

down, and even somewhat quiet. From releasing albums that were nothing but blaring feedback to songs like "Reena" and "SleepingAround," this is certainly new for the Brooklyn quintet, but they manage to pull it off just fine, and still through in noises that only Sonic Youth could produce. Also a few other facts show how this is a new Sonic Youth, one being song lengths, on average they clock in at four minutes, which is short for a band that has made twenty minute songs. The album is also under an hour despite being twelve tracks long. It is almost as fit *Rather Ripped* is a corner of what Sonic Youth's sound that was literally ripped away from the whole of what has made music for the past two decades. (AM) (www.Geffen.com)

STATIC REVOLUTION

"You Look Good" EP

This CD rules. Fast, loud, old school hardcore punk rock, with vocals that at times run in the vein of BY THE GRACE OF GOD, which to me is a fucking GOOD thing!! I'm seriously impressed by this band – hard, driving songs that don't fuck around. With nearly all of them clocking in under 2 minutes, they get to the fucking point and get out, and never overstay their welcome. The definite sign of a good band. These dudes should be signed to some huge label touring the whole country, along with GRAVE FOR THE FIREFLIES. These guys should play shows together, that'd be a sick show. (MWB) (www.loreleirecords.com)

TURBO

"The History 1980-2005" DVD

It's really hard to review a metal DVD right after watching Spinal Tap. With that said, TURBO (Polish metal) has a DVD encompassing their career, and it's really well done. Obviously, if you're unfamiliar with the band, it's probably not worth buying. However, if you're a fan, it's a really great collection. The main feature is their live set from Metalmania 2005, but there is also a very thorough interview about the band's career, as well as an endless amount of various other bonus features. Maybe not from the band you were all expecting, but this is how a music DVD should be put together. (MVD / www.musicvideodistributors.com)

UMBRELLAS

"Illuminare" CD

The good thing about this CD – one of the song titles has the word 'Boston' in it. Damn, Boston rules. I'm so incredibly lucky to live so close to this fine city, with all of its eateries, clubs, bands, historic monuments, etc. I love Boston more than just about any other place in the world. Not to mention the Red Sox. In life, the Red Sox come first, all else second. When my wife reads this, she will be mad at me...but it's true. The Red Sox aren't just a team, they're a way of life. Oh wait, I was supposed to be reviewing a CD, right? Yeah, it was bad. Indie-pop-rock bore with a whiny, kill-me-before-I-hear-another-second voice... Next, please. (MWB) (www.themilitiagroup.com)

VANNA

"The Search Party Never Came" EP

Ok, first off, they do this super-deep growl thing that is complete comedy. The vocals, when actually singing, are real strong – he's got a real good voice – but whoever is doing that growl – stop. Like, right now. You made me shoot soda out my nose while driving the first time I heard it. That ain't cool. Do you know how hard that shit is to clean off your windshield?

Seriously. Anyway, this isn't for me. If you like NORMA JEAN, UNDEROATH, or any number of other screamo / metalcore / whatever bands, then this is for you. It's the same as them. No better, no worse. The same. Oh how I wish Epitaph was the old Epitaph sometimes... (MWB) (www.epitaph.com)

VANNA

"The Search Party Never Came" CD

VANNA's debut EP is highly unimpressive, rather a chore to listen to. It doesn't do much to rise above the mediocrity of a thousand other bands like them. This style does happen to be popular now (kind of metalcore meets emo), so maybe it will do well, but there isn't anything different about this band, so unless you're a big fan of this sub-genre as a whole, you won't find much in this EP. (Epitaph / www.epitaph.com)

VARIOUS ARTISTS

"Bridge 9 Singles Vol. 1 & 2" CD

Too often, B9 is only known for the stars on its roster that burned the brightest (AMERICAN NIGHTMARE / PANIC) and not for the smaller bands that it has afforded opportunity to. These two collections of singles pulled from vinyl and places (with fantastic packaging) onto CD highlights these unheralded but no less awesome bands from the empire that Wrenn built (hahaha, that was rich). The first collection concerns itself mainly with B9's early years, those pre-AN days that gave us seven inches by PROCLAMATION, SUM OF ALL FEARS, and TENFOLD. The second collections presents those bands that came later; bands like RIGHT BRIGADE, DEATH THREAT, THE DISTANCE, RN'R, and Norcal's future greatness spring training band, BREAKER BREAKER. Two great collections that speak to the richness of this culture as much as it does to B9's unbelievable influence. Buy them both, dummies. (STM) (www.bridge9.com)

