

Reviewers: (MC) Mitchy-Poo Cardwell, (RK) Ramsey Kanaan, (STM) Sammy The Mick, (JC) Jimi Cheetah, (DM) The Reverend Dominic Moresi, (LD) Laura Davis, (RVH) Ray Van Horn Jr, (TS) Tristan Staddon, (MWB) Matt "Windbreaker" Cote, (MR) Mike Rodriguez, (CDM) Charles David McCormick, (CC) Caleb Cattivera, (NN) Nick Norton, (WDJ) William Jones, (MM) Max-Maxxinson, (JCC) Jen Conrad

THE 20 BELOWS / THE ZATOPEKS split 7"

This is one of those weird 7" records where one of the bands is pretty good (ZATOPEKS) and the other one not at all (20 BELOWS). The ZATOPEKS hail out of the UK and have that sound I like (you know the one, like if the EVERLY BROTHERS had been a punk band), fresh, clean, and with a bit of humor mixed in with their attitude. The 20 BELOWS, hailing from Denmark, are just odd; The lead singer sounds like a girl (though I looked at the picture of the band, and if one of those dudes is a chick, she's reeeaaaaaalllll ugly). I actually almost thought I had the record on the wrong speed for a second because there was a definite chipmunk quality to his voice. Anyway it is kind of a shame, because the ZATOPEKS are totally worth owning, oh hell, buy it anyway, it's a 7 inch you cheap bastard. What, are you not going to make rent? (RPC)
(www.all-nite-records.com)

9MM "On The Edge" CD

So / Cal melodic hardcore and emo mix, straight outta, er, Italy. Though you could / would never tell. They have the diction, style, and genre down real good. If GAMEFACE had mysteriously transplanted to Rome, this is, I s'pose, what they'd sound like. (RK)
(www.wynonarecords.com)

ACID BATH "Demos 1993-1996" CD

The demos that brought the band to the world, got them signed and would become their last record "Pagan Terrorist Tactics" are all here resurrected for your listening pleasure. Largely low end, sludgy metal, with enough twists and tribal bits to keep it interesting.
Fans of NEUROSIS might want to investigate. (RK)
(Rotten Records / www.rottenrecords.com)

ACTION ACTION "An Army of Shapes Between Wars" CD

My wife heard a song from these guys a couple of years ago and dug it, so I bought her their first CD. Aside from that on standout song, the rest was fairly mundane, bordering on boring. So I was hoping these guys, a couple years older and a couple years wiser, would take that one great song, learn, and build an entire CD of great songs. Unfortunately, to me, they didn't. What we have here is a CD full of songs that put too much emphasis on the "art" and pay too little attention to the "rock", and therefore has a feel of being a tad bit pretentious. Hey, maybe it's just me - I've never fully bought into the synth-mod sound that makes the kids weak in the knees - but to me, it's just another disappointing CD from a band that showed signs of brilliance. (MWB)
(www.victoryrecords.com)

AFTER THE FIGHT "Basura Solamente" CD

Another melodic punk effort from Chicago, which seems to be churning them out these days. They have an energetic, raw yet tuneful sound, not a million miles away from the first ADOLESCENTS LP, mixing in with early SCREECHING WEASEL. You get the drift...and it's a good one. (RK)
(Bone Records / www.bonerecordschicago.com)

ANCHORS AWAY "Nuckin' Futs" EP

There are two kinds of Skater Punk, there are the bands which sound like PENNYWISE, and there are the bands which sound like SUICIDAL TENDANCIES-ANCHORS AWAY fall into the latter category. A real F-Authority kind of band with double bass pedal, thrashing guitar, and choppy vocals screaming out nonstop from track one till the album comes to a screeching end five songs later. It is the kind of sound that will make you want to strap on you helmet and hit the half pipe. Be careful if you do though, that's how I broke my

ass. (RPC)
(www.significantrecords.com)

ANDREW W.K. "Andrew W.K.: Who Knows? (Live in Concert 2000-2004)"

Oh Andrew (or Saint Andrew as I've also heard you referred to as), what is going on in that head of yours? Andrew W.K.'s live DVD is an interesting one, to say the least. The video and audio was combined from a number of shows, and does not fail to bring the pure energy of seeing Andrew W.K. live. (After all, this may have been one of the best mosh pits I've ever seen.) Cute kids on stage and Andrew rocking in the wheelchair make this DVD a memorable one. However, the scenes in between songs and the extras are quite odd. This isn't necessarily bad, however, I just don't get it. It sure does make the DVD an experience, though, rather than it being the standard live show. An extra booklet accompanies the DVD, with a letter from Dad, and more information about the man himself. Great music and a good time. (WDJ)
(MVD / www.mvdb2b.com)

THE APPLESEED CAST "Peregrine" CD

One of the original "emo" bands from the 90s, formerly of Deep Elm Records and their "The Emo Diaries" series, these guys are a bit of a departure from the other bands on their new label, The Militia Group. I guess they fit more with COPELAND and less with CARTEL. Definitely on the mellow side of things, with some real downers in there. For fans of the aforementioned COPELAND, or maybe even some fans of PEDRO THE LION could dig this. (MWB)
(www.themilitiagroup.com)

ARMALITE self-titled CD

Thank GOD the ARMALITE CD is finally here! I thought this thing would never actually see the light of day! Lucky for all of us, the fine folks down at No Idea Records got 'er done and here it is! For those not "in the know", ARMALITE is a band hailing from Philly featuring none other than Mr. Dan Yemin (of LIFETIME / KID DYNAMITE / PAINT IT BLACK fame), Mike McKee (KILL THE MAN WHO QUESTIONS), Jeff Ziga (AFFIRMATIVE ACTION JACKSON) and Atom Goren (ATOM & HIS PACKAGE). ARMALITE are real good. With Mike and Atom on vocals, handling topics other than the complete nonsense that Atom has been known for (but man, how fun were the package years? REAL fun!) - such as politics - yet he still finds a way to put an Atom spin on things. Who else would have a song called "When Nice People Think Dumb Things, Attack, and Vote"? Sheer genius! Or how about "I am a Pancreas"? Bravo, Atom, bravo! Seriously though, it's a shame these guys aren't in the position to be a full-time touring band, because this beats the piss out of 99% of the stuff out there right now. Straight-forward punk rock with no pretense. What a concept! Plus, nobody whines quite like Atom. (MWB)
(www.noidearecords.com)

A STEP BEHIND "Since We Can't Have Forever" CD

A fairly engaging debut slice of melodic hardcore, they don't

quite have the catchy tunes, and melodies of a FACE TO FACE, or NO USE FOR A NAME, but I suspect they're rapidly getting there. (RK)
(99c Records / www.99centrecords.com)

BANTAM "Suicide Tourist." CD

So Gina Volpe, who is a backup singer and guitarist from New York based punk band The LUNACHICKS, (notice I did not use the word seminal there, I am finding every bio in the world calls every band seminal. I mean really, they can't all be seminal, can they?) decides I guess that all of her "artistic needs" are not being met as being a member of a band. So she forms another band (BANTAM), which is a harder, more fecal-encrusted sound. She takes the lead, put some solid musicians behind her, and is now into her second album and going strong. Her voices ranges from sounding at times like Melora Creager of "RASPUTINA" fame, to Debora Iyall, from "ROMEO VOID" with her lyrics being far below the par set by the two aforementioned. However it is a true rock album from a chick that could probably kick both your and my ass, while sounding just pissy enough to bring out your teen angst. Come on, you know you have some, so just go ahead and let it out. (RPC)
(www.bantamny.com)

BIG D AND THE KIDS TABLE "Salem Girls" EP CD

This CD has already taken a load of crap from critics, some of it justified, and some of it not. To explain: if you are a fan of the "How it Goes" BIG D sound, then this is definitely not going to be what you're hoping for; however, from a musical standpoint, it achieves its goal. The fast, thrash-ska sound is left behind, which, in turn, will leave a lot of fans feeling left behind. Yet, the only real purpose of the album was for the band to try something different, take a Halloween theme and do some dub experimentation on it. Essentially, it's four new tracks and remixed of these tracks. They're not bad, but they're not why most fans have come to love this band. Anyone remember Porch Life? (WDJ)
(Springman Records / www.springmanrecords.com)

BIG STAR "In Space" CD

A long time ago (the seventies to be exact, which was a decade from the last millennium famous for excessive drug use, bad taste in clothing, and disco) four dudes from Memphis decided to put a band together and conquer the world. Well the band was formed, a few albums were released, the world was not conquered, and like so many great bands before them, they began their quick fade into obscurity. Fast forward thirty years and all of a sudden a group rise from its coffin like Nosferatu, and surprise, completes one of the most stunning come back albums since Tricky Dicks White House coup. Some great artists aren't recognized in the time, usually for asinine reasons. Big Star was passed over because a lot of drugged out hippies were sleeping in all night taco shops, while people who claimed they loved rock were for some reason listening to bands like KANSAS. Big Star had to be content with having its albums passed along from hipster to hipster like they were bootleg copies of The BEACH BOYS "smile". So here it is children of the seventies, your chance to make up for your passed indiscretions, to pay future generations back for Disco, Leisure suits, and The Osmond variety hour. Do us a favor, buy this album, listen to it, love it, and for god sake, get rid of your copy of "Leftoverture (#5)" you've already had it way too long. (RPC)
(www.rykodisc.com)

