

rogue's gallery

Having wowed many with *Out of the Shadow*, a stellar, band-released debut in 2003 – which led to its signing by Sub Pop and the CD's wider re-release last year – Oakland's **Rogue Wave** follows up with *Descended Like Vultures* on Sub Pop October 25. But those who fell for *Shadow*'s mix of the **Byrds**, **La's**, **Shins**, **Simon & Garfunkel** (on the acoustic tracks) and classic indie pop have wondered what to expect. After all, *Shadow* was a de facto solo LP by leader **Zach Rogue** with engineer Bill Racine. This one was recorded with the full band Rogue assembled last year.

Not to fear; *Vultures* (again with Racine) is very different but continues where *Shadow* left off, with a slightly fuller sound on songs such as "Publish My Love" and "Catform." Asked about the difference, Rogue tells **ICE**, "Well, I don't know what the record would have sounded like if it was just me and Bill again. This new one would have been different regardless, because the melodic ideas, structures, subject matter, etc. feel really different. I wrote these particular songs in a different state of mind. That said, this is most definitely a band now, it's not just me. It's a little more out of control, which is what I was hoping for. **Pat (Spurgeon, drums)**, **Gram (LeBron, guitar)** and **Evan (Farrell, bass)** are such good musicians, there are a lot more directions that are possible. I hope it is always changing."

And Rogue insists he didn't feel more pressure this time. "No," he says, "other than the pressure we put on ourselves to make music we are excited about. If there is sort of an audience for what we are trying to do, that still remains to be seen. I've wanted to make records for a long time now, so if we can keep doing it, then I'm a happy boy."

We're told that touring inspired the new lyrics, though you won't hear anything like "On the Road Again." "It's not so much that they're directly about being a touring band," Rogue explains. "It's more about the mood of the songs. If I see a real right-wing bumper sticker when we're driving down the freeway in the Midwest, it doesn't make me want to write words describing that experience. Usually it makes me look inward and think about my life – what I want, what I don't want, what I can and can't control. All those deceased bugs on the dashboard, though – that is pretty depressing. I'd like to write some songs about that."

Asked about the new West Coast community of off-kilter, edgy pop musicians, some of whom Rogue Wave has played with (Shins, **A.C. Newman**) and others like the **Decemberists** and **Death Cab for Cutie**, he smiles, explaining, "The more we play and meet other bands, the more inspired we



■ rogue wave

become. Each day, we become more convinced that there is no right way to do things. And it seems more obvious that it is possible to make music without compromise."

Amen to that, and to *Descended Like Vultures*.

news and notes

Last month we mentioned the forthcoming third **Broken Social Scene** album, out on Canadian label Arts & Crafts October 4. The guests this time include stars from the **Dears**, **Stars**, **Metric**, **Feist**, **Raising the Dawn**, **Do Make Say Think** and **Apostle of Hustle**. And the initial pressing will include a seven-song EP, *EP to Be You and Me* ■ One week later brings Aussie vets **Dirty Three**'s seventh LP, *Cinder*, on Touch and Go, their first ever with vocals (true!), courtesy of powerhouse visiting Down Under guests **Chan Marshall** of **Cat Power** and **Sally Timms** of the **Mekons**. Produced this time by **Casey Rice (Liz Phair, Tortoise, Gastra del Sol)**, the band has devised a sound that also incorporates large swaths of violin, viola,

