

selections from "S.F. Sorrow", the legendary Psychedelic Rock Opera, in which feared and revered lead guitarist, Dick Taylor (who's a friend to us all, make no mistake), puts in a fine lead vocal on "Baron Saturday." Taylor puts in a fiery performance throughout, on a Vox Phantom, no less. The group are at the peak of their powers, musically and vocally, on "S.F. Sorrow is Born" and "Balloon Burning," and, if that's not enough to make you wanna blow your mind, there's plenty of protopunk chestnuts like "Come See Me," "Rosalyn," and "£.S.D." (which, of course, means "Pounds, Shillings, Pence" and nothing more... You DO believe me, don't you?), culminating in a rave-up runthrough of "Route 66," sung by drummer, Skip Allan, that always brings the house down (even tho' some idiots protested "Why are they doing this Pub Rock shit?" when The U.S. was blessed with a Pretty Things tour a few years back). WHEW! All this, and more, plus a CD with the audio portion of the same entire show.

Priestess "Hello Master" (RCA) Huge rock-history rock, but not epic enough.

Primordial Undermind "loss of affect" (Strange Attractors Audio House POB 13007 Portland OR 97213-0007) Not only went under my mind, but also inside out of my mind and around in a mindy-swirl and beyond my mind, if you dig me. Heavy...

Prize Country "Lottery of Recognition" (Exigent POB 24 Kaysville UT 84037) Deserves the booby prize. I think they call this hardcore, but they are wrong.

Lou Profa "Nove kreacije" (slusaj najglasnije!) The Croatian Zappa!

Project: Alf DVD (VSC) This made for TV feature film finds lovable puppetronic alien Alf, sans his TV family, at the center of a Roswell/X-Files/I Love Lucy type government conspiracy/heist/coverup. Not the funniest film of all time, but Alf was one of the best actors of the 80s and he's always pretty good for a few guffaws. So confuse your Netflix envelope stuffer and order this one up.

Prong "Power of the Damager" (13th Planet/Megaforce) America gives anyone a second chance, but not third chances. I'm pretty sure this awful band already had a comeback attempt.

The Proton Energy Pills "Rocket to Tarrawanna" (Bang! POB 166 Santurzi 48980 Bizkaia/Basque Country Spain) If you're asking me to be nostalgic for a 90s Australian rock band I never heard of, good luck. But if you play me a CD that sounds like AC/DC's cousins rocking to high heaven with no didgeridoo's in earshot, you bet your gourd I'm on board!

Prurient "pleasureground" (Load POB 35 Providence RI 02901) Tastefully apocalyptic noise carnage.

Psyopus "Our Puzzling Encounters Considered" (Metal Blade) Psucks.

PT & the Dopes "The First + Road to Slatina" (Slusaj) Post-Everything!

The Pubes "Peat Sounds" (Roadhouse Tunes 9102 Edwards Dr. St. Louis MO 63132) Infusing pop punk with menace, danger and scariness, this band is better than your band and this CD (with stellar art by Jerome Gaynor) is a modern masterpiece that will change the face of music. One song challenges Rod Stewart's songwriting ability, and has a twist surprise ending.

Puffy AmiYumi "Hi Hi" (Cherry Red) The British version of the cartoon soundtrack/compilation has all the fun tracks and best-of jazz as the American version plus a couple cute extras, but not worth buying as an import. However, if you are reading this in England, don't buy the Americans import, get this, you'll love it!

Pure Country Gold (Empty POB 12301 Portland OR 97212) Sometimes music is so rollicking good and rocks and swings so dynamically on the fringe of discombobulation that you just have to alternately shout "GODDAMN!" and YEEHAW!

Queen DVD Collector's Box, Under Review 1946-1991: The Freddie Mercury Story DVD (Chrome Dreams) The most curious thing about the two DVD collector box set is that instead of packaging the very good two part *Queen Under Review* DVDs they packaged the excellent *QUR* pt. 1 and a DVD called *Queen: Magic Moments*. Maybe it's not a terrible choice, as the former gives a discography breakdown/rock critic survey of the band from its inception til 1980 (the rockiest years), and the latter shifts gears and just has former friends and associates reminisce. Mind you, they rarely have

anything revealing or particularly interesting to say (Freddie was embarrassed by his teeth, he cranked opera records really loud), but they are a nice alternative to the creepy music reviewer obsessiveness that is the delightful signature of the *Under Review* series. Another release that seems to ignore the prior two *Under Review* DVDs is the Freddie Mercury tribute, which retreads a lot of the same ground, but leaves out any Brian May appreciations. What is best about this are the commentary by Freddie tribute artists, posing in front of their costumes. What is most disappointing is that this DVD does not include their performances (though the footage of fake Freddie teeth insertion is as good as any performance). Oddest moment of this DVD: they recycle footage from a prior *Under Review* release, but for some reason can't find a good copy of it and it looks all messed up, like a dub of a dub of a dub.