SOUNDSCAPE MUSIC REVIEWS

BLACK LIPS

"Let it Bloom" CD

The problem with rock nowadays is that it has come so far since the fresh sound it gave in the sixties we almost forget how it sounded when it was young. Well most of us anyway, I can't say the same for the BLACK LIPS. The only thing wrong with "Let it Bloom" is it wasn't released the same time the YARDBIRDS and the DAVE CLARK FIVE were putting out albums. This album is pure, clean, vintage rock, and the only things that even hint of the era it actually came out in are the songs title "Sea of Blasphemy", "Punk Slime". Don't let that fool you though; this is pure British Invasion, screaming girls at airports, white boys' blues revival (RPC) (www.intheredrecords.com)

BLIGHT

"Detroit: The Dream Is Dead - The Collected Works Of A Midwest Hardcore Noise Band 1982" CD

For 4 months in 1982, BLIGHT existed. The FIX broke up, and its bassist and guitarist joined forces with TESCO VEE. Here their entire output - an EP, some 4-track demos, and some live stuff recorded supporting the DEAD KENNEDYS. This is industrial noise alright. Think early BUTTHOLE SURFERS grinding it out with the BEATNIGS. Plus a little electric trumpet. A brief slice of history, for sure. (RK) (Touch & Go Records / www.touchandgorecords.com)

THE BLOWTOPS

"Insected Mind" CD / LP

Ah horror rock, how can you not love it? the outfits, the fake blood, the eerie far off gazes and severed limbs. If ever I am chased through the back woods of a small Texas community by a chainsaw wielding maniac wearing the skin of my dead buddy like a mink coat, this is the album I want playing on my ipod. Hell, it doesn't even matter if the music is any good or not, you get to be a freak for liking it, and that is all that counts. (RPC) (www.bigneckrecords.com)

BOB BURNS AND THE BREAKUPS

"C-Store, Baby" 7"

Ah the muffled screams of insolent youth, the double-barreled middle finger nails painted black, the neck fist of love. It brings a tear to my eye to know that somewhere out there are people who still spit loogies off roofs and onto unsuspecting business types. Then strut steel boots home, plug in and rock till the cops come. You know you like punk, the tattoos, the chains, the piercing of unmentionable places (but for some reason still show able, especially if you get a bottle of early times in you). It's not about the music man, it's about the music and the liquor, BOB BURNS AND THE BREAKUPS is about the music and the liquor, ummm, sweet nectar of god. (RPC) (www.thebreakups.cjb.net)

BOWLING FOR SOUP

"Bowling For Soup Goes To the Movies" CD

BFS continues to sit atop the throne of the pop-punk world! Their ability to write catchy hooks, clever lyrics and fun, bouncy tunes is unprecedented! Of course, they are the veteran kings of this genre! This album comes right on the heels of their 2004 killer release "A Hangover You Don't Deserve." With smash singles "1985" and "Almost" leading the radio charge, these guys are one of the most talked about, yet underappreciated bands in music today! This album is a collection of BFS's movie tunes, unreleased ditties, and special songs. From a dark cover of Britney Spears' "Hit Me Baby (One More Time)" to a cover of Modern English's "I'll Melt With You" to the theme song for the 2005 College World Series to various movie tunes, this album does not disappoint in any way! If you're a fan of the pop-punk genre, and haven't discovered Bowling For Soup...where the hell have you been?! But, if you know & love 'em like I do, DEFINITELY pick up this album! You'll be surprised at how many of these songs you know!!! Definitely worth the price of admission!!! (JCC) (Jive Records / www.jiverecords.com)

BRACKET

"Requiem" CD

7th full-length from the ubiquitous pop-punk / power-poppers. This one has been 6 years in the making, crafted, mixed and produced by the band themselves in their own home-built studio. The wall of guitars, hooks and pop melodies have been augmented with a lot of tight BEACH-BOYS vocal harmonies, and a greater appreciation of 60s music. It shows. Slower (more thoughtful), darker, bittersweet for sure. Definitely with an epic feel. For the more mature pop-punk fan, for sure. Definitely more later period BEATLES, than early SCREECHING WEASEL. (RK) (Takeover Records / www.takeoverrock.com)

THE BRATZ

self-titled CD

Never have I had so much of a hard time finding out info to a band. The website address they gave didn't work, the CD was burned (I think) cause it wouldn't play in my DVD / CD player only my burner. There was no bio information whatsoever, and I am not sure if the name of the record label is World Enterprise Records, or if that is the name of the album. Anyway despite all that, I did finally get it to play, it sounded like THE STOOGES, beyond that I am still mad at all the time I wasted trying to figure out some little tidbit of info about the band that I could pass onto you. (RPC) (No working info)

THE BOROUGHS

"Ostrich" EP

Yep, yet another NY rock band, and you know what that means, energy, guitar, pointless lyrics, and ego. These boys have it all; the only thing they really lacking is music that would interest anybody in the known world. It was hard for me to get through this album, but maybe you'll have better luck than me, after all, some of you out there are the ones keeping U2 going despite the fact they haven't put out a good album in twenty years. Come on, you know who you are, admit it. (RPC) (www.theboroughs.net)

CAST FROM EDEN

"The Deafened Art Of Bleeding Secrets..." CD

Catalyst Recs once again delivers another chapter in the bible of the vegan straight edge with this unit that combines the heavy metallic hardcore of old like OVERCAST and GRIMLOCK with the blazing Swedish metal attack of AT THE GATES. A great album. (STM) (www.xcatalystx.com)

CHIMAIRA

self-titled CD

This is a special limited edition rerelease of one of their albums. Whatever. This band just doesn't do it for me. I have been to two of their shows and there were hella drunk chicks. That's cool, I guess. (STM) (www.roadrunnerrecords.com)

COWBOY MOUTH

"Voodoo Shoppe" CD

A lot has happened since COWBOY MOUTH put out their last album three years ago. Thanks to voter fraud in Ohio, George W. was reelected, Britney got knocked up, and New Orleans (the home town of Cowboy Mouth) was devastated by both a vengeful storm and a government who cared little for poor people and even less for poor African Americans. Thankfully we have term limits, Democrats, and COWBOY MOUTH to get us through the next 3 years of America. This album is a well put together blast of melodic but not pop punk,

it rocks hard enough that if it hadn't been for Katrina, war diverted funds, and global warming, it could have itself been responsible for knocking the levees down. (RPC) (www.eleventhirtyrecords.com)

CRIME IN STEREO

"Fuel. Transit. Sleep." CDEP

A three-track taster for the upcoming Nitro debut full length. Three short, sharp, and consummately melodic tracks, very much in that STRIKE ANYWHERE / KID DYNAMITE anthemic style, with some tasty lead guitar to boot. Quite excellent, and I'm very much looking forward to the rest. (RK) (www.nitrorecords.com)

DAMONE

"Out Here All Night EP" CD

I haven't been this taken with a band on first listen in quite some time!!! If you want some straight up rock n' roll in all its guitar-laden glory, this is the album for you! Hair metal fans will rejoice...rock fans will enthusiastically throw up the rock hands...finally a new band who knows how to rock...and rock HARD! DAMONE's front woman / guitarist is a rocker chick named Noelle with such panache, that she can give rock queen Joan Jett a run for her money! Think Vixen meets Veruca Salt accentuated with incredible guitar solos, driving bass lines and anthem rock galore! The blazing guitar work of Mike Woods is a thing of beauty! Absolutely a wonderful debut EP for this Boston band that leaves you wishing it was a full-length! "What We Came Here For" is the track to watch on this one! Also, I highly suggest that you check out their live show too... AWESOME!!! Get this album!!! (JCC) (Island Records / www.islandrecords.com)

DIVIDE BY ZERO

"Answer To No One" CD

New Chicago up and comers, who are resurrecting that mid-90s melodic punk sound. JAWBREAKER are the obvious template they're working from, though LAWRENCE ARMS are probably closer to the mark. If that sounds appealing, it's cos it most likely is. (RK) (Jump Start Records / www.jumpstartrecords.com)

D.O.A.

