MUSIC REVIEWS

SOUNDSCAPE

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(STM)

"A History of Rats" CD

I'm such a dickhead. I know I'm a dickhead, but I just can't help it. There are few and far girl singers that I can listen to. THIS IS MY FIST is a great band – the music is seriously awesome, I'm way into it – but I just can't get into the vocals. So that's why I'm a dickhead. It's not a sexist thing – it's just a preferential thing. It's definitely better than 90% of the girl-band stuff out there today, but it's still not my thing. But the music – damn, is that music infectious! The music is SO good that I'm willing to listen to a girl singer for it. That's seriously saying something. (MWB) (www.noidearecords.com)

TIM BARRY / LA PAR FORCE "Live" DVD

My guess is that a lot more people are picking up this DVD for the Tim Barry half than La Par Force. AVAIL's front man has received plenty of attention for his solo work, and it seems almost as if LA PAR

FORCE was tacked on because they were the band Barry toured with. Either way, it's a great set of live songs by Barry, with his stage banter helping to tell the stories behind them. While I'm otherwise unfamiliar with LA PAR FORCE, they were at least worth checking out as the other half of this DVD. It's not the best video and audio ever captured, but chances are if you're a fan of Barry, that's not really going to matter, it's the great collection of songs and the man behind them that you'll be buying for. (WMJ) (Punker Vision / www.punkervision.net)

UNTIL JUNE

"Until June" CD

Everything about this album is absolutely beautiful. It's piano-driven rock a la Coldplay, but it's done very well, and as I listened to this, there wasn't one song I couldn't hear as the background music for the dramatic scene of a powerful, Hollywood love story. It's not a CD I'll listen to every day, and it's not for everyone, but for what it is...one of the best albums of its

genre. (WMJ)

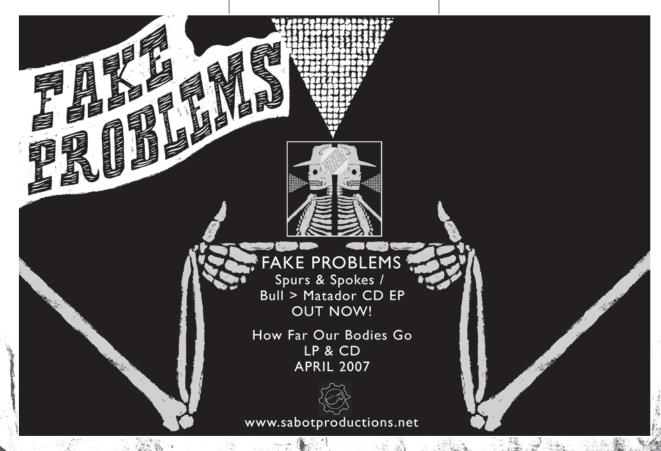
(Flicker Records / www.flickerrecords.com)

VARIOUS ARTISTS

"Fest 3" DVD

The Fest 3 DVD can best be described as one of the best samplers/trailers ever. Released almost two months before The Fest V went down in Gainesville, the DVD captures 60 bands from the two-years-previous Fest. You'll likely watch it for the bands you know, and finish it with a few new favorites, which is always cool. The only complaint I have is that The Fest touts itself as the "giant dysfunctional family reunion" but the DVD strictly covers a song from each band and then moves on. It would have been nice to see the crazy punkers out on the streets, maybe some interviews about The Fest, or anything else that might help to show what The Fest is all about. Still, the DVD is probably the best \$10 sampling of music you'll get anywhere.

(No Idea / www.noidearecords.com)



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