mandolin, bouzouki and bagpipes. Of the 19 songs, one is co-written with Marshall, and there's a cover of a tune by Yugoslavian-born zither and violin player **Félix Lajkó** ■ K Records and **Beat Happening** founder **Calvin Johnson** has been at this as long as anyone, and he releases a new, second solo album, *Before the Dream Faded*, on K October 25. Unlike his previous *What Was Me*, this time he spends the affair collaborating with other folks, namely **Warren Lee**, **Jona Bechtolt (The Blow)**, **Adam Forkner (Yume Bitsu)** and **Devin Welch (Chromatics)**, as well as guest producers such as **Phil Elverum** (the **Microphones** and **Mirah**) ■ Though **ICE** doesn't usually mention singles, this one seems too juicy not to, and it's for a good cause. On October 11 stores will carry a spoof charity single "Do They Know It's Hallowe'en?" – with very *real* proceeds going to UNICEF – by an artist with the similarly tongue-in-cheek name the **North American Halloween Prevention Initiative**. What's so special about them? It's actually the ubiquitous **Beck**, psych legend **Roky Erickson**, new-folk star **Devendra Banhart** and members of the **Arcade Fire**, **Sonic Youth**, **Sloan**, **Yeah Yeah Yeahs**, **Postal Service**, **Peaches**, **Wolf Parade**, **Sum 41**, **Buck 65** and **Feist**. The satire is co-written by one-time **Unicorns** singer **Nicholas Diamond** and produced by Diamond and **Redd Kross'** **Steven McDonald** ■ Music Video Distributors never seems to sleep very long, and October 4 will see their DVD of **Murphy's Law**, *Up with Us, Down with Them*. It's a live document of **Jimmy Gestapo**'s old hardcore crew shot at two different venues, the Continental Club in the East Village in the band's home New York City, as well as Rex's in West Chester, PA ■ Punks should also be on the lookout for the upcoming albums by the perennial **Lagwagon** (*Resolve* on Fat Wreck Chords, November 1) and the **Briefs** (BYO's release of their classic-punk manifesto *Steal Yer Heart*, out October 18). ■

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Universal rolls out more *Gold* double-disc anthologies October 11. Among the more notable are those on **Supertramp** (31 pre- and post-A&M cuts, including the new-to-CD non-LP single sides "Land Ho" and "Summer Romance"), **Buddy Holly** (material from 1993's *Collection* remastered from scratch), **B.T.O.** and *Southern Rock*. The latter corrals hits by the **Allman Brothers Band**, **Atlanta Rhythm Section**, **Cowboy**, **Delany & Bonnie** and **Friends**, **Marshall Tucker Band**, **Outlaws**, **Sea Level**, **Wet Willie** and more. November brings a comprehensive **Neville Bros. Gold** (**Hawketts**, **Art** and **Aaron** solo, **Meters**, **Wild Tchoupitoulas**) ■ A new batch of *Chronicles*, the series of artist anthologies from the

Universal label of the same name, arrives September 27. Each three-disc set covers the career-spans of the **Carpenters**, **John Hiatt**, **Cat Stevens**, **Cher**, **Elton John**, **Steve Earle**, **Donna Summer**, **Tom Jones**, **Asia** and the **Moody Blues** ■ October 11 serves up the three-DVD **Captain & Tennille Ultimate Collection** (R2 Entertainment), a compendium of the duo's 1976-77 variety show; guests include **Heart**, **Bread**, **Manfred Mann** and **Gladys Knight & the Pips** ■ Two of indie hip-hop's most prolific and eclectic artists join forces as **DANGERDOOM** on October 11 for a loony set of tunes inspired by characters on the Cartoon Network's Adult Swim shows. *Grey Album*/**Gorillaz** mastermind **Danger Mouse** and producer/lyricist **MF Doom** are *The Mouse and the Mask* courtesy of Epitaph, and are joined by the animated characters from *Space Ghost* and *Aqua*

Teen Hunger Force, as well as rap heavyweights **Cee-Lo**, **Talib Kweli** and **Ghostface Killah**. The aforementioned **Wu-Tang** microphone murderer also shows up a week earlier, teaming up with newcomer **Trife Da God** on Fastlife/Koch's 718: *Stapleton to Somalia*. The 18-track, New York-centric set combines solo and duo tracks from Ghostface and Trife with larger posse cuts featuring **Tommy Whispers**, **Kryme Life** and golden-era lyrical legend **Kool G Rap** ■ England's ZTT Records celebrates the 20th anniversary of four of its most significant signings on October 4, releasing remastered, rarities-filled deluxe editions of *Daft* by early hip-hop heroes **Art of Noise**, the hits collection *808:88:98* from influential electronica outfit **808 State**, **Frankie Goes to Hollywood**'s gold-selling 1984 album *Welcome to the Pleasuredome* and German industrial outfit **Propaganda**'s 1985 LP *A Secret Wish*.