VARIOUS ARTISTS

"Class Pride World Wide 3" CD

When you see the words "class pride" involved, you should know right off the band what you've got...and just in case you're not that quick, the sweet artwork should fill in the blanks for you. What you've got is a killer compilation of Oi!, street punk, and old-school hardcore bands from all around the world. There's some bands on here that you should probably know, like UNION MADE and DISCIPLINE, but then there's some lesser-known European acts, like RAZOR BOIS and FEIBOITER adding tracks to the comp too. This is a good mix of styles and sounds from within the scene, and the songs themselves are stellar from start to finish. Definitely worth checking out if you're into the Oi! / Street Punk scene – and if that scene is something you're just getting into, this one might be a good one to pick up, too – you'll probably find some of your new favorite bands on here – like DISCIPLINE. (MWB) (www.insurgence.net)

VARIOUS ARTISTS

"Eulogy Tour Volume 2" DVD

The second time around and twice as good, this tour video follows 5 bands as they travel this great land, delivering hardcore greatness to the masses. From the emometal of EVERGREEN TERRACE to the streetwise anthems of DONNYBROOK to the straight edge metalcore of UNTIL THE END, you can't go wrong here. Blood, sweat, tears, and mosh. (STM) (www.eulogyrecordings.com)

VARIOUS ARTISTS

"Fuck The System" DVD / CD

Wow, what a fucking sweet set this is!! One of the best punk rock DVDs I've seen in a while, coupled with a CD of the DVD's soundtrack! You've got some tunes from RANCID, BLANKS 77, BONECRUSHER, YOUTH BRIGADE, and ANAL CUNT to name a few, and you'll even get to see the live performance of the legendary west coast punk rockers SMUT PEDDLERS. The folks you see in the DVD do look like real punks, too, right down to the RANCID t-shirts, fish-net stockings, piercing, and tattoos. It's hard to tell if they're professionals or just punks thrown on film. Oh, wait, I just realized I'm leaving out a key detail – this is a porno flick. Yeah, that's important! Everyone's naked and fucking like rabbits. All set to punk rock tunes. And two of 'em even get it on while the SMUT PEDDLERS play right in front of 'em. Crazy stuff, right? I wonder how all those dudes didn't get wood right there on stage. (MWB) (www.loadeddigital.com)

VARIOUS ARTISTS

"Give 'Em The Boot 5" CD

Because of the availability of online music and the proliferation of cheapo label samplers, the compilation album is a lost art form. A despite the fact that this is a label sampler of sorts, Hellcat's GETB series feels more like the righteous comps of yesteryear than just some sampler. You can find new bands to love and appreciate new songs from old favorites. Seriously, this series keeps a certain spirit alive in this post-corporate plastic punk underground and I applaud them for it. Get this comp and enjoy 18 awesome tracks of true punk rock grit, grime, and glory. (STM) (www.hellcat-records.com)

VARIOUS ARTISTS

"Give 'Em The Boot Vol. 5" CD

All-in-all, Give 'Em The Boot is a decent enough comp, it's just not necessary. Most of the unreleased tracks aren't from the bands you'd hope. A comp is a good way of checking out new things, while giving a record label a chance to get a few of their bands out in the spotlight for new or upcoming records. The thing is, if you're a fan of a band like RANCID or DROPKICK MURPHYS, you probably already have the tracks from their albums, because these ones aren't new. To make it short, only if you're unfamiliar with these bands and want to check new stuff out, or if you're a fan of the seven bands that provide unreleased tracks should you then buy this comp. It's good; it just doesn't offer anything special. (Hellcat Records / www.hell-cat.com)

VARIOUS ARTISTS

"Hopelessly Devoted to You Vol 6" CD / DVD

Wow, what a contrast between the two discs of this comp! Disc one is basically the Hopeless / Sub City of today – it's got your AMBER PACIFIC, your NURAL, your ROYDEN, while disc two is a flashback to the glory days of Hopeless Records, when they were putting out some seriously groundbreaking stuff – DILLINGER FOUR, FIFTEEN, THE WEAKERTHANS, THE QUEERS and SAMIAM to name a few. All five of those bands are legendary in their own right. Also on that disc are AVENGED SEVENFOLD, who we all know have since moved on and done other things (such as blow up, sell hundreds of thousands of records, start a verbal war with DILLINGER ESCAPE PLAN...) and ATOM AND HIS PACKAGE, so it's a decent disc. I'm definitely feeling disc two a lot more than disc one, since a lot of these songs were songs I played constantly when I was like