, if you've got an open mind, can dig the folk, and enjoy the sound of a good mandolin, this one might be for you, too. (MWB)

(www.warningsignrecords.com)

NEON BLONDE**"Chandellers In The Savannah" CD**

As with any array of near-perfect postmodern splendor, you'd be wise to stock up on painkillers before listening to this album; you'll need them after you've finished crashing around on these Chandellers. Oozing with the famously flamboyant personality of BLOOD BROTHERS co-frontman Johnny Whitney and featuring the talents of that band's wholly underrated, possibly octo-armed, timekeeper Mark Gajadhar, NEON BLONDE has a lot going for it. Pedigree aside, the BLONDE's debut doesn't limit itself to being what you'd expect from a side venture that pegs Whitney for the lead role. More accurately, its second track isn't what you'd expect after its first; its

third isn't what you'd expect after the first two, and so on. Whether wild ["Crystal Beaches Never Turned Me On"] or, considering the context, reasonably controlled ["Princess Skullface Sings" has an honest-to-goodness chorus], these dance mashes and bizarro ballads convince. Indeed, Whitney's one of the few songwriters with an imagination as far-reaching as his superhuman caterwaul and, as a result, this debut reveals itself as a real marvel after even a few cursory listens. (TS)
(Dim Mak / www.dimmak.com)

NEW YORK DOLLS**"All Dolled Up" DVD**

In the early '70s rock photographer Bob Gruen used an early model video recorder to chronicle the escapades of New York Dolls. Over 30 years later that footage is finally released in the form of this documentary. It's a

snapshot of the band's on and offstage life at that moment in time. If you're not familiar with the history of the band, definitely watch the extras first. That will give you an idea of the back story so you'll better be able



to understand the 95 minute documentary. The commentary track featuring Gruen along with band members David Johansen and Sylvain Sylvain also provides a lot of background and interesting stories. There are almost 3 hours of extras, including some additional live performance footage. (CB)
(MVD / www.newyorkdollsdvd.com)

THE NIPPLES / BULLET TREATMENT self-titled split 7"

Punkety punk punk, punk in all its glory, punk that will make you want to stick safety pins in places you wouldn't even stick your finger. I love punk, I love bands named after parts of the body, I love bands named after violent forms of torture, I just love punk. What can I say; I'm a sucker for bands that hate the establishment. It gives me a warm fuzzy feeling to see the youth of America shave off sections of their hair and spray up what's left. I love curse words, drugs, alcohol, sex, violence, and oddly crocheting, but forget that, we are not talking about that now, we are talking about punk. Punkety punk punk, I love punk, and if you love punk as much as I do then buy this album. Really, do I need to tell you what it sounds like, if you love punk you know what it sounds like, so buy it, and for gods' sake, numb it with an ice cube before you cram the pin through it! (RPC)

(www.basementrecords.net)

NIGHT TERRORS**"A Cocktail of Ravage Delight" CD**

First off if you buy this album, like it, and want to hear more of the band, understand after this entry they will henceforth be known as the CASKET ARCHITECTS. Secondly, you probably won't need to know that, because I doubt you'll like this album all that much anyway. I may be being hard on it, I mean the guys can play, they rock somewhat, the lead singer may be a bit annoying and the songs may all sound basically the same, but it isn't like there Jessica Simpson (or even Ashley for that matter). The best I can do to describe it to you is, well, you know that singer from the band 311, no not that one, the other one who does the rapping, yeah him. Now imagine he had his own band (without any reggae overtones) and all he did was scream over the same guitar riff for an hour. There you go, now you're getting it, anyway that's what it's like only less intriguing. (RPC)
(www.tuscancafe.net)