"War On 45 (March To The End)" CD

This was originally released back in 1982 as an EP. The original 8 songs are included, along with 10 more songs that have an antiwar theme. The additional songs come from a wide span of D.O.A.'s career, ranging from 1979 to 2004. D.O.A. are pioneers who have been around since the beginning. The original EP of raw, loud, angry, political hardcore punk is a must own, and the addition of the bonus tracks makes it even better. (CB) (Sudden Death / www.suddendeath.com)

THE DREAM FLAGS

"Fear and Liberation" CD

What could be cooler than three burnt out beatnik hippies recording and album in between shots at the government, sacrificing children to Moloch, and making vats of LSD inside a bathtub in a run down, Chicago apartment. "Fear and Liberation" is an album that could have just as easily been made during the summer of love, but is not confined to that time. It is harmonies, good guitar work, playful and thoughtful lyrics, and Buddhism. In short it is patchouli oil in audio form. So pop it in your CD player, sway from side to side in a pseudo trance like state, and use the word "man" a lot, and you will fit right in. (RPC) (www.thedreamflags.com)

DROP DEAD, GORGEOUS

"Be Mine, Valentine" CD

Screamo technical metal / hardcore stuff. It leaves me



completely cold. Their labels claims it's for fans of NORMA JEAN, UNDEROATH and the BLEED. Mebbe, I've never heard of any of those bands either. But if they sound half as bad as this, you're in for a rough time. (RK)
(Rise Records / www.riserecords.com)

DRUGS OF YOUTH demo CD

I am so pissed that this demo is only three songs long. It is so good. Blazing hardcore insanity that brings AMERICAN NIGHTMARE to mind. Now, there are a million bands these days that try to sound like the late great AN, but the difference here is that D.O.Y don't sound like they are trying to sound like AN, they just do. There is a difference there and it is very significant. Furthermore, this band adds a little old school L.A. punk flavor (think Chavo-era FLAG) and a healthy dose of blazing modern day straightforward hardcore like BETRAYED, CHAMPION, and STAY GOLD. This is seriously one of the most promising demos to grace my ears in a while. Awesome band. Awesome three songs. Keep track of this band. (STM)
(thexvoice@hotmail.com)

THE EARACHES

"Freedom Fries" 7"

What an aptly titled band, it only took about 13 seconds before my dog started howling (everyone's a critic). Not to much original here, run of the mill punk, though the album is totally worth getting if only for the cover which has a drawing of President Bush crapping missiles out of his ass as he stands straddling the entire world. The album is (as you guessed) highly political, but it does it with a very cool, if a bit sophomoric, sense of humor and in the climate that we live in today, there is a lot to be said for that. All and all, despite my dogs' reaction, I liked it. Of course I am a complete liberal, so anything that mocks Bush is all right by me. This reminds me of a joke I heard the other day...What do Osama Bin Ladin and crabs have in common...both of them annoy bush. (RPC)
(www.steelcagerecords.com)

ENLOW

"The Recovery" CD

Kids, meet ENLOW. ENLOW, meet the kids. I'm sure you're going to be spending a lot of time together. Apparently they've been around for a few years, so maybe I'm just not in tune with the scene here, but I had never heard of them, so I'm assuming a lot of you hadn't either. So let's pretend for my sake that they're a new band. Playing hardcore with plenty of hooks and pop rock breakdowns, this one should catch on. Nothing earth-shaking or groundbreaking, but a solid release with quality songwriting. When they keep it on the harder edge, it's a pretty impressive sound - I'm just not so much in love with the pop punk thrown in. (MWB)
(www.bloodandinkrecords.com)

EPHEN RIAN

"The Special Referendum" CD

Want to know what Austrian hardcore screamo / emo sounds like? Well, I guess this is your chance. Their US debut via an Italian label. It's slick, yet rough-edged. Great production. Lots of guitars, creaming and heartfelt vocals, too. Certainly as good as anything their American brothers in pain have produced. Worth tracking down, if that's your bag. (RK)
(www.wynonarecords.com)

EVER WE FALL

"We Are But Human" CD

On their full-length debut album, the Portland, Oregon trio Ever We Fall manage to sound earnest without being whiny. They are an emo band with punk, pop and indie rock influences. They even sound earnest while their tongues are in cheek. In addition to the usual emotional lyrics about lost love they throw in some humorous songs like "State Bird: The Mosquito." Their music is very

polished and commercial, but also has enough of an edge to make it palatable. (CB)
(Hopeless Records / www.hopelessrecords.com)

THE FALLOUT

"What Is Past Is Prologue" CD

The press sheet for these dudes say they're playing a style similar to THE CLASH or THE JAM. While I'm not hearing that at all, it doesn't much matter because it's still a damn fine punk rock CD. These Canadians have the cockney accent down pat, and play punk rock that I would say is more similar to SOCIAL DISTORTION meets ONE MAN ARMY. Those are two of my favorite bands, so obviously I'm digging this CD. Great lyrics, also, with strong social commentary. I'm 100% behind these dudes. (MWB)
(www.thefallout.ca)

FALLOUT BOY

"From Under the Cork Tree" CD

Major label debut. These guys are huge. The kids love em. You'll already know if you want this. Not as shiny as BLINK 182 in their prime, but definitely a successor in the kid-friendly, radio-friendly, teenage angst, pop-punk / melodic stakes. (RK)
(Island)

FASHION FASHION AND THE IMAGE BOYS

"Over Before it Ever Began" 7"

So did you ever see that movie Clerks...Well you know that guy, the Eastern European bastard who sings "Berserker"? You know "my love for you is ticking clock berserker...would you like to making fuck berserker". "Did he say making fuck?" Yep, that's the one, well I don't know if that guy is real or not, but if he is, than this has got to be his band. (RPC)
(www.floridasdyng.com)

FLEE THE SEEN

"Doubt Becomes the New Addiction" CD

I am completely torn on what to think of this album; it is wrought with extremes. There is nothing mediocre about this album in the least—it has big hits...and big misses. To begin, the screaming is awfully hard to listen to. Even if this is intended, it is by no means pleasant. Think of that girl you know with the really raspy voice. Now, imagine her screaming at the top of her lungs like some sort of banshee. Oddly, she has a really nice voice when delivering her clean vocals, but I guess they wouldn't be much of a hardcore band without the screaming, now would they? Aside from the vocals, the album is filled with everything from what seems highly creative in style, to incredibly cliché. I also don't care for the exchange of vocals on "I'll Be Back on Sunday." It doesn't sound natural. There is a lot of potential here, but I see it as being blown. Some people may dig this album, it may even be right on mark of what they have intended, but to me it's simply painful. (WDJ)
(Facedown Records / www.facedownrecords.com)

FOURTH ROTOR

"Plain" CD

Chicago's Fourth Rotor are anything but plain. Their music is creative punk with a variety of guitar sounds and tempo changes. They have an old school vibe, but are very technically proficient. The songs are short with all but one clocking in at under 2 minutes, but they pack a lot into each song. The production is also good, showcasing all the instruments without being too glossy and polished. They manage to keep the perfect balance of being current and relevant while paying homage to what came before. (CB)
(Underground Communique / www.undergroundcomm.org)

FULL MINUTE OF MERCURY

"Alive Again" CD

The very IRON MAIDENesque logo lettering and cover art

had me hoping for great things. Twin guitars and keyboards had me drooling. Unfortunately, the pop-metal promise, or rather, suggestion, isn't really filled at all. While there is some nifty guitaring, this is largely pretty standard melodic indie-pop-rock fare. As opposed to POISON. Or TYGERS OF PAN TANG. The metallic moments are few and are between, more's the pity. Those that like a little AVENGED SEVENFOLD with their indie-rock will be slightly enamored, however. With 19 tracks, you do get your money's worth, if that's your bag. And I'm always a sucker for running keyboard lines. (RK)
(www.fullminute.com)

THE GHOST NEXT DOOR

self-titled CDEP

Cool name and cool band. Features ex-SKINLAB, RELEASE, SACRILEGE B.C. guitarist, but I can't say that this sounds like any of those previous bands. This trio plays a melodic style of alternative metal that is refreshing. The lyrical content is on the dark side. The instrumentation is tight and intricate. All in all a good five song primer for what I think will be a lot bigger things to come. (JC)
(www.ghostnextdoor.com)

GOOD CLEAN FUN

"Been Christian Rock And A Hard Place" CD

This of fourth full length of positive, finger-pointing hardcore, in the finest traditions of MINOR THREAT and YOUTH OF TODAY, with excellent, pointed, hilarious lyrics to boot. It's not often you get straight-edge vegans bagging on God, explaining the intricacies of emo, and MySpace dating.



