

CDs



**BILL CALLAHAN**  
*Woke On A Whaleheart*  
Drag City

Bill Callahan has finally decided to use his real name. After nearly twenty years of using the pseudonym **Smog**, he has a band and is ripping harder than ever. My first impression of his new album, *Woke On A Whaleheart*, was, "Hey, this kind of sounds like **Lou Reed** meets **Smog** with a little more Texas twang." You see, I had no idea that Bill Callahan was Smog because I am fairly new to Smog. Strangely enough, the first thought that ran through my head was, "My friend Jim is going to have a new favorite album." Jim is the one who introduced me to Smog... trippy. I generally know that an album is great if I can think of multiple people who will love it, and I thought of at least five. This is the perfect CD for Sunday afternoon driving in the truck or sitting in the backyard enjoying a cool beverage. The only option you don't have is to not give *Woke On A Whaleheart* a listen. I give Bill Callahan five out of five friends for his new venture.—T.J.



**SUFJAN STEVENS**  
*The Avalanche*  
Asthmatic Kitty

If you were impressed by the depth and diversity of Sufjan Stevens' 2005 album *Illinoise*—his second in what he proclaimed to be a series of albums for each of the 50 states—then *The Avalanche* will only further your admiration. This collection of 21 songs didn't make the final cut onto *Illinoise*, which was initially intended to release as a 50-song double-disc, according to Stevens. But the songs on the *The Avalanche* are perfect counterparts to the *Illinoise* material—and they're written in the same vein of historical reference, amazing composition, musicianship, and production (the majority done by Stevens himself). Favorites are "The Henny Buggy Band," "The Mistress Witch From McClure," "Inaugural Pop Music For Jane Margaret Byrne," and the three alternate versions of "Chicago" (acoustic, adult contemporary, and multiple personality disorder). Pick up the disc for another glimpse into the vast material of one of today's most original, prolific, and talented singer songwriters.—M.F.



**DINOSAUR JR.**  
*Beyond*  
Fat Possum

After a super long time of being broken up (eighteen years!), the legendary group Dinosaur Jr. has finally reformed to bring immense joy to the masses. Dinosaur Jr.'s music is high-energy rock 'n' roll complete with fuzzy, gritty guitar work by **J Mascis**, thundering baselines by **Lou Barlow**, and

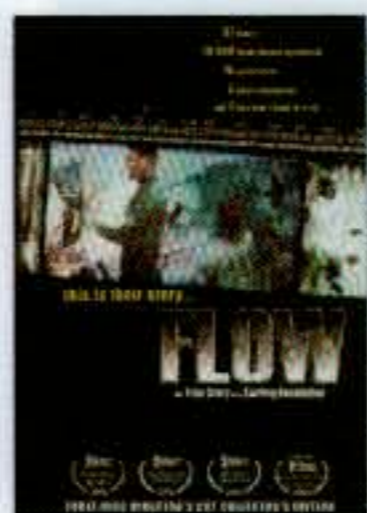
Johnny-on-the-spot drumming by **Emmett "Murph" Murphy**. The original band's fourth studio album, *Beyond*, follows in the tradition of past Dinosaur Jr. albums and is sure to please fans as it is without a doubt the best album to date from the band. Listen to this band—it influenced great bands like **Nirvana**, **Mudhoney**, **Tad**, **The Screaming Trees**, and the list goes on. Do yourself a favor and pick up *Beyond* from the forefathers of "grunge," and if you're already a fan, 'nough said.—Aaron Schmidt



**BATTLES**  
*Mirrored Warp*

Not only is Battles full of amazing musicians (members of **Don Caballero** and **Tomahawk**), but they have also unraveled the long-sought-after ability to fold time. *Mirrored* breaks the time-space continuum and sends us to the future of 2041 where prog rock reigns supreme and pygmy aliens do the singing. This is fo' sho' the craziest sounding music I have heard in a long time—if not ever. If mathematics and a music store had a baby, it would be Battles. Intensely layered tracks allow the listener to get virtually transported to inner realms of the mind. Very complex song structures are complemented with percussion that must be seen to be believed—it's hard to believe it's not a drum machine. If I were a musician, I would probably be truly scared of these guys—they're too good, too original. Prepare for Battles!—T.J.

