

where the God Squad has been bashing musicians and performers since Elvis. Then came the '80s, when everyone had to deal with Tipper Gore and her Parents Music Resource Center (PMRC).

MR: But they weren't as powerful then as they are now. And with the PMRC, those were the Democrats! But every time I go to a different country, they laugh because of our politics. They laugh at how shameful we are about sex, and how it's so forbidden because of the conservatives.

Meanwhile, we can show a person getting shot on television, but we can't show a condom ad.

MR: The priorities are all screwed up. Maybe things will change after the next midterm elections.

Let's hope so. Meanwhile, you guys are quite the anime fans.

JC: Yeah, we're all fans of anime and Japanese sci-fi movies. It was great that we could use the imagery for the band, and everyone seems to love it. I've been into anime since I was a little kid. Back then I was really into *Astroboy*, *Gigantor* and *Speed Racer*. Anime came up from the underground, and now it's accessible and easier to find.

MR: Johnny [Ramone] and I used to scour the United States when we toured, hitting all the sci-fi stores and looking for posters from Japanese movies. We accumulated a huge poster collection. I've been into this since I was a little kid.

Marky, how do you so accurately keep your finger on the pulse of youth?

MR: I don't know; I just do it. When you have to think about it, it doesn't come. You have to surround yourself with youth and be open to what they're doing.

JC: And that's really what our relationship is about. I was a kid who grew up listening to the Ramones, so we speak each other's language. And Marky has such a passion for what he does. He just transforms like David Banner turning into the Hulk. It's like he's channeling, MR: Yeah, well, you know who's doing it? God!

(Everybody bursts out laughing.)

Who picked the material?

JC: I did. I have a very broad, diverse taste, and a lot of the sounds seemed like they'd translate well to the Ramones style. I thought it would be fun and cool to do some outsider music.

Great choice of material. Your album is so cool, a listener has to wear a sweater.

JIM AND MR: (Both laugh.) Thanks!

Does Osaka Popstar plan to tour? JC: No plans as of yet. We gotta sync everybody's schedule. We've been getting requests for live shows from all over the world.

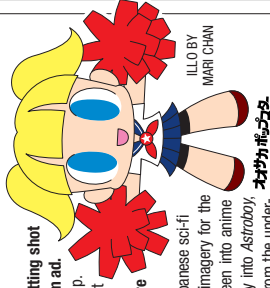
MR: We'll see what the interest is and if everybody is onboard at the same time.

For more information, go to OsakaPopstar.com. Also catch Marky Ramone's show, *Punk Rock Blitzkrieg*, on Sirius Satellite Radio. ■



Marky Ramone, John Caillero and Ivan Julian

PHOTO BY ANTHONY ESPOSITO



ILO BY MARI CHAN

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SIX-PACK

A look at some of the hottest CDs and DVDs that you need to know about.

PALUMBO
Citizen X
Liesong

Sounding like a limp-wristed cross between early Nine Inch Nails and ZZ Top circa 1986, this CD aims to make a strong political statement. Sadly, the bland-sounding disc falls flat. The songs "with antiviral, anti-Big Business, antiprofit themes come across as contrived and reek of the smell you get from jumping too hard on the bandwagon."
—Keith Valcourt

RACONTEURS
Broken Bay Soldiers
VZ

Take one part White Stripes leader Jack White, one part super pop rock vocalist Brendan Benson and mix with two parts greenhorns, and you have The Raconteurs. This supergroup is a really strong and cohesive band that has delivered one of the best CDs of the year.
—K.V.

