

down pretty light, with no yecchy aftertaste. It has a "kick" comparable to the little ginseng packets you can find in truck stops, the caffeine/ginseng base of the drink does it's thing with no jitters. It's a nice, mild "lift" that's enhancing my performance, right now, as I write what other people could accomplish in three to five sentences.

**Fulton Lights** (Android Eats Records) A full ton of boring.

**Functional Blackouts** "The Severed Tongue Speaks For Everyone," "The Very Best of the Monkees" (Dead Beat) These two releases are a CD version of a release I've only seen as a Criminal I.Q. vinyl LP and a singles and rarities collection. Hearing these as a (supposedly) post-mortem/autopsy is a pretty convincing argument for this band's potency. Transcending trash rock/garage they prove themselves to be art rock. But not art rock in the pretentious conceptual noise for noise's sake way, but rather, these Chicago rawkers were sculptors making solid, monumental, roughly hewn sound sculptures. You not only hear the volume, but when you subject yourself to these gloriously musical messes you physically feel the other definition of volume (the size of a 3-D space enclosed within or occupied by an object).

**Functional Blackouts/KK Rampage** split 7" (Big Neck) Apparently there's no such thing as too much rock n roll because somehow this killer slab of vinyl didn't make my head explode.

**Fun From None - Live at the No Fun Festival** DVD (Load) In all honesty I had this for months before I watched it, afraid of what I'd see. Too often noise concerts, particularly noise festivals, devolve into endurance rituals and I imagined watching this 2 disc set documenting the 2004 and 2005 No Fun Fest would take this to a new extreme. I was SO WRONG. The profound artistry (or artschoolistry if I want to be dickish) of this film by Chris Habib involves dynamic closeups, saturated video, innovative effects to emphasize the vibe of the music, still photography, edits matching the music, and incredible connections with the artists. What is best here is that the video completely argues for the vision of the musicians and the quality of the compositions. You may think you don't dig damaged electronics or experimental noise, but after watching Wolf Eyes, Kim Gordon, Magic Markers, Hair Police, Prurient, and other legends of cacophony in this presentation you may change your non-tune.

**Fur Cups For Teeth** "Fun Luck You Keep" (myspace.com/furcups) This is theoretically a double album (though a group this savvy and on the ball knows the value of a two minute song, thus both discs total less minutes than an Acid Mothers Temple segue between songs), with one slab being a techno/retro new wave offering and the other being punkier and rockier (the photo is Ramonesy). However, any 70s, 80s, or 00s reference is a little misleading because what I hear in almost every track is the awesome 90s experience of being at some oddball all-ages show where Kathleen Hanna is telling people where to stand, and they're happy to comply. If that sounds like an insult, I apologize, because I mean to say that these are awesome infectious songs boiled down to just the right potent concentration. And they're super fun. And furry-toothed, apparently.

**Ezra Furman & the Harpoons** "Banging Down the Doors" (Minty Fresh) Ironically this man sounds too young to have fur anywhere, but the twisted maturity of his boldness and strange lyrical decision-making betrays his "youth."

**Hannah Fury** "Through the Gash" (Mellow Traumatic Recordings) Furiously dull.

● **FUZZ - The Sound That Revolutionized the World** DVD (Brinkfilm) More about sound than music, this documentary tells the history (briefly), musical uses of (half-heartedly) and compulsive collector fascination with (obsessively) fuzzbox guitar foot pedals. Every guitarist who ever stomped on a box will probably love the gabbing about rare transistors, distortion jargon, and massive noise damage. But anyone who watches this will be entertained by the pride, fanaticism, and joy these techs and rockers get from their peddling. And I dare you not to feel creepy revulsion/fascination as the fuzzbox king walks you through his factory fondling the international workforce of young immigrant girls assembling the circuit boards you stick your ¼" jack into.

**Galactic Zoo Dossier #7** by Plastic Crimewave (Drag City) The reason Plastic Crimewave's swims in the seas of psychedelic music history are more engaging than that other psyche magazine is that PW *LOVES* the men and women behind the music and really wants to figure out something about them and their lives. While the text could and should delve deeper, the fact that his artwork has become so much

richer and more soulful means that his portraits really tell volumes about his subjects. And the CDs are awesome.

**Gang Wizard** "Byzantine Headache" (Load, [myspace.com/loadrecords](http://myspace.com/loadrecords)) Either brilliantly dumb or dumbly brilliant this is ten pounds of steaming, stumbling, yearning, burning, beautiful, ugly sound in a five pound ear-bag. Accept this challenge.

**Gecko Club** "Evergreen" (Northlight) Both the U2 and the Depeche Mode of reptile bands!

**The Geeks** "Too Fat Pig" b/w "Visiting At San Quentin" (SS 1114-21" St. Sacramento CA 95814, [s-records.com](http://s-records.com)) I cannot accurately describe the brilliance and weirdness of this ancient jazz punk artifact, but you NEED to get a copy.

**The Gee Strings** "a bunch of bugs" (Dead Beat POBox 361392 Cleveland OH 44136) The F Strings...as in Fuckin' AWESOME!

**The Gena Rowlands Band** "Flesh and Spirits" (Lujo) Maybe this is good, I can't tell. Who listens to some guy standing around singing songs like this?

**The Ghetto Blasters** "Torque," "Radio Universe" (Homestead, [ghettoblasters.com](http://ghettoblasters.com)) Rock for drinkin' that makes you want to drink to rockin'!



