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Monroe's late-'40s style with a touch of Ralph Stanley's rustic edge. This is your father's traditional bluegrass, sans jazz riffs or newgrass inflections. And Parmley's vocals have more emotional impact than a boatload of modern country crooners. — **SS**



Nancy Cassidy,
Runaway Train
(Twitter Twatter Music) Cassidy's fifth "grown up" album — she does kid's music, too — is a great place for an introduction to her hard-driving folk. Cassidy's ability to assemble a balanced, well-paced album has caught up with her performing and composing talents, which have always been ahead of the pack. — **RA**



Billy Barnett
Band, It's Not
Enough (Barnwerks Records) Billy and the band serve up a smorgasbord of American music with

Billy leading the way on guitar. Touchstones include rock, blues, and jazz with stops at Santana-inspired rock. This is a very good record by the type of band you want to hear at the club on a Friday night. — **JH**



Ernie Thacker,
The Hangman
(Pinecastle Records) Though he started recording this album in 2006, a serious car crash nearly killed Thacker two years ago, so the final touches had to wait until he recovered. He has a perfect bluegrass voice — rich, warm, and strong, yet with a touch of grit. His band, Route 23, is equally adept. Together they've made a modern bluegrass masterpiece. — **SS**



Chic, Live at the
Budokan, (Music Video Distributors) Recorded shortly before the death of bassist Bernard Edwards in 1996, Nile Rodgers proves he's one of the finest funk guitarists ever. Includes guest shots from Slash and Sister Sledge. A nice catch for funk fans. — **JH**