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REVIEW

Marty's Musical Meltdown: The Cavaliers, American Speedway, Farewell, Floodgate, and Pestilence

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Part of [Marty's Musical Meltdown](#)



Its not really unusual for me to have a decent and sometimes odd mix of material in this column. This week is no exception with everything from an indie single to some rather jazzy death metal.

CD Singles

The Cavaliers: "You're Not the Same Girl"

A couple of tracks from an indie band that are neither annoying nor tedious as is often this genre's want. They are cute songs that you will not have you reaching for the tuning knob to shut off. A bit catchy and danceable, it's perfect fodder for late in the evening when you don't want anything too heavy or taxing. Both tracks are growers that seem to gel with multiple listens.

CD Reviews

American Speedway: *Ship of Fools*

This is groovy hard rock with lots of go and oodles of fun. Not going to break any new trends with this lot, but who gives a damn when it's this good. There is a taste of Alabama Thunderpussy at their best, as well the obvious references to AC/DC without being a clone like that latest lot of Aussies. Any album that has a track called "Don't Tread on Me" is a winner with me.

This is the type of thing that you want coming out of your car stereo as you trundle down the road with top down this summer. Hard rock party music; which you just know goes down as a bloody treat live.

Farewell: *Isn't This Supposed to be Fun?*

This album sort of washed over me; never quite taking me nor driving me away. It most reminds me of Fall Out Boy and their ilk, not clones but a similar vibe. The album is another grower with tracks like "War" eventually getting under your skin. There is nothing horrid about this album to be sure. In fact, it's quite pleasant, but it doesn't really grab one much. It more or less flows through your ears without leaving much of a impression. They have got an ode to blogging with "First one to Blog" which evokes a smile.

Floodgate: *Penalty*

Throughout the history of rock music there have always been musicians who see where music is going and get there first; only to have someone take the idea and run with it. Kyle Thomas is one such guy; having gotten the post-glam Pantera sound down before that lot took it big with his band Exhorter. Floodgate on the other hand is a nice combo platter of Southern rock and Sabbath stylings. The band hails from Louisiana with all that entails.

On this Metal Mind release you get the original tracks plus 4 extra unreleased and demos. Quite a good package to add to already great album. Check out this bit of Southern metal history and wonder why they only managed one album.

Pestilence: *Spheres*

Some death metal bands were happy with the grunt and groan of the genre. Other bands like Opeth, Fates Warning, and this lot wanted to take it as far as it could go. Pestilence combine prog, jazz, and death metal into a heady mix of quite spectacular soundscapes. The band hit their creative peak with this album and it's quite impressive. This remastered release adds a couple of remixes and live tracks to the already impressive original eleven tracks. If the prospect of iazz fusion death metal does not fill you

Well that is your lot for this week and I hope something here suits your fancy. If you can make an effort, check out some live music. Stay safe and rocking; until the next time.



Marty's band, Growing Old Disgracefully, can be found at: [Disgraceful Music](#). His Cthulhu tales can be found at [Temple of Dagon](#).

Comments

#1 — February 3, 2008 @ 00:24AM — Brian aka Guppusmaximus

Dude, I can totally appreciate your review of Pestilence because they were f*cking intense but Fates Warning were not even close to Death Metal. (In fact, they should get the progressive vote over Queensryche) Opeth is a Progressive Death Metal act (They f*cking rock as well). They were influenced by 70's prog/metal bands & not at all like Pestilence. You should've included Atheist & Cynic (considering Tony Choy played Bass for both bands...R.I.P. Roger Patterson) because those bands were very similar & possibly influenced by Pestilence.

Other than that...Nice Review!

