

bad taste, one must first have truly great taste." John Waters. "The new Sirens album could make a young boy jump for joy and an old man adjust his trousers."-Pope Coleman, guest reviewer.

**Six Organs of Admittance** "Shelter from the Ash" (Drag City) This made my organ limp six times more than usual.

**Skerlak Dead** "Remnants UResolved" (Skerlak POB 20942 Phoenix AZ 85036-0942) Made me feel like I had to skerlak.

**The Skies of America** "Shine" (National Recorder 180 Main St. Radio City CA 96094) I hope this isn't insulting to the respective rockers, but this made me want to exercise. This CD is now my "Eye of the Tiger!"

**Slaraffenland** "Private Cinema" (Hometapes) Slafferfull.

**Slow Poisoner** "Roadside Alter" (Rocktopus) I'm not saying SP is not the best One Man Band in the world (OK, I am saying that, but he is excellent, making seriously spooky weirdo music), but I am declaring he is the Handsomest One Man band in the world.

**Josh Small** "Tall" (Suburban Home) Should be called Josh GIANT (to our ears he's a behemoth of humble folk pop).

**Small Leaks Sink Ships** "Until the World is Happy Wake Up You Sleepyhead Sun" (No Sleep 601 Park St. #58 Bordentown NJ 08505) I think you need to go to grad school to get this record.

**small press review** (POB 100 Paradise CA 95967) Relentless reviews of press that is small.

**Smart Talk** "Elect the Dead" (Reprise) Who would like this, I queried. Then the track called "Beethoven's Cunt" came on, and I realized Beavis and/or Butthead would love this. And I guess also at least one Warner brothers A&R guy.

**Smoke or Fire** "this Sinking Ship" (Fat) IF I smoked something that made me like this CD then I'd deserve to be fired.

**The Smokes** "ninesong456" (thesmokes.com) If any rock clubs ban these smokes they will have me to deal with as these slabs of stumblicious twang rock...well, they smoke!

**Dan Smolla** "There's A River" (dansmolla.com) This singer songwriter should be called Dan Soul-a! ('cause he has soul, get it?)

**Social Distortion** "Greatest Hits" (Time Bomb) Everyone that would want these songs has these songs. The massive popularity of this OK band has always been inexplicable to me. Maybe I'm just still mad at them bailing in *Another State of Mind on Night Flight* a quarter century ago.

**The Soft Targets** "Whatever Happened to..." "We Hate You" (Backward Masking/Rooster Cow) As soft as steel and as convenient and economical as Target, this Chicago treasure better not keep getting buried by pirates...we need them. Albums include guitar playing, singing, bass thumping, and drumming; all of which are very good.

**Solace Bros.** "Bad Will" (California Beach Club Records, californiabeachclub.us) Absolutely spectacular album that defies genre. Rco kand garage fans will dig the big, often filthy, guitar sounds. Pop fans and anglophiles will dig Kinks-level craftsmanship. American Cultures grad students will be slighted with a traditional yet edgily new take on "Frankie and Johnny." And post punk/modern rock/indie/whatever you want to call it fans will be surprised at how their genre can be utilized without the music turning dreary. Kicked my sol-ass, other!

**Sounds of Your Name** by Nate Powell (Microcosm) I guess these are genius comix, but I don't really like them.

**Space March** "Without This You Can Never Change" (Death / Karaoke) One keyboard flair away from being John Hughes flick theme music, yet remarkably not hokey, retro or silly. March on down to the record store and make space on our CD shelf for this futuristic gem!

**Sam Sparro** "Black and Gold" (Modus Vivendi) Absolutely fantastic! Sparro's R&B-based electronic dance music draws, without irony, on black radio music of the 80s for vocal rasing, grooves, and vibe. He never sounds like Prince, but he does sound like period Prince imitators, which ain't bad for 7!

**Spin** "ep" (spinrocks.com) Look, if you name your band after a competing magazine, don't send us a copy for review, that's insulting. But seriously folks, this is pretty mediocre, occasionally catchy indie-esque pop. I wouldn't want this band to be named Roctober. Nor would they want that name.