Rockin tunes, couple with witty, intelligent lyrics. Quite superb. (RK)
(Equal Vision Records / www.equalvision.com)

THE GO! TEAM

"Thunder, Lightning, Strike" CD

The idea was to put a band of people together who would not normally be in a band together, says the press release and, for once, it's telling the truth. Released in the UK almost 16 months ago, but reissued [with a few minor musical alterations] west of the Atlantic more recently, "Thunder, Lightning, Strike" is a triumph of imagination. This twelve-legged pop / playground dance troupe mixes elements of jangly hip-pop, sweeping strings and, yes, the sounds of bubble gum-blowing, crime-thwarting beach police soundtracks. It might not win you any points with your neighbor's power violence "band," but if you're trying to stave off seasonal affected disorder until spring hits, you're going to be hard pressed to find a better medication. (TS)
(Columbia / www.columbiarecords.com)

HEAD WOUND CITY

"Self Titled" EP

It is the sound of a wino dying in a gutter while clutching a three quarter empty bottle of whiskey in his pail arthritic hands, vomit dripping in lumpy puddles out the side of his barely opened mouth. It is the moan of desolation he makes as he is prodded by a nightstick in the small of the back, or kicked sharply with a black construction boot. It is the pass of cars that you hear beneath your smog-choked sky while you're pulling one off. It is course, callous, unremorseful, and wearing the same pair of stinking blue jeans it has had on for a month now, and it wants your daughter. (RPC)
(www.threeoneg.com)

HEAD WOUND CITY

self-titled CDEP

As its name, not to mention its cover art, suggests, "Head

SOUNDSCAPE MUSIC REVIEWS

Wound City" is a chaotic trip down some car crash speedway, maniacally channelled into a blisteringly tight nine-minute lobotomy. Voiced by the BLOOD BROTHERS' already raucous Jordan Blilie, and featuring other members of that band, the LOCUST and YEAH YEAH YEAHS, its fiery howls echo around on momentary bursts of feedback-heavy melody without ever failing to maintain their forward motion. I've never been much for math, but if HEAD WOUND CITY were ever to appear in algebraic form, it might look a lot like, well: $gun + gun = bang\ bang\ bang$. (TS) (Three.One.G / www.threeoneg.com)

HEROIC LANE CHANGE / THE NEW LOWS
"Playing Around with Music (volume 1)" Split 7"
 This 7" is definitely worth having, 4 songs of absolute perfect construction by two separate band. THE NEW LOWS have a sound reminiscent to The SHINS, sweet, lush, and moving harmonies. Tender songwriting by a musician that cares about his work and a rainy day America feel to it. HEROIC LANE CHANGE is a bit less dreamy, more rock, and slightly weaker than the band it is presented with. However it is none the less well placed, and good enough that you will still listen to both sides of the record in what sitting every time. (RPC) (www.slowjanuary.com)

IF HOPE DIES
"Life In Ruin" CD
 Metalcore has basically become the vapid white noise soulless suburban bullshit that, for all intents and purposes, is the shitty glam metal of the 2000s and a band needs to really work to stand out from the retarded rabble. While IHP doesn't reinvent the wheel, they do add a melodic Euro metal flavor to their metalcore attack that gives it just enough of an edge to be noticed apart from the rest of the heap. Cross your IN FLAMES with your UNEARTH and you'll have this band. (STM) (www.metalblade.com)

IRONBOUND NYC
"With A Brick" CD
 Fuck yes! I put this CD on my stereo and immediately felt the urge to bedroom mosh. Pure, unadulterated hardcore glory, brought to you by some veterans that have lived this scene since it's infancy and know exactly how to deliver the goods without making fools of themselves or the kids. Awesome old school NYHC that delivers on the promise of the bands name, buy this immediately if you love the old school matinee madness of MADBALL, HATEBREED, KILLING TIME, SHEER TERROR, and SICK OF IT ALL. And speaking of the legendary SOIA, both Craig and Pete appear on this. What more do I need to say? If you wear hoodies and cammos instead of mascara and youth-small ATREYU shirts, buy this fucking album immediately. (STM) (www.thorprecords.com)



JOB FOR A COWBOY
"Doom" CD
 This thing is great. While most metalcore comes of like, glammetal crossed with feedback, the dudes go right to the good stuff and deliver skullcrushing death metal like Barnes-era CANNIBAL CORPSE and DEICIDE with the straightforward hardcore HOODS and TERROR. Man, this album is a monster and I suggest you look into it if you love

both metal and hardcore, but are sick to death of all this fraudulent pop metal bullshit so prevalent these days. (STM) (www.kingofthemonsters.com)

JOHNNY REV
"Hate Me Till Morning" CD
 This stickers have style. The band looks cool. The music... er, not so good. It sounds surprisingly underproduced in these days of pro-tools, though they do have a nice, ringing guitar. That, however, doesn't quite carry the earnest, yet amateurish emo / indie-rock. Pity. Them stickers do look real good. (RK) (www.johnnyrev.com)

JUKEBOX ZEROS
"Four on the Floor" CD
 This is a standard rock album, dueling guitarist, bass / snare drums, and bassist just holding down the line. The singer (Peter Santa Maria [ex-stuntman]) sounds a bit nasally, the songwriting a bit juvenile, the solos exactly where you would expect them. However it is an album full of energy, and judging by this line from there bio "Four on the floor stands out as one of the great albums of this (or any) decade." I can only guess the guys don't take themselves too seriously. At least, I hope that was sarcasm. Anyway the album keeps its sense of humor and keeps the tempo up, and there is a lot to be said for that. (RPC) (www.steelcagerecords.com)

THE LASHES
"Get It" CD
 Seattle may have the reputation for being rainy and depressing, but The Lashes are the exact opposite. Their debut full-length is sunny and uplifting. It's part power pop, part pop punk, and all ear candy. The songs are chock full of catchy choruses and melodic riffs. The 6 piece band is in the vein of groups like Rooney and The Killers with some Elvis Costello mixed in, and although not highly original they are highly enjoyable. (CB) (Columbia Records / www.columbiarecords.com)



THE LAWRENCE ARMS
"Oh! Calcutta!" CD
 I've long been a fan of THE LAWRENCE ARMS. I've always thought they were a good band. They've never been a great band. They've had songs here or there that killed, but there's always been one or two stinkers mixed in that turned me off. Plus the vocals of Brendan and Chris are just so stark in difference, and with Chris' songs always tending to be mellower, it sometimes felt like I was listening to two different bands. Well, forget all of that now. What we have here is a plastic masterpiece. Oh! Calcutta! will be the disc that makes THE LAWRENCE ARMS known to all punk rock kids far and near. If you weren't a fan of theirs before, you probably will be now, so pick this up. Fast, hard, and driven from start to finish, they've managed to find a sound that unifies throughout, no matter who is singing. Chris pushes his vocals further, finding a more abrasive tone yet all the while keeping his tone in check. I just can't get over this CD. It's more than I would have ever expected from these guys, or from almost any band. It shreds from start to finish and it will

not be removed from my CD player for quite a long time. Guaranteed to be one of the top CDs of 2006, no matter what else comes out. (MWB) (www.fatwreck.com)

LAWRENCE ARMS
"Oh! Calcutta!" CD
 This one breaks from the back and forth (between slow and fast, Chris and Brendan) formula of Greatest Story Ever Told, and instead goes in the direction of straight up punk. It's fast, it's tough, and it's definitely in contention for their best album yet. "The Devil's Taking Names" was the perfect way to start this album, "Key to the City" is catchy as hell, and the bonus track about the Warped Tour is a slower tune, bringing both humor and anger, which the scream final line puts the exclamation point on. This is Chicago punk at its very best. (WDJ) (Fat Wreck Chords / www.fatwreck.com)

THE LOVED ONES
"Keep Your Heart" CD
 First full length from this Philadelphia trio. And it's a winner. They have that gruff yet emo, tough yet melodic, punk yet pop sound really down. Lots of guts, yet lots of grace. Y'know what I'm talking about. The sound immortalized by the likes of JAWBREAKER, and reaffirmed by LAWRENCE ARMS, LIFETIME et al. And this is a contender with those heavyweights, for doubly sure. (RK) (Fat Wreck Chords / www.fatwreck.com)

THE LOVED ONES
"Keep Your Heart" CD
 Another good album from another good band recently signed to Fat Wreck Chords; who would have guessed? THE LOVED ONES' debut full length hits its mark. The first time I heard this band was live just a few months ago, and they provided a good opening set. This new album isn't the greatest thing to hit punk, but it's got its place. Almost more rock n roll than punk (almost), the guitar riffs are heavy, and the solos are simple but fill out the songs well. The lyrics are catchy, and at the same time bring a darker message. Overall, the album is good, and definitely worth the \$10. (WDJ) (Fat Wreck Chords / www.fatwreck.com)

THE LOVE DRUNKS
self-titled CD
 This album sounds like Little Richard on crack, Carl Perkins in suede, and Jerry Lee Lewis atop his thirteen year old cousin, combined. Mix that with enough distortion to make you ears bleed, a singer who sounds like he just got through eating asphalt and smoking cloves, and a rhythm section that holds the backbeat like some crazed backwoods jug band high on moonshine, and you got yourself THE LOVE DRUNKS. Dang, now all I need is some hair balm and Kentucky rye, and I'm gonna have me one hell of a good time. (RPC) (www.alive-totalenergy.com)

LUNATIC SOCIETY
"Punks Go All The Way" CD
 Relatively old(ish) Belgian punk band get it together enough to kick out their third long player. Since 92, they've been churning out old (meaning 80s, not 90s) school punk; pretty much speedy full steam ahead early GBH stuff, w/ith the odd h orn thrown in on occasion. The only trouble with including covers, of course (in their case, the UK SUBS' "Stranglehold") is it said cover proves to be the stand out track. Er, which it is, on this one. Not bad by any means, though. (RK) (Deviant / www.deviantrecords.tk)