VARIOUS ARTISTS
Hal Lilson's Sex and the '60s
Varese Saraband

This amiable collection of sexy, swinging '60s tunes includes faves like Bob Crewe Generation's "Music to Watch Girls By" and the ultrahip "Bambulella," as well as "Big Spender," "The Girl From U.N.C.L.E.," and kitschy numbers by Twiggy and Barbara "Agent 99" Feldon. Priceless retro cool, all in one CD.
—Tom Farrell

THE NUMB ONES
Everything in Between
Cleopatra

The Numb Ones are moderate and deliberate when trying to write singles and excellent when doing covers, notably Sweet's "Love Is Like Oxygen." But they shine brighter than a thousand suns with uncluttered, heartfelt tunes like "Arm's Length," a deceptively simple pop gem.
—T.F.

VARIOUS ARTISTS
The Art of 16 Bars
QD2/Image Entertainment

Method Man narrates this sincere documentary about creating hip-hop music (16 representing the standard number of bars between a song's choruses). Director Peter Spier showcases rare footage of top artists like Wu-Feng, Clon, Kanye West, Common, Nas and Jay-Z. Highlights include an early Eminem rap battle, one-on-one advice from KRS-One and street knowledge from Rakim.
—Hans Feuersinger

VARIOUS ARTISTS
South Beach Raw
DVD Music Video

South Beach Raw is an hour-long collage of fuckuster live performances, outdated interviews and overplayed music videos by artists who "love Miami Beach." Other than a small amount of jigglin' ass, there is little for fans to sink their teeth into.
—H.F.

TEENACIDE RECORDS: Cooking Up Sugar & Spice

BY MICHELLE MCCARTHY



PHOTO BY GARY LEONARD

The Holograms take a dip: (L-R) Jennifer Nguyen, Yumi Adachi, Samantha Franklin and Sisley Treasure.

DOY! LET THE SWEET-AND-HINOCENT look of The Holograms fool you. As proclaimed in their song "Weekend Bender," they'll do your drugs and your boyfriend. But founding member Samantha Franklin says the pop-punksters' raunchy lyrics and demented, over-the-top concert engagements are all in good fun.

"We're good girls. I'm certainly not saying that we're pure as the driven snow, but I think it boils down to having a seedy, lowbrow sense of humor."

Formed in Los Angeles six years ago, The Holograms have gone through a number of lineup changes, and bassist Samantha's sidekicks now include vocalist Sisley Treasure, drummer Yumi Adachi and keyboardist Jennifer Nguyen. "I was interning at a record label and got the harebrained idea to start a band," Samantha says. "We could hardly play, but we just kept going. It was initially a very humbling beginning."

The Holograms embrace—and write about—all of the silly and fun aspects of being girls: shopping, boys and getting into trouble. Lo and behold, their first full-length release on Teenacide Records, *Night of 1,000 Ex-Boyfriends*—featuring ditties like "Drunk Dial," "Your Ex Is Turning Tricks Again" and "Scene Whore"—conjures up images of a pajama party stocked with vodka and pills.

When they take the stage, look forward to matching cheerleader outfits and a lot of lighthearted theatrics. "We don't have very much



PHOTO BY CAROL SHERIDAN

Rocket crew: Lauren Rocket braces her bandmates (L-R) Roxie Rocket, Lauren C. Rocket, Kelly Rocket and Chief Kristin.

bravado, so we have to substitute everything with cheerleading maneuvers and sparky props," Samantha says. That's as good a way as any for the girls to spread The Holograms' mantra: Have fun, don't worry about being dorky and don't take yourself too seriously.

The Holograms aren't the only hot girl band on Teenacide. Labelmates Rocket are playing their own brand of summer-inspired pure pop. This SoCal five-piece recently got a big break when Converse discovered them via MySpace and used their song "Too Hot to Be Bothered" for a shoe ad. Self-described as a "concoction of fun, smiles, candy, bubblegum and broken hearts," Rocket's latest EP, *Girls With Candy Hearts*, is a mixture of originals and covers, including the Ramones' "I Want to Be Your Girlfriend," The Professionals' "Join the Professionals" and Iggy Pop's "Funtime." Handclaps, bobbing keyboards and '60s-influenced harmonies abound. ■