**The Spirit Girls** "Forever Free..." (Trakwerx/End Is Here) We have a policy at this magazine that any band consisting of five people dressed in full costume as beautiful ghost women playing sorta-droning psychedelic art rock are guaranteed a five star review. So...FIVE STARS! Spooktacular.

**Spoiler** "Grease Fire in Hell's Kitchen" (SOS) Angry, impressive streetpunk sung with vocals that sound one song away from a throat surgery.

**Bruce Springsteen Under Review 1978-1982 DVD** (MVD) The Boss' worshipers (basically every American music critic ever) can very convincingly lionize the Jersey-ite, which makes this a pretty good documentary. The fact that they get enough good live footage (old stuff, plus Bruce's VHI special) and actually play snippets of all the songs mentioned makes this rock solid. And they even have a thesis! Between Bruce's two rockin', super-iconic "Born" LP's he did he most important, most sensitive work. Cool.

**The Spunks** "Yellow Fever Blues" (Gearhead POB 2395 Davis CA 95617) I'm living on a Japanese Rock! Although any Johnny Thunders reference should be annotated by the data that the Spunks play 78 times faster than the Heartbreakers.

**Squalora** "repetitively futile" (Wantage, wantageusa.com) Post-apocalyptic extreme hardcore that made me fear everything. Squalawesome!

**Stalkers** "Yesterday Is No Tomorrow" (DRR, dollarrecord.com) Totally solid trash punk that will rattle you. While they would be my fave rave alive on a 45, on a full length one must note that there is a sameness to songs, but of course that never hurt the Ramones. Yet I'm compelled to mention that the vocal quality of the singer has a deadpan flatness that might be better suited to a few songs in a row and not a dozen...but I guess the Ramones had that too and it wasn't a problem. So forget I said anything.

**Stanleylucasrevolution** "Greatest Hits" (Stroboscopic) Synthstational!

**Stanley Ross** "Favorites" (stanleyross.com) Not sure who these glorious, get the Kinks out, Anglophiles are, but I bet they have the best record collections in America! If I write a good enough review, will you make me a mixtape? What's scariest about this is that I fear they may have snuck in my room and played me this CD in my sleep, because these all sound like longtime favorites!

**Stare Into the Sun** "Whispers Turn To Howls" (Reformer) This made all my parts bob!

**State Bird** "...presents Mostly Ghostly" (The Record Machine 4015 Charlotte 1South KC, MO 64110) If this is supposed to be some kind of ruralized strain of Freak Folk it fails, because it basically makes me think of *Hee Haw*. And I don't mean that in a bad way, I mean that this is rootsy American music that makes me feel very happy.

**Sterling** "Cursed" (File 13) These musical meanderings are Ster-LONG!

**Stiff Donut** "I Did It All For The Cookie" (36 Central Park Rd. Plainview NY 11803) Gloriously stupid!

**Still Flyin** "Za Cloud Ej" (Antenna Farm) School band gone so wrong it's right!

**C.W. Stoneking** "King Hokum" (Voodoo Rhythm) Obviously a time traveler from 85 or so years back, this Aussie pre-war bluester is going to fool a lot of old time blues deejays and please a lot of listeners with some fine compositions, nice performances and enough swinging brass to move your rent party ass.

**John P. Strohm** "Everyday Life" (Superphonicrecords.com) Rocks harder than Strom Thurmond eating a stromboli!

**Strung Out** "Blackhawks over Los Angeles" (Fat) Skate punk that's EXTREME...ly straightforward and solid.

**Stunning Models on Display** "what the night said" (Stunning Models on Display POB 274 Sapphire NC 28774) Intensely mellow.

**Subhumans** "New Dark Age Parade" (Alternative Tentacles) They still got it. Some of the best political lyrics I've heard, never abandoning simple, straightforward writing to express savagely point on dissent.

**Submission** "Transmission" (Listen Loudest) Submission accomplished!

**Boris Sujdovic** "Fuzz Machine" (Bang!) Caveman fuzz rock that drives like a Flintstones car!

**Mark Sultan** "The Sultanic Verses" (In The Red pob 50777 LA CA 90050) Lo-fi trash that is never lo-quality garbage. The guitar jangle-rattles, clichés abound, 60s pop/50s rock n roll/70s glam/powerpop/punk are fully embraced, but everything here somehow seems fresh, forward-thinking, and nearly perfect. Only an asshole would hate this record.