MC LARS**"The Graduate" CD**

Being that MC LARS infuses hip-hop with his punk / pop sound, this may not appeal to many people reading a punk zine, but as of right now (with the obvious disadvantage of there still being 9 months to go) I'm going to say this will probably be the best album released this year, so stay open minded, because ethically, this is one of the most punk guys out there right now. If not simply the best, MC LARS is definitely the smartest new musician out there. A recent graduate of Stanford University, there seems to be nothing that escapes the commentary of LARS. Heavy criticism of the music industry is evident in a number of songs: "Download This Song" [f / Jaret Reddick of BFS] & "Signing Emo" (on the way labels operate), "Hot Topic is Not Punk Rock" [f / The Matches] (obvious), and "Generic Crunk Rap" (a direct attack on artists bastardizing the genre). Humor reigns on tracks like "The Roommate From Hell" [f / MC Chris] "21 Concepts," and "Space Game." His English major is evident with the Moby Dick track, "Ahab." Our generation is labelled and challenged in "iGeneration," and further critiqued in "Internet Relationships." Simply put, this is one of the most well-rounded albums currently released, and if an album were needed for a time capsule from our generation, this is the only record that belongs there. (WDJ) (Horris Records / www.mclars.com & Netwerk / www.netwerk.com)

MELEE**"Every Day Behavior" CD**

A re-release of their 2004 debut, with a new version of "The War" (plus a video) added. They produce some of the better indie-pop out there, with a healthy dose of keyboards. Not sure about the debilitating injection of God, but you can't have everything, I guess. (RK) (Hopeless Records / www.hopelessrecords.com)

THE MEMBERS**"At The Chelsea Nightclub" CD****"1980 - The Choice Is Yours" CD**

A welcome, and long overdue, resurrection of the first two MEMBERS LPs. Formed in 76, the members came to prominence early in 77 and 78, with the release of their classic "Solitary Confinement" and "Sound Of The Suburbs" singles. Like many of the 'punk' bands of that era, they combined a rambunctious attack with lots of melody, a fair dash of reggae, and much of what would be called in a couple of years "new wave", or later on, looking back, (and probably a lot more accurately) guitar driven "power-pop". Think EATER, mixed with XTC and the first POLICE album. Both records are bona-fide gems, and in the ever-sumptuous Captain Oi! repackaging job, all their 7"s are included as bonus tracks on the respective discs, together with excellent, witty, and informative liner notes, and a song by song commentary...from singer Tesco on the first disc, and guitarist JC on the second. Sheer class. (RK) (Captain Oi! / www.captainoi.com)

THE MODERNETTES**"Get It Straight" CD**

The Modernettes were an early '80s Vancouver, Canada pop-punk band. The album is a compilation of some of their EPs along with several live tracks. They combined punk with new wave and even a hint of '60s influenced pop. It's upbeat, feelgood music from a group that's getting some well deserved attention more than 20 years after the end of their career. If you were too young or just missed them the

first time, don't miss the chance to discover an excellent band. (CB) (Sudden Death / www.suddendeath.com)

THE MOMENT**"Showdown At The Discotheque" CD**

On first listen, I took this to be the typical indie-rock / screamo fare. And don't get me wrong, it is! But, they manage to squeeze just enough bombastic (INTERNATIONAL) NOISE CONSPIRACYesque keyboard tinged melodic rock to make it a touch above the pack. That isn't saying all that much, I know. But, er, I guess it is something....(RK) (www.themomentrock.com)

THE MORMONS**"Statement of no Statement" CD**

What an interesting album from a very interesting band, almost worthy of their crazy stage show in which they come out in black ties atop white dress shirts, wearing bike helmets, and carrying nap sacks across their backs. The album is near as eccentric, with an eclectic mix of punk / future wave sounds that come closest to DEVO's "Uncontrollable Urge" phase. Don't let the name fool you, these guys are no Joseph Smith supporters, hell they probably even eat sugar, and why not, when you have real MORMONS like Brandon Flowers stinking up the rock scene while he rips off everyone for JOY DIVISION to the SMITHS, why not have some real rockers blaspheme his religion with tongues in their cheeks. Though a warning to them, and all other false Mormons, Joseph Smith was stoned to death before he ever made it to the Mormon promise land, so there you go. (RPC) (www.nickelanddimerecords.com)

**MULE TRAIN****"Be On Your Way" CD**

I expected to hate this CD. I don't know why. I tend to judge things sometimes, before I even give them a chance. Man, am I glad I listened to this. Folk-rock with a punk voice, somewhat like the mellow moments of FILTHY THIEVING BASTARDS. Kind of a dirty South

feel to it. Either way, it's great. While it probably won't appeal to those of us who solely listen to the punk rock, if you've got an open mind, can dig the folk, and enjoy the sound of a good mandolin, this one might be for you, too. (MWB) (www.warningsignrecords.com)

NEON BLONDE**"Chandeliers In The Savannah" CD**

As with any array of near-perfect postmodern splendor, you'd be wise to stock up on painkillers before listening to this album; you'll need them after you've finished crashing around on these Chandeliers. Oozing with the famously flamboyant personality of BLOOD BROTHERS co-frontman Johnny Whitney and featuring the talents of that band's wholly underrated, possibly octo-armed, timekeeper Mark Gajadhar, NEON BLONDE has a lot going for it. Pedigree aside, the BLONDE's debut doesn't limit itself to being what you'd expect from a side venture that pegs Whitney for the lead role. More accurately, its second track isn't what you'd expect after its first; its

third isn't what you'd expect after the first two, and so on. Whether wild ["Crystal Beaches Never Turned Me On"] or, considering the context, reasonably controlled ["Princess Skullface Sings" has an honest-to-goodness chorus], these dance mashes and bizarro ballads convince. Indeed, Whitney's one of the few songwriters with an imagination as far-reaching as his superhuman caterwaul and, as a result, this debut reveals itself as a real marvel after even a few cursory listens. (TS) (Dim Mak / www.dimmak.com)

NEW YORK DOLLS**"All Dolled Up" DVD**

In the early '70s rock photographer Bob Gruen used an early model video recorder to chronicle the escapades of New York Dolls. Over 30 years later that footage is finally released in the form of this documentary. It's a

snapshot of the band's on and offstage life at that moment in time. If you're not familiar with the history of the band, definitely watch the extras first. That will give you an idea of the backstory so you'll better be able

to understand the 95 minute documentary. The commentary track featuring Gruen along with band members David Johansen and Sylvain Sylvain also provides a lot of background and interesting stories. There are almost 3 hours of extras, including some additional live performance footage. (CB) (MVD / www.newyorkdollsvid.com)

THE NIPPLES / BULLET TREATMENT self-titled split 7"

Punkety punk punk, punk in all its glory, punk that will make you want to stick safety pins in places you wouldn't even stick your finger. I love punk, I love bands named after parts of the body, I love bands named after violent forms of torture, I just love punk. What can I say; I'm a sucker for bands that hate the establishment. It gives me a warm fuzzy feeling to see the youth of America shave off sections of their hair and spray up what's left. I love curse words, drugs, alcohol, sex, violence, and oddly crocheting, but forget that, we are not talking about that now, we are talking about punk. Punkety punk punk, I love punk, and if you love punk as much as I do then buy this album. Really, do I need to tell you what it sounds like, if you love punk you know what it sounds like, so buy it, and for gods' sake, numb it with an ice cube before you cram the pin through it! (RPC) (www.basementrecords.net)

NIGHT TERRORS**"A Cocktail of Ravage Delight" CD**

First off if you buy this album, like it, and want to hear more of the band, understand after this entry they will henceforth be known as the CASKET ARCHITECTS. Secondly, you probably won't need to know that, because I doubt you'll like this album all that much anyway. I may be being to hard on it, I mean the guys can play, they rock somewhat, the lead singer may be a bit annoying and the songs may all sound basically the same, but it isn't like there Jessica Simpson (or even Ashley for that matter). The best I can do to describe it to you is, well, you know that singer from the band 311, no not that one, the other one who does the rapping, yeah him. Now imagine he had his own band (without any reggae overtones) and all he did was scream over, the same guitar riff for an hour. There you go, now you're getting it, anyway that's what it's like only less intriguing. (RPC) (www.tuscancafe.net)

SOUNDSCAPE MUSIC REVIEWS

NO TRIGGER "Canyoneer" CD

I reviewed this last month, but since I got another one, I'm gonna tell you again – this band is amazing. Hardcore punk rock, in the vein of A WILHELM SCREAM and STRIKE ANYWHERE. This is a must-have CD. You have to buy this the day it comes out, no matter what. If you don't have a car, walk. If you live somewhere like Montana or North Dakota where you don't have a record store for hundreds of miles, go to Interpunk or something. Whatever you do, get this CD. It'll blow you away and restore your faith in the truth, energy, and power that IS punk rock. (MWB) (www.nitrorecords.com)

NO TRIGGER "Canyoneer" CD

Nitro's been getting a lot of attention in recent months for the new lineup of bands they've been signing. One of those bands is NO TRIGGER, and if this album any indication of what's to come...damn. NO TRIGGER has a lot of great bands to live up to, with A WILHELM SCREAM, THE AQUABATS, and now MUCH THE SAME all their label mates, and while it would be easy to get lost amongst these bands, NO TRIGGER makes a strong name for itself with Canyoneer. They've got a lot to say, and they're shouting it every second of this album. It's a thirty minute ball of intelligent, aggressive energy that is sure to incite just as much contemplation as it will mosh pits, and if this sounds a lot like a press release, it's because the album is that damn good. (WDJ) ([Nitro Records / www.nitrorecords.com](http://NitroRecords.com))