Que Suerte commix (Apdo 18280 28080 Madrid) Comix with bite, and that's the tooth!

Racoon "another day" (An Other Label, racoon.nl) 'Coons? When Racoons try to get on our back porch, Momma just chase 'em off with a broom.

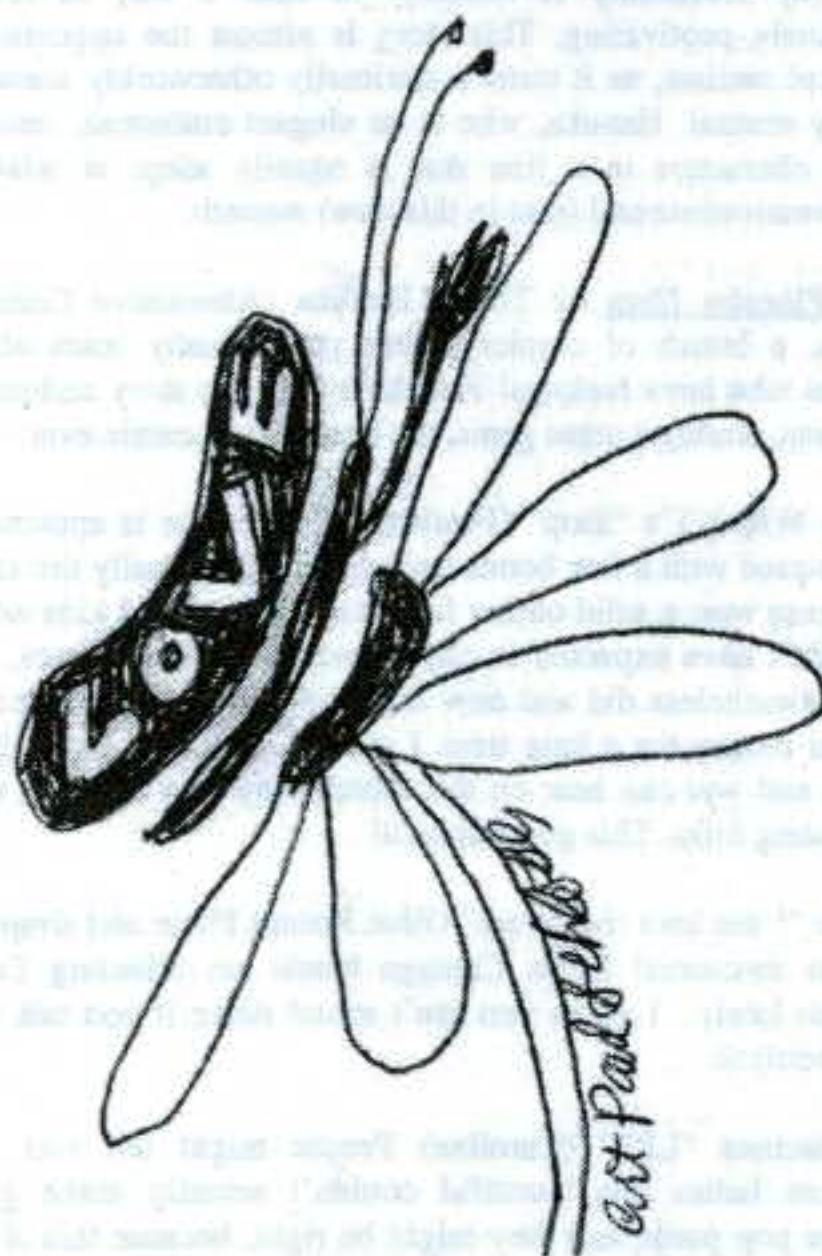
Rafter "Music For Total Chickens (Asthmatic Kitty POB 1282 Lander WY 82520) Can't...review...keep...dozing...off...ZZZZZZZZZ.