**The Summer Wardrobe** (Rainbow Quartz 163 Amsterdam Avenue POB 194 NY, NY 10023) Psychedelic with a touch of classic rock/bar band/southern rock working man roots, and some serious (maybe too much) respect for Wayne Coyne. A band for all seasons!

**Sunkissed** (Smalltown Supersound) A mixtape/history lesson about Norway's dance dance revolution with a little rock n roll (re)mixed in. Put this on at a party and Norway will be your way!

**Sun Ra** "The Futuristic Sounds of..." (Cherry Red) The prettiest tunes of a pretty out of this world alien. The only Sun Ra recordings you can make love to and not end up in Dimension X.

**Sunny Boys** "This Is Real Singles/Live/Rare" (Shock) Apparently from 1980-1984 this Australian post-punk/retro-Kinksy band made at least 40 songs that were more than adequate. Wish I could be more enthused, but you definitely could do worse than picking up this retrospective...at least they liked good 60s music!

**Superman's Girlfriend "Live, 1979"** (no label) Dallas punk combo, Superman's Girlfriend, takes me back to a time when there wasn't a hell of a lot of difference between Punk and New Wave, it was all in FUN. This is a soundboard-quality recording of live show from Houston. S.G. to me, comes on something like a Texan Rezillos. Not to say they have the Rezillos' "Stop on a Dime" tightness, no disrespect intended, but a similar male/female vocal dynamic and infectious, cartoonish sense of humor. The group even had the cheek to cover their friends, and their OWN (previous) bands in their set. Besides Lo-Fi Punk classics by The Dot Vaeth Group (S.G. singer, Jim Nabors'- His real name-previous band, and Ft. Worth's first 70s Punks), they also get in the classic "Baby's Playing Games" by The Vomit Pigs (and, at nearly 30 seconds in length, it may well be the longest recorded version in existence. I'm not kidding). Other goofy covers include "Baby, Let's Twist" by The Dictators (sort of a standard in Dallas. I saw The Devices, later, doing a pretty wretched audience sing-along a few years later), "Hanky Panky" (as "Ayatollah Does The Hanky Panky"...They'd probably crossed paths with Ft. Worth Oldies band, Vince Vance and The Valiants, who had a national hit around that time, with "Bomb Iran" (set to the tune of "Barbara Ann," wouldn't it be funny if a presidential candidate sang that today...), Iggy's "Funtime" and "Nightclubbing" from the "Jimmy and David On the Road to East Berlin" period (which Nabors was a BIG fan of...I once saw him doing a song from "Lust For Life," with the LP sleeve in front of his face, like a mask, reading the lyrics off the back!), and even a Texocentric (Even punks in Texas had a superiority complex) reading of "On Broadway" (the Dallas/Denton group, The Jetsons also did the song, briefly, when "All That Jazz" came out), not to mention the "B-I-Bickey-Bi-Bo Song" (sic) from The Three Stooges (and I don't mean Iggy and The Ashetons). That's not to say they didn't have songs of their own. Oh, they DID, though, alas, their magnum opus, "Lois, Lois" isn't included, here. The Super Power-Punk of "I Ain't No Asshole", one of the group's best moments, sets well beside "Dollin' Out, U.S.A." ("Dolls" used to be slang for "Pills", if you're up on Jackie Susanne or Russ Meyer), "The Output Monster" (about the Porn industry, I take it...I don't mean, I TAKE it!!!), and "Jesus Saves." Guitarist, Paul Quig, gets into some phlanger action, but, it all works. This is an above-average document, from a time and place when being different was dangerous, but still something to be celebrated. A few years later, the local punks rarely made appearances in daylight...then they wondered why they weren't being accepted by society. For more info, go to [www.nervebreakers.com](http://www.nervebreakers.com), and click on "Erin's Texas Punk Junk" in the links section. You'll be glad you did.