PAIN

"Full Speed Ahead" CD

Damn, this album is catchy. It's no wonder Springman wanted to reprint this album. There are a few short, throw-away tracks, but this album is as catchy as it gets. You'll be singing along the first time through, even though you won't yet know the words. "Futz Said Julie" sticks out as being one of those special tracks that you can just loop all day. Fast lyrics, infused with personality lead the way, but the horns and the rest bring it all together. The feeling changes with tracks like "The White Recluse," which is lyrically hilarious. This and the rest of the album is lined with a humor that could best be described as a child-like innocence and observation: "If I was a Negro all my friends would call me Brown recluse. No offense intended, of course, & no offense took." There are also uber-nerdy songs about Excalibur and the rejects saving the day. Who am I kidding? Every song on here is uber-nerdy, and they embrace this image wholly. Also, how can you not love a band who features an Atari cartridge on the cover, joystick in the liner notes, and songs listed under a high scores table on the back, especially when it's easy to see it's out of a clear appreciation, and not a cheap attempt at selling nostalgia. Unless you're just too cool, there is no reason you shouldn't own, love, and bathe with this album. (WDJ) ([Springman Records / www.springmanrecords.com](http://SpringmanRecords.com))

PANIC! AT THE DISCO

"A Fever You Can't Sweat Out" CD

By now you've surely acquainted yourself with PIATD's disturbingly catchy odes to late-teen angst. And, boy, these guys are quite the package. They've got the sharply cut suits, the ties, the haircuts, the obscenely catchy choruses, the electronic organ parts, the back story involving Pete Wentz, and a vocalist who, while totally aping Patrick Stump's quivering wail, might do it better than that singer does. In other words, it's hard to imagine their next album being any more timely, or

appealing, than this. And if this sounds like the next logical step in FALL OUT BOY's evolution, where do they go from here? Whatever the case, there's one thing about PANIC! AT THE DISCO you can't deny: they're hands down the best band ever named after a NAME TAKEN lyric. (TS) ([Fueled By Ramen / www.fueledbyramen.com](http://FueledByRamen.com)) ([Decaydance / www.decaydance.com](http://Decaydance.com))

PANSY DIVISION

"The Essential Pansy Division" CD / DVD

This is pretty awesome – a "greatest hits" of sorts of one of the most important bands of the past 15 years, the PANSY DIVISION. These guys made being a gay pop punk band cool. Not that it had happened before, or even after for that matter, but they combined sarcastic, homosexual lyrics, with quality pop-punk songs. Where else can you find songs like "Dick of Death", "James Bondage", "Cocksucker Club", and

"He Whipped My Ass in Tennis (Then I Fucked His Ass in Bed)"? Definitely not for the homophobic or those without a sense of humor. The songs are just as ridiculous and asinine as anything that THE MR. T EXPERIENCE was doing at the same time, so don't freak out because the lyrics are about dudes doing dudes. Unless you're a homophobe, in which case you probably won't like the lyrics like "we're the buttfuckers of rock and roll!" Not to mention, you get a DVD with video clips, as well as some songs performed live in Chicago, and also a few live on Italian TV. Crazy shit, but a long overdue nod to one of the most outspoken and proud punk rock bands of the 90s. (MWB) (www.alternativetentacles.com)

PENETRATION

"Moving Targets" CD

Tis truly wonderful, and absolutely fitting, to have PENETRATION's first LP be graced with the Captain Oi! treatment. With the ADVERTS, UK SUBS, SHAM 69, BUZZCOCKS et al, PENETRATION spearheaded the second wave of UK punk, emerging in 77 / 78, inspired by the PISTOLS etc. Like the ADVERTS, PENETRATION were blessed with both a great sense of melody, and some sharp, incisive lyrics. With Pauline Murray, they possessed a female frontperson with a voice power, clarity and harmony, and with lead guitarist Fred Purser (who later went onto rock with TYGERS OF PAN TANG!) the perfect axe-wielding foil. As you'd expect from the good Captain, their legendary early 70's are all also enclosed as bonus tracks...plus some extensive liner notes. Absolutely mandatory. Hopefully PENETRATION will be rescued from obscurity, and take their rightful place with the punk - and rock - legends... (RK) ([Captain Oi! / www.captainoi.com](http://CaptainOi.com))

PINK BLACK

self-titled EP

Female front indie rock. It's actually a pretty fun CD, and unique in this day and age of cookie-cutter sameness. Solid vocals, catchy songs that will stay in your head for hours, and a monkey pilot on the cover. A chimpanzee, I think. (MWB) (www.newdisorder.com)

PINK LINCOLNS

"No Lo Siento" CD

The PINK LINCOLNS are back with another fantastic

record that not nearly enough people will hear. Great snotty punk rock ala QUEERS "Love Songs for The Retarded" or SCREECHING WEASEL's "My Brain Hurts", with a little FLIPPER thrown in. Fifteen tracks, most of clock in under 2 minutes, some under a minute, just like I love 'em. This band has been making great punk rock for about 20 years now, go out and support them already. (JC) (www.hazardrecords.net)

PROTEST THE HERO

"Kezia" CD

Concept album of sorts from these Canadian pyrotechnic wizards. Lots of metallic riffing, a la VOIVOD, mixed in with a healthy dose of the rhythms and politics of RAGE AGAINST THE MACHINE. I don't like this style of music at all, but I can see why many might with this one. (RK) (Vagrant)

PULSE

"Come Party With The Pulse" CD

I suspect it won't be much of a party. Unless, of course, you're feeling particularly generous, and are willing to tolerate sub-par garage, STOOGES / MC5. they're trying to sound dirty and rough, but come across as carefully contrived and self-conscious. (RK) ([Duffmeister Records / www.duffmeister.net](http://DuffmeisterRecords.com))

RANDY

"Randy The Band" CD

Over the years of punk rock, truly great bands have taken a formula, and ran with it. Think of what SCREECHING WEASEL did to the RAMONES. Or NOFX to BAD RELIGION. Or PROPAGANDHI to NOFX. Or RANDY to PROPAGANDHI. Unfortunately, to these ears, a few albums back, the Swedes discovered rock n roll, and the CLASH, and SOCIAL DISTORTION. And lost most of the politics. It's a real shame. This is more of a pastiche of the RAMONES and DICKIES



than the barbed, melodic political anthems of yore. It's not bad. But they're no longer something special. Which is a real shame. (RK) ([Fat Wreck Chords / www.fatwreck.com](http://FatWreckChords.com))

RANDY

"Randy the Band" CD

One of Europe's finest punk rock bands, and one of Fat Mike's favorite

bands, RANDY are back with their latest release, this time on Fat Wreck. Playing old school punk rock like it's still 1977, only jerks don't like RANDY! Well that's not true...but seriously, what's not to like? Fun, pop punk rock songs with lyrics about razor blades, evil, and punk rock high! If you're a fan of THE RAMONES – and who isn't? – or THE STREET BRATS, you'll dig RANDY. (MWB) (www.fatwreck.com)

ROCK N' ROLL SOLDIERS

"The Two EPs" CD

RnR Soldiers are a quartet of Eugene, Oregon rockers makin' their debut on Gearhead / East West Records. This album is a combination of two vinyl EPs that they recorded previously burned onto one smashing CD! Their style is a raucous, wild-ass delve into punkdom with a bit of hair metal punch! I'm thinking THE WHITE STRIPES on a POISON trip! These guys know how to jam like the big boys with rebellious sometimes catchy ("Funny Little Feeling"), sometimes out-of-control ("Anthem") rock! But you can bet, every track is a worth a listen! Prepare to rock, kids! After all, they ARE the f-ing ROCK N' ROLL SOLDIERS!!! Check this one out! (JCC) ([Gearhead Records / www.gearheadrecords.com](http://GearheadRecords.com)) ([East West Records / www.eastwestrock.com](http://EastWestRecords.com))

THE RUNS**"Wet Sounds" CD**

When I saw this album, with its mock "Pet Sounds" album design, I thought, well this could be cool, a new album with respect for The BEACH BOYS, an updated version of surf doo-wop, I'm game. Then I plug it in and the intro to "Wouldn't it be Nice" starts playing and I start tapping my feet. Right at the point when the intro raps up and the first verse would start, right when I am about to start singing, it all drops out, and is replaced by a punk band. Well of course I was upset, not that I have anything against punk, but I thought I was about to hear the BEACH BOYS, and it is hard me to switch gears that fast. Anyway after my initial shock I recouped, listen, and enjoyed. This album has the RAMONES sound, and a lot of songs under three minutes, so it is certainly worth listening to. (RPC) (www.urbancheese.com)

SECULAR END**"Revenge Of The Phoenix" CD**

Debut long player. They mix some rock / pop in a fairly engaging powerpop guitar-driven new wave sound. Two guitars, and some nice male / female vocal interplay, all add to a downplayed later period LEMONHEADS vibe. Worth tracking down. (RK) (www.secularend.com)

SET TO EXPLODE**self-titled CD**

Man, this is most definitely the band this month that grabbed me by the throat the moment I pressed play on the stereo and assured me that I would be keep track of them after writing of the review was done. Awesome thrashy hardcore with some pummeling thump brought to you by dudes who have some serious time in some late great East Coast hardcore bands (STRIKING DISTANCE, WORN THIN, and 86 MENTALITY, to name a few). Circle pit madness. Thoughtful lyrics. Imagine MINOR THREAT covering 9 SHOCKS TERROR at a NEGATIVE APPROACH show. (STM) (www.gravemistakerecords.com)

SHOOK ONES**"Slaughter of the Insole" EP**

Damn you Revelation Records! Damn you SHOOK ONES! Why did you make this only 3 songs?? WHY!? Not only are those 3 songs a mere 8 minutes in total, those 3 songs are not nearly enough to quench my thirst for this intoxicating sound! Think LIFETIME meets KID DYNAMITE. Crazy, huh? Either way you look at it, these dudes owe their life to Dan Yemin. Holy fuck is this good! I can't wait until the full length is out. Fast at times, slower at others, screechy vocals, infectious hooks...this thing has it all. Except for enough songs! (MWB) (www.revelationrecords.com)

SINKING SHIPS**"All Signs are Wrong" CD**

I'll admit it, nowadays when I come across a punk band with a woman fronting it I automatically think it is going to suck. After all, lately the only thing that makes a punk chick punk is a couple of tattoos, a pierced tongue, and a bad attitude. I mean these ladies usually look like they saw a "How to be punk" spread in vogue, and just followed the instructions. Where's the love man, where are the ladies who'd down a bottle of whiskey, puke on the front row, start a riot, and then pass out and be carried off the stage. Has everything become so commercial now that nobody wants to just be an ass anymore? Well listeners have hope, it isn't all lost. There might be one out there who could put the tits back into rock music. May I be the first to present...Naomi Allen, watch out boys, she bites! (RPC) (www.woundedpaw.com)

THE SLACKERS**"Peculiar" CD**

I'll be damned if these dudes don't still have it. The masters of traditional ska are back, and they sound better than ever. There's two kinds of ska bands - the kind that butcher the

shit out of the style and make you wish you had cut your ears off before you had to subject yourself to it, and the kind that know what they're doing and make music that is truly amazing. While the number of bands that fit that second description are dwindling by the day, lucky for us, THE SLACKERS fit that mold to a T and show they haven't lost a thing. (MWB) (www.hell-cat.com)

SMALL ARMS DEALER**"A Single Unifying Theory" CD**

What was once a label full of sissy emo bands (this being before emo became the codename for pop punk, when emo actually WAS a genre) now is home to two of the raddest bands around - LATTERMAN, the gods of all things punk rock, and SMALL ARMS DEALER. I'm not saying that these are the only rad bands on Deep Elm - as a matter of fact, LOCK AND KEY are pretty decent too - it's just that these two stand head and shoulders above the rest. I'm blank on a comparison band; I mean, I hear a bit of JAWBREAKER here and there, maybe some HOT WATER MUSIC, but no matter what I hear, it rules. Actually, at times it reminds me of what HOT ROD CIRCUIT tries to do but never quite attains; they try to break out of the pop and become a straight-forward, no-holds-bard, rock band. SMALL ARMS DEALER have done just that. Pay close attention to track ten - Galactus: Devourer of Worlds. That shit is insane. (MWB) (www.deepelm.com)

SOUR JAZZ**"Rock & Roll Ligger" CD**

Okay, I will admit it, I have a soft spot for singers with an Iggy Pop flare to them. So when this album came on and I heard Lou Paris belting out the impossible softly coarse voice I started tapping my feet immediately, which sent kind of a weird funk into the room because I hadn't changed my socks for like three days. That got me thinking about maybe taking a shower, but then I figured, why should I, Lou would just let his stench permeate, so that's what I am going to do. Of course when my roommate came home and walked in he gagged and pointed me to the bathroom. So I listened to the rest of the album on a crappy CD player in my bathroom, and you know what? It still sounded great. SOUR JAZZ is not your average rock band, they are a cross-pollination of Punk, Jazz, the Bowie / Pop German heroin love affair, Roots rock, and Unlawful Carnal Knowledge. Pick it up, and enjoy. (RPC) (www.acetate.com)

SOUTHERN CULTURE ON THE SKIDS**"Doublewide and Live" CD**

You would be hard pressed to find another live album the captures the energy, the humor, the musicianship, and the true schizophrenic sound that is SOUTHER CULTURE. Call it hillbilly, call it muck, call it surf, call it whatever the hell you want to call it. Just make sure you play it loud, hard, and while so inebriated you can't keep your pants up. This is the way life should be, drunk, naked, and going deaf, one note at a time. (RPC) (www.yeproc.com)

SPINOFFS**"Street Rock Stars" CD**

Third release, apparently, from these Canadian (?) pop punkers. What you do get is 15 tracks of lo-fi(ish) DICKIES meets SCREECHING WEASEL crawling out the garage. They have that catchy, almost rock n roll sound, without the memorable tunes of the aforementioned pop maestros. Decent, for sure. (RK) (Black Market Records / www.blackmarketrecords.org)

THE STANDARD**"Albatross" CD**

THE STANDARD have a definite sound and they do it well. The lineage of the sound would be David Bowie, but not Bowie directly, Bowie as filtered through an 80's rock star persona, but not an 80's rock stars persona directly,

because we are in the new millennium. So it is like a 2006 rock star, imitating a 1980's rock star, imitating David Bowie. In the end the album comes across sounding deep, nicely produced, and with finely touching songwriting. Still you those of you who know and face paint to the 80's collection may find them a bit SISTERS OF MERCY light, for your taste (thanks Rh). (RPC) (www.yeproc.com)

THE SUBJECTS**self-titled EP**

This band hails out of New York, which has been a hot bed of late with bands like Interpol and the STROKES, breaking into the mainstream. You shouldn't be surprised to find the latter a major influence as far as this bands sound goes. There are other influences of course, namely that harder sixties noise made popular by the KINKS. One of the odd things about this band is half the members were teachers at a high school, and the other half were their students. So, you know extra credit and whatnot. All and all it is a pretty good EP with a good sound, put together and produced nicely. The singer has a nice sounding voice but by no means is he a vocal acrobat. The band plays tight, finely crafted rock tunes, and that should be enough to at least check them out. (RPC) (www.gosubjectsgo.com)

THE SUBWAYS**"Young For Eternity" CD**

THE SUBWAYS' debut starts soberly enough. There's a song called "I Want To Hear What You Have To Say" and it begins with a full minute of plaintive yelps and simple strums from frontman Billy Lunn. It's really nothing special. Then comes a jaw-dropping turn-of-face that might be better than any you'll hear this year. Like the boot-stomping bombshells FRANZ FERDINAND deploy mid-song with such precision, the SUBWAYS' post-intro, post-punk explosion is wiry, caffeinated and wholly combustible. Turns out both the lead single ("Rock & Roll Queen") and the band's appearance on the O.C. are a little misleading; they've got considerably more snarl and panache than you'd expect from that program's usual guests, save for maybe George Lucas, or most of England's other contemporary exports. It affords this trio a vitriol, an audacity and a sexiness that, frankly, suits them well. If you forgive the thoroughly irritating "Mary," it's an album of few faults. Highly recommended. (TS) (Sire / <http://sire.ear1.com>)

SUGAR EATER**"Nine Songs" CD**

You know I was a fan of PENNYWISE in the early nineties. Of course I had wave hair, wore vans, and rode a skateboard, but that shouldn't devalue my opinion. However at some point I just got tired of the endless copycat bands that came out one after the other after the other with the same damn sound. It isn't that SUGAR EATER is bad, it is just this album has been done a hundred times before by a hundred better bands. I just think skate punk should move on is all, I mean I did, you hardly ever see me with wave hair anymore, although I do still wear vans, occasionally. (RPC) (www.sugareater.com)

THE SWEETHEARTS**"Looks Could Kill" CD**

The sophomore release from this Austin based band is solid follow up to their debut album "L.U.V.", it combines catchy guitar work and melodic hooks with an early, though clearly not equal, Motown flair for songwriting. All of this is packaged neatly in a sweet little schoolgirl punk portrait. Of course I'm guessing these little school girls weren't the kind who read teeny bopper magazines or pined over a bare-chested Justin Timberlake. They were more likely smoking by the eighth, and scratching words like "Hate" and "Whore" into their arms with a rusty box cutter. They like to say they are influenced by Joan Jett and the likes, but I think listeners will find greater similarities vocally to Gwen Stephanie. You know how that

SOUNDSCAPE MUSIC REVIEWS

goes—if you can deal with the Hyena chatter of Gwen and you want a harder, more guttural sound, pick this and a box cutter up, and may I suggest trying a nicer word on yourself, like “Liberal.” (RPC) (www.mortvillerecords.com)