**Ghost** "Overture: Live In Nippon Yusen Soho 2006" (Drag City) This was built up pretty big, and I was very excited for it, but I have to tell you, this CD/DVD kind of bummed me out. Ghost have been doing the psyche/folk/ethereal/mystical rock from before it got underground hip, and to me they have always been otherworldly mystics playing their mighty instruments outside atop some snow capped Japanese mountain as wind blows their flowing hair and robes. Thus, seeing them performing amidst what in-person must have been a spectacular high tech visual sea of colors and digital designs, but on video is just a hippie light show, was kind of disappointing to me. It really grounded them when I wanted them to be lifted. And the darkness the light show required meant that they were really hard to videotape for the shots of the performers. I wish I listened to the CD first. It's still pretty awesome sounding, but my Ghost bubble had already been burst.

**The Giant Robots** "Record Riot" (Voodoo Rhythm) These Eurobots produce an album of some of the finest 60s style garage music to cross my border in ages. Amazingly they sound like they never heard a record made after 1966, they seem to want to make everyone dance (with beats ranging from French 60s rock to Pacific Northwest party rock) and they somehow make everything seem wholesome and righteous. These Giant Robots could crush my giant monsters any day!

**The Ginger Envelope** "edible orchids" (One Percent Press) A beautiful middleground between strummy indie rock and sweet Americana, the envelope can't be licked!

"**Glamarama**" compilation CD (442eme Rue, 64 BD Georges Clemeceau 89100 Sens France) This compilation of Glam rock/NYC punk covers/tributes/revivals features an international; cast of rockers that range from great never-heard-ofs (Pulpit Reds), lovable contemporaries (The Kowalskis, the Gee Strings), vets (Electric Frankenstien), and

legends, living (Syl Sylain) and otherwise (Nikki Sudden). All in all it's a gloriously confusing, hard rocking mess!

**Gabby Glaser** "Gimme Splash" (Latch Key, [latchkeyrecordings.com](http://latchkeyrecordings.com)) If you sing breathy over wah-wah rock that's as bluesy as it is 70s porno- soundtracky than you have no one but yourself to blame for me falling in love with you. Get the restraining order ready, this goddess is mine!

**Gliss** "Love the Virginia" (Cordless) Glissens with rock that is both majestic and nuanced (a rare formula) and features some of the most gloriously debauched vocal tones you will hear this side of a rock orgy of the gods.

**Glös** "Harmonium" (lovitt) First off I want to express my sincere hope that there is a Gliss/Glös feud, just because saying those band names together makes my mouth happy. Second off, this is some seriously important-seeming music. Features strange singing, stern strumming, and stellar soundmaking. Better than Rick James' "Glös."

**Golden Boys** "Whiskey Flower" (Emperor Jones) Olden Joys!

**The Goldilocks Zone** "not too hot, not too cold, just right" (Journey Agent) Would give a Big Bad Wolf a sour stomach.

**The Goodnight Loving** "Crooked Lake" (Dusty Medical POB 1981 Milwaukee WI 53201) If the essence of good time beer drinking punk party rock was a snack cake, these cheeseheads would be the ones providing the creme filling!

**Goribor** "Standom do Tokija," "Live" (Listen Loudest) Should be called GoriEXCITE!

**Gore Gore Girls** "Get the Gore" (Bloodshot 3039 W. Irving Park Rd Chill 60618) Traditionally predominantly female bands have the knocks against them that either they are a Svengali's sexy puppets or that some crafty, creative man (or woman) has composed his/her own band chromosome-ally as a gimmick. The reason these Midwestern hellcats never come across as some fake construct, despite the fact that they fill a stage with attractive women in sexy duds, is that looking into their eyes you don't see vacant stares or happy *America's Top Model* smiling peepers - you see genuine toughness, grit, and rock n roll world-weariness. The 3G's have long conveyed this badassness on stage, but with this CD they get it captured on disc, so if you are ready to actually be knocked around by some tough broads who understand what rock n roll is about, get this gore.

**Gothic Vampires from Hell** DVD (Eclectic) Is there really such a thing as a Goth Battle of the Bands? Can blood really squirt that far? And hasn't computerized dancing baby/skeleton technology advanced since *Ally McBeal*? All these questions and less will be answered if you view this Z-movie.

**Grabba Grabba Tape** "Kurt Kobaya Y G.R.O.X." (Simple Social Graces Discos 319 Lafayette St. #218 NYC 10012) Possibly the best album ever made. If I had a Speak and Spell as a child that sounded like this sonic mess I would either be president or Jeffrey Dahmer by now.

**Graboids** "infinite delay" (Stickfigure) Grabbed me by my oids...v-e-r-y s-l-o-w-l-y (but with pressure building continuously til it hurt so good).

● **Graffiti TV** "The Best of Vol 1, 2 & 3", "Volume 4" DVDs (GTV/MVD) Graffiti videos, as demonstrated on the compilation DVD of this infamous series, are more like an episode of *Cops* (or more accurately, those TV shows based on narrated police car mounted camera footage) than an action-packed skate or surf video. Or more accurately, they are the opposite version of *Cops*, as camera crews follow around outlaws tagging, painting huge pieces, and shoplifting spraypaint. What's most notable about the classic episodes is the horrendous video quality and the dated Video Toaster special effects. These rough edges seem to add a whole 'nother level of danger and menace to the anti-establishment antics. On the newly released volume 4 the gang has finally rassed up digital cameras and the graininess is gone, which made me a little sad, but the mischief is in full effect, as they provide a video primer on how to sneak into train yards.

**The Grannies** "Gumjob" (Wondertaker.com POB 470153 SF, CA 94147) Should be called the Groanies, because that's what punk rock this bad makes me do.

**"Grass Is Always Greener (On The Other Side)"** sampler CD (Get Hip) A sampler of a label with great bands like the Uglybeats, Paybacks, Mondo Topless, Freddy and the Four-Gone Conclusions, and Chargers Street Gang is a guaranteed knockout.