

2008 Gift Guide

Recordings

Alternative/Indie

The holiday season is a time for re flection, for taking stock of the good things in life. So let's reflect on the bygone days of a little band called Ween. I'm talking about their spastic, hallucinogen-fueled early years, when Dean and Gene traveled the world as a hungry young duo, with just a Yamaha digital tape deck serving as their backing band. These were the hazy, crazy times that brought us such classics as "Cover It With Gas and Set It On Fire," "You Fucked Up," and "Pork Roll, Egg and Cheese," and those songs (and more!) are among the featured tracks on the new CD/DVD set *At the Cat's Cradle, 1992* (MVD Audio/Chocodog). The CD portion is an entire Ween set—21 songs, fast and furious—captured at a December 1992 concert in Chapel Hill, N.C. The bonus DVD culls performances from three separate concerts: in the Netherlands, in Columbus, Ohio, and an in-studio at a Trenton, N.J., radio station. The video isn't exactly proshot—it's of the hand-held, single-camera variety (read: kinda crappy)—but it's a bongload of fun to watch.

- John Brodeur