



Notes March 06

A couple of videos worth mentioning rolled in this month... The first is "God Save the Queen: A Punk Rock Anthology." Despite the atrocious name there's some pretty cool stuff on here, with appearances from the **Dead Boys**, **Johnny Thunders**, **Iggy and the Stooges**, **the Buzzcocks**, **the Subhumans**, **the Toy Dolls**, **X-Ray Spex**, **999**, **GBH** and others. There's some great, classic live appearances on here, some stuff that's been released on other stuff, some early attempts at punk bands making videos (Toy Dolls' "Nellie the Elephant") and a few examples of some bands past their prime. The coolest part about it is the old footage that documents the late-70s stuff (like the **UK Subs** part) and the interviews with the likes of **Generation X**, **Vice Squad**, Johnny Thunders but perhaps taking the cake is Poly Styrene of X-Ray Spex's interview. The inclusion of Goldblade is kind of a headscratcher though... The other video is of **the Buzzcocks**, "Live at Shepherd's Bush Empire 2003." No doubt about it, the Buzzcocks were forefathers of catchy pop-oriented punk (before the near completely hideous genre "pop-punk" allowed any shithead to play watered down pap as long as he had a few tattoos and bleached hair") in late seventies England. This is a 2003 concert, and it's got all their great songs (and some of their more recent stuff) live, although there aren't too many bells and whistles to make this one a necessity unless you're already a fan of the band. The extras seem kinda thrown on there: a sound check, some random promo photos and fliers, and a biography, although the interview is interesting (if a bit long) and the clueless Australian TV hostess is worth a laugh... **The Pedestrians'** "Future Shock" LP (on Criminal IQ) is a furious blast from the past. It's balls-out straight ahead punk rock that would be right at home in 1982 as punk was cleaving itself into punk and hardcore camps. This shit makes me think of the **Circle Jerks** and **Black Flag**, I guess it's that classic LA area early punk sound. Whatever it is, is furious and high speed and I'm gonna listen to it when I need to get the stoke going... **Tokyo Electron's** self-titled LP on eMpTy records is making my bowels shake and perhaps bringing tumors to the surface of my brain. It's another project from Arizonan Ryan Rousseau, who served time in the **Reatards** among other bands (and **Jay Reatard** twiddled the knobs on this one), and it's somewhat in the vein of that kind of stuff: noisy, unfiltered, and a kick to the neck. It's a reminder of trying to escape hot days by crawling through dirty and stinky bars, sweat competing with the AC. If this music had a smell, your mom would try to clean it with bleach... Got the second LP from a band called **Orange Roughy** out of Pennsylvania, "Picked Clean," and it's a doozy. Straight ahead three-chord power from a full sounding five-piece, this one takes no prisoners and spares no volume. Guitars up front, vocals hoarse and scratchy, in the vein of the best early NY proto-punk... 'Til next time, remember to floss after meals.

- Wez Lundry