

SOUNDSCAPE MUSIC REVIEWS

Northeast that combines the breakdown carpetbombing of old THROWDOWN with the thrashy frenzy of CEREMONY, all set upon a foundation of old school hardcore tendencies ala AGNOSTIC FRONT. Features members of mosh metal masters ON BROKEN WINGS, though it is unnecessary to mention this as this band and it's debut album can stand on their own. Great stuff from a band that needs to be watched as they evolve. (STM) (www.rockvegasrecords.com)

CONVERGE "No Heroes" CD

Jane Doe was the epitome of Converge's seizure-inducing sonic onslaught of masterfully crafted barbaric white noise. The question was, where do they go from there? It seemed an impossible

task to best Jane Doe. True enough, if you are playing by Jane Doe's rules. This time around, this legendary unit was woven some beautiful textures into their noise blast, creating soundscapes that, while never losing Converges razor sharp teeth, also give it a sating tongue (be it forked or not). Every album that these boys have released has stood on it's own merits as a work of genius, but No Heroes actually embodies the spirit of each release as one. This album is Converges entire career, all they've learned and created and destroyed and defined, into one piece of art. This is the result of genius, pure and simple. There is no question that this album puts all other bands' albums to shame, but No Heroes even gives Converges previous outputs a run for their money. Own this. Now. Everything else in the world of metalcore is the minor leagues. (STM) (www.epitaph.com)



DIE HOFFNUNG "Love Songs" CD

I'm usually way into everything that No Idea puts out; but I just can't get into this one. If this came out back in 1998 I woulda eaten this shit up with a spoon, though. Reminds me of bands like 400 YEARS and SLEEPYTIME TRIO, or more accurately, I HATE MYSELF, since this is one of those ex-members bands. The drummer was in GUNMOLL, who were probably one of the most under-appreciated bands of the past 10 years. So if that whole alt-math-trip-rock stuff is your bag, as it once was mine, pick it up. If you are more into the 'other' No Idea stuff, this may not be for you either. (MWB) (www.noidearecords.com)

EASTON LEGACY "Reaction To Turbulence" EP

Mark my words – these dudes are the next big thing. They've got it all – solid musicianship, strong vocals, and they write songs that are catchy as shit. As of now, they're unsigned, but that's sure as hell not going to last. I don't know who to compare them to – they remind me of a more hook-laden, melodic, NORTHSTAR. It's pretty damn catchy, that's for sure. It's a guilty pleasure CD for me. I'd expect huge things from these guys in the near future – so if you're into the type of music that is driving the kids wild these days, check em out – so you can be ahead of the curve and rub it in your friends' faces. (MWB) (www.myspace.com/eastonlegacy)

GREEN DAY "Under Review 1995-2000: The Middle Years" DVD

The idea behind the Under Review series is a cool one, critically looking at the careers of particular bands, or a specific part of

a band's career. Up until this point, Sexy Intellectual has predominantly covered a large portion of classic rock acts, but they get a bit more current this time around, tackling GREEN DAY. What's most interesting about this Under Review DVD is that it chronicles the three albums that came between their two biggest hits, Dookie and American Idiot. It offers a great look the three albums that marked the evolution of GREEN DAY, Insomniac, Nimrod, and Warning, while speculating on the reasons behind the changes along the way. Sexy Intellectual does a great job of covering the too-often overlooked albums of GREEN DAY's career. (WMJ) (Sexy Intellectual)

IN OUR BLOOD "Revenge Is Forever" CD

The most prophetic release this year, IOB delivers 8 punishing tracks of pure, pummeling hardcore. Heavy as bricks, these tracks immediately bring to mind the beatdown stylings of BURY YOUR DEAD, but less refined and perfectly rough around the edges, bringing to mind the blood, sweat, and grit reality of the HOODS. Cross the raw violence of HATEBREED's first seven inches, add a little metallic sting of INTEGRITY, douse it in the brass knuckle sensibilities of BULLDOZE, and set that bitch of fire with that classic Boston arrogance and you've got one of the single best releases this year for the hoodies, cammo, and cueballs in the sock set. (STM) (www.rockvegasrecords.com)

LIFETIME "S/T" CD

Sometimes, when you wait a long, long time for something, you end up getting let down. You build it up to be something so big that you can't help but be a bit disappointed when it falls short of your lofty expectations. This holds true for events in your life – and yes, to music, too. So after waiting nearly 10 years for a new record from LIFETIME, the bar was set pretty high – dare I say to the very highest level. And, like only LIFETIME