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# THE METAL MINUTE

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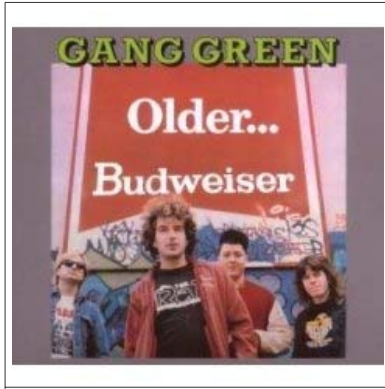
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 08, 2007

## CD Review: Gang Green - Older...Budweiser Reissue

Gang Green - *Older...Budweiser*

2007 Metal Mind Productions / Roadrunner Records

Ray Van Horn, Jr.



Fans of the old league will often discuss the crossover phenomenon of the late eighties, that flag-waving truce period between warring sanctions of metal and punk rock that brought as much accusations of selling out as there did some wild and crazy thrash that was (and still is) so much fun to listen to. Though DRI's truest masterpiece is their hardcore minute-long song fiesta *Dealing With It*, there's no denying that *Four of a Kind*, *Thrash Zone* and *Crossover* are solid slabs of speed. Ditto for Broken Bones' *Bonecrusher* and Suicidal Tendencies' *How Will I Laugh Tomorrow... When I Can't Even Smile Today*. The Circle Jerks' *VI* is a classic for both genres and even Adrenalin OD, Crumbsuckers, Slapshot and MDC coughed up some memorable metal collisions in their later years.

One of the best crossover bands is undeniably Gang Green. Already these legendary Boston punkers had made a name for themselves with Murphy's Law as good time-oriented, beer lovin' pit moshin' pub crawlers who entertained their fans with brisk-paced hardcore and nonsensical lyrics about drinking, fucking and telling the establishment where to go. In some ways, Gang Green's jerkoff moshing and chugging was the antithesis to Minor Threat and Rites of Spring's odes to straight edge, which was really the point. Gang Green made no bones that they preferred to drink it up with their nads slapping flesh to their fast tempos and really, so long as you didn't take them seriously, Gang Green was a great fucking thrash-punk band. Besides, Gang Green once housed former alumni Mike Dean, mostly famous as a member of Corrosion of Conformity.

Stepping out of their pastures of garage-oriented punk rawk, Gang Green in the late eighties learned to play their instruments a bit better and they turned up the amps and stepped harder on the double bass for a hit-and-run series of albums during the crossover phase, all now being reissued by Metal Mind Productions. While *You Got It* is perhaps the best of these albums--as well as their best album overall--Gang Green followed up with their knee-busting Van Halen potshot EP

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