

# Advocations



music



**Pinetop Seven, *The Night's Bloom* (Sky).** "I'm on my way now/My recovery to how it used to be," croons frontman Darren Richard, like Chris Isaak with more soul, on "Born Among the Born Again." Thank god for that. It's been five years since PS's last studio album, but this gothic, orchestral country pop band hasn't missed a step. This one's every bit as dense, epic, gorgeous, and, in the end, indefinable as its predecessor.

—Ryan Kearney

**Nick Barrett & Clive Nolan, *A Rush of Adrenaline* (MVD).** Live concert DVD on which a likeable, longhaired guitar/keyboard prog duo play laidback lush tunes from their various bands, including Pendragon and Arena. The lyrics are rustic and gentlemanly ("And We'll Go Hunting Deer"), drifting into fantasy-woodland rune tunes ("The Black Knight") and concept-album blather ("Shadows of Fate," from Nolan & Oliver Wakeman's *The Hound of the Baskervilles*). One of the few acts who can do between-song patter about their love for Jack Daniels and vodka without anybody in the audience whooping "Whooo!"

—Christopher Arnott

**The Weather Machines, *The Sound of Pseudoscience* (Tigers Against Crime).** The Weather Machines exhibit the sparseness of Spoon, the pep of New Pornographers, and the Thin Lizzy fervor of Ted Leo. But this Rapid City foursome is at its best when sounding like none of the above, as on the heart-bracing "Alone In Shiki."

—R.K.

**Al Green, *Truth n' Time, Livin' For You, Is Love, Have a Good Time, Full of Fire* (Capitol/Hi).** The 2004 *Immortal Soul* box set was intense but lacked the sustained moods of Green's best albums. These five mid-'70s Hi Records reissues may be brief (eight or nine songs, no bonus tracks), but they're marvelously of-the-moment. Among the many originals (including landmarks like "I'd Fly Away") are ear-bending covers of "Unchained Melody," "To Sir With Love" and, as a waystation between Green's pop and gospel extremes, "I Say a Little Prayer."

—C.A.

**The Strokes, *First Impressions of Earth* (RCA).** First impression: Much better than their previous album, which was no more than a retread of their debut. Second impression: This is their *No Code*, not only in that it's a departure, but because the bands recalls Pearl Jam on a few tracks. Third impression: Is "Ask Me Anything" a Magnetic Fields cover? Final impression: These NYC brats are growing up. Maybe now they're ready to work with Nigel Godrich.

—R.K.

Keep the kids at bay with a contraceptive spray. **Nestorone MDTs** is applied to the forearm with a spritzing device, allowing it to be soaked into the bloodstream. A great alternative to patches, pills and shots, but if you can't remember to take a pill, chances are you won't remember to spray yourself sterile every morning either.

—Jackie Senno

**Hugebrand.com.** Normal sized condoms in a box labeled "huge." A company committed to enlarging men's egos and deceiving women.

—J.S.

**myscienceproject.org/condoms.html.** Ever wonder how many condoms you could put on at once? Or how much your unit would weigh after sporting about 500 Jimmy Hats? Other experiments too.

—Craig Gilbert

**Wallace & Grommit—The Curse of the Were-Rabbit** (Aardman/Dreamworks DVD). Despite its G rating, the gunplay and monster-flick pastiches assure I won't be sharing this full-length claymation farce with my young daughters for several years. But as adult political satire, it's delicious, featuring an elitist, paranoid hunter whose misunderstanding of the common man leads to terrifying mishaps. Co-writers/directors Nick Park and Steve Box couldn't have been thinking about Dick Cheney during this film's multi-year gestation, but they've concocted a topical parable about the greedy versus the industrious that will make any progressive parent chortle.

—C.A.

**Clueless George Goes to War!** by Pat Bagley (White Horse Books). Too overwrought to succeed as the *Curious George* parody it aspires to be (with W as the monkey), yet fun anyway. Bagley's a political cartoonist in Utah, and this isn't simple anti-Bush fluff; it's relatively complex anti-Bush fluff.

—C.A.

Looking for jerky without the nitrates and animal residues (like sterols, growth hormones and antibiotics)? Check out **Stonewall's Jerquee**, a scrumptious soy alternative. Texture and taste curiously similar, but vegan!

—Marissa Peluso

**LEAPforkids.org.** At last, New Haven's largest service agency for children's academic and social enrichment has a website worthy of it. This re-design quickly tells you all you need to know about what LEAP is, how to volunteer, how to donate money, how to get a job. If you don't know LEAP, then you don't really know New Haven.

—Mark Oppenheimer

**cel.webby.no/celebrities-yawning.asp.** Celebrities yawning. That's it.

—Craig Gilbert