SWORN ENEMY “The Beginning Of The End” CD

Man, I love this band. They flawlessly meld the streetwise hardcore of SHATTERED REALM with modern day metal ala GOD FORBID with a heavy dose of 80s thrash like ANTHRAX and DRI. This album showcases their heavy respect for the crossover thrash of the late 80s, epitomized by the aforementioned DRI and AGNOSTIC FRONT and this pack of diehard warriors do it masterfully. (STM) (www.abacusrecords.com)

T. DUGGINS “Undone” CD

A collection of traditional / folk music, sung by T, backed by the TOSSERS. The plus: it’s a workmanlike attempt at folk music - none of this punk goes acoustic nonsense. The minus: it’s just not that good. It’s a collection of traditional and folk stands, including songs by EWAN MACCOLL, LEADBELLY (not credited!), POGUES, BOB DYLAN, and BOBBY SANDS (credited to someone else?) and they’re just not particularly good versions / interpretations. Oh well. (RK) (www.thickrecodrs.com)

TEAM CHOCOLATE self-titled 7”

TEAM CHOCOLATE is one of two bands off the All Things Ordinary record label, and if the other band (LEMURIA) is as good as this band, I’d say the record label is off to a nice start. The album is by no means ground breaking, but it has a sweet BELLE AND SEBASTIAN sound to it with an American base and sensibility, and much more stripped down, lie B&S were more roots rock.. Weird huh? I like it thought, and you should check it out to see if you do as well, try the records label website at the bottom of the review for further information. (RPC) (www.allthingsordinary.com)

THEE MERRY WIDOWS “Revenge Served Cold” CD

Ms. Eva the lead singer from THEE MERRY WIDOWS sings in a low, sultry growl that brings out the horror punk in this release. The band as a whole come across as if Russ Meyers “Faster Pussycat, Kill! Kill!” Vixens were a rip-roaring psychobilly band. They tear through eleven tracks, like nobody’s business and leave you wanting more. Check this band out if you can, I’m told that they put on a hell of a show. (JC) (www.merrywidowsmusic.com)

TRAPDOOR FUCKIN EXIT “Crooked Life / Straight World” CD

I’ve been waiting for this since the first time I heard their last No Idea CD a couple of years back. These Swedish gents write songs that sound like they’ve put every inch of themselves into them, like they’re writing to save their lives, like they’ve expended every possible bit of energy that is in them to come up with the perfect sound. While so many bands who constantly experiment with their style and sound end up with a pile of shit for a record, that has never been the case for these guys. Everything they do is groundbreaking. With songs that you feel and live more than listen to, TRAPDOOR FUCKIN EXIT is more of an experience than a band. To top it off, it’s pretty much the sickest band name ever - you gotta like the band just so you can buy a shirt and piss off your parents! (MWB) (www.noidearecords.com)

THE TWATS vs. COMMON ENEMY self-titled split 7”

You know, after listening to this album, I am not really sure if this is two separate bands (as is common with 7 inches) or if this is one band with a very odd name, it all sounded like one band, but that doesn’t mean it is. I am very confused, really, hold on, I’ll check out the website...Okay, well I didn’t see any band called the Twats (and yes that did disappoint me, odd though, when I put twats in goggle some very strange things popped up) but I am going to look around some more and see what I can dig up....There we go, good old CTRL+F works every time. It is two separate bands, anyway it is your basic skater punk (and if you have read any of my reviews you know how I feel about that). If you like it you’ll like this, if not, steer clear, anyway I am going to go now, I only checked out a few of those goggle twat links, and if the rest are as good as the first, I am in for a very short night. (RPC) (www.drprecords.com)

WHISKEY & CO. “Leaving the Nightlife” CD

WHISKEY & CO have always reminded me of 10,000 MANIACS. It’s probably just Kim’s voice, because it sounds EXACTLY like Natalie Merchant, which is a pretty rad person to sound like. The music isn’t all that similar; WHISKEY are a true folk-rock band, and I guess the MANIACS were kinda like that, too, but they were sure as hell not this cool. This is drinkin’ folk music, dammit! Anyway, another solid 8 songs that show how far they’ve come and how perfected their craft now is. Good shit. (MWB) (www.noidearecords.com)



VARIOUS ARTISTS “An International Tribute to the Man in Black” CD

The first thing that you (the listener) must understand is that Johnny Cash and Punk Rock actually work great together. Something about those forlorn tales of heartbreak, drinking, and criminality play great when you strip them down and growl them out. The other thing you have to understand is that this tribute album is pretty prolific. It pulls bands from all over the world, America, the UK, Germany, bands like the PUG UGLIES and RIOT COMPANY, EMSCHERKURVE 77 Feat Gunter Gabriel doing “San Quentin” (that’s right, San Quentin in German). Twenty eight songs by twenty nine different bands (there is one repeat song in the batch) swaying, drugging, and screaming out of your speakers so loud your down stairs neighbors going to give you the broom again. I don’t know if the man in black would like what has become of his classics, but he’s dead now, and we’re not, so play it loud and proud and preferably in front of any rednecks you can find. (RPC) (www.rebellion-records.com)

VARIOUS ARTISTS “Born To Hate” DVD

Let me start off by saying that this DVD has nothing whatsoever to do with the beloved Born To Hate hardcore zine. Don’t think that Morg put this out. What you basically have here is a bunch of live footage of about ten current hardcore bands. Its relatively janky, all wavering camcorder footage shot without the benefit of decent lighting or, occasionally, a good vantage point. This isn’t necessarily a bad thing. It is hardcore, after all, and can’t always benefit from professionalism. The bands perform admirably, with highlights being TERROR, HOODS, FOLSOM, and old school units, MERAUDER and NO INNOCENT VICTIM. If you are a fan of hardcore and want to watch some great bands get down, buy this thing, just don’t expect the stars and moon. (STM)

VARIOUS ARTISTS “The Killer In You” CD

Tribute albums are tough to pull off. This album certainly proves that. As a fan of hardcore and THE SMASHING PUMPKINS, I was excited about this tribute record to Billy Corgan and Co but was quickly disappointed. While some bands on here pull it off (the highlights are most definitely Dwid’s new band ROSES ARE RED, HOPESFALL, and EIGHTEEN VISIONS), the rest is just not all that impressive. However, sadly, the opportunity to have a record of great PUMPKINS covers is ruined by the decision to use mallcrawling, contrived yawnmongers like ARMOR FOR SLEEP, A STATIC LULLABY and A THORN FOR EVERY HEART. This is a pass. (STM) (www.reignition.com)

VARIOUS ARTISTS “The Killer In You: A Tribute to Smashing Pumpkins” CD

Now that it looks like the PUMPKINS are reforming for real, this long-delayed tribute finally sees the light of day. And, happily, some of the artists relish the chance to make these tracks their own: POISON THE WELL’s hushed take on “Soma,” and the almighty MURDER BY DEATH’s wonderful “We Only Come Out At Night.” True, some of this is terrible [Most Likely to Turn Into ORGY goes to 32 LEAVES who absolutely murder “Zero”] but some bands actually elevate their work. ROSES ARE RED (“Cherub Rock”) impress more here than on their debut album, while A STATIC LULLABY’s incendiary take on “The Everlasting Gaze” is right up their with their best work. HOPESFALL, too, do a fine job of “Eye.” It’s unlikely any of the bands here will ever inspire Simpson’s caricatures but, save for the atrocious album art, the disc’s a pleasant surprise. (TS) (Reignition / www.reignition.com)

VARIOUS ARTISTS “Take Action! Volume 5” CD

The latest compilation in the Take Action! series is a win-win proposition. You’ll get 2 discs of great punk, pop-punk, metal and hardcore music featuring artists such as UNDEROATH, HAWTHORNE HEIGHTS, AS I LAY DYING, DROPKICK MURPHYS, LAGWAGON, A LIFE ONCE LOST, SAOSIN, AMBER PACIFIC and many more. Part of the money you spend on the CD goes to the Kristin Brooks Hope Center, which helps people in crisis and raises awareness of mental health issues. There’s also a companion tour featuring many of the bands on the compilation. (CB) (Sub City / www.subcity.net)

XMAROONX “Antagonist” CD

Vegan straight edge brutality that harkens back to the days when kids wore masks on the dance floor, thumped their chests with X’d up hands, and Salt Lake City was on the news. Crushing riffage ala HATEBREED with DISEMBODIED-sized drops that reminds you just how terribly current metallic hardcore has been ruined by high production and popularity. This is brutal shit without falling into parody. Fans of LIFELESS, XCLEARX, BIRTHRIGHT, and that ilk will devour this (with vegannaise). (STM) (www.xcatalystx.com)

YOUNG CANADIANS “No Escape” CD

Originally known as the K-Tels until a threatened lawsuit by the company made them change their name, the Young Canadians were another Vancouver, Canada punk / new wave band from the early ‘80s. This is a compilation of their 3 EPs along with 10 live tracks. There’s a noticeable improvement in sound quality from EP to EP, and the quality of the live recordings various wildly. The band’s sound was raw but melodic and they wrote songs that were simple but very catchy. They broke up back in 1982, but the Young Canadians are a band worth hearing, especially for fans of early new wave and punk. (CB) (Sudden Death / www.suddendeath.com)