DVDs



**FLOW: THE TRUE STORY OF A SURFING REVOLUTION**

34 Films  
Josh Landan and Scott Stankey

This is a film that has been out for a minute, and you've read all about it in *TransWorld SURF* in the past, so consider this an update. If you haven't seen *Flow* yet, you're depriving yourself of one of the best surf documentaries you'll ever see. The deluxe three-disc director's cut collector's edition is jam-packed full of the best surfers in the world, including **Kelly Slater**, **Dane Reynolds**, **Tom Curren**, **Taylor Knox**, **Timmy Curran**, **Lisa Andersen**, **Rob Machado**, and of course, the legend himself, **Al Merrick**. Along with amazing surf segments, you get to see the whole story of **Al Merrick** and **Channel Islands Surfboards'** crazy ride to the top of the world. Truly passionate and emotional interviews, and heartfelt testimonials fill this film, and I'll be honest, it's the first surf film to ever bring a tear to my eye. *Flow* has already ravaged the awards circuit (winning best documentary at X-Dance) and is a film that must have a space in your permanent collection. If you haven't seen *Flow*, you do not deserve to own a surfboard.—C.C.



**BIG AUDIO DYNAMITE**  
*Live: E=MC²*  
MVD

The breakup of **The Clash** hit music fans hard, and the thought of living without the band probably drove many to drug use—then came Big Audio Dynamite and **B.A.D. II**. **Mick Jones** (yes, of **The Clash**) and his band of funky-ass merry men combined aspects of reggae, rock, hip-hop, and house music to create one hell of a party band—and sure, many people still continued their drug use. This DVD, shot in 1990 at England's world-famous Town And Country Club, will make you sad you missed this rocking show, but the production value and sound will make you feel like you are there. Tracks like "The Globe" and "Medicine Show" will have your ass moving, so break out your floppy hats and start dancing... "Down at the Globe."—C.C.

BOOKS



**THE SURFER'S GUIDE TO COSTA RICA & NICARAGUA**  
**THE SURFER'S GUIDE TO BAJA**  
**THE SURFER'S GUIDE TO MAINLAND MEXICO**

By Mike Parise  
SurfPress Publishing

Judging by its thin spine, it's amazing how much raw knowledge and experience author Mike Parise was able to pack inside these surf guides. No doubt the countless hours he spent scouring these locations have made him quite the traveling surf guru. From surf spots to hotels and from cars to bars, it's all here. For your next trip to Costa Rica or any of the other locations offered, make sure you bring these little puppies along for the ride—you'll be glad you did. To order these titles and more, check out [thesurfersguides.com](http://thesurfersguides.com).—Jon Facer



**FOUR BANGERS YOU CAN'T MISS!**

**Earthless**, *Rhythms From A Cosmic Sky*—The best stoner rock band you're likely to hear. Three virtuosos jamming hard, two twenty-minute-plus instrumental jams, and one kick-ass cover—get this now!

**Minus Story**, *My Ion Truss*—Wildly creative and downright beautiful, this disc shines bright like a mix between **The Velvet Teen** and **Mercury Rev**.

**The Bad Plus**, *Prog*—The world's best indie-jazz band is at it again. Featuring genius (instrumental) jazz covers, the set list includes "Tom Sawyer" (yes, it's a **Rush** song), "Life On Mars" (**Bowie**), and **Tears For Fears'** "Everybody Wants To Rule The World."

**Lesbians On Ecstasy**, *We Know You Know*—The name says it all, or does it? This techno-rock band plays ass-rocking electro that I have witnessed in person. Think **Ladytron** meets **CSS**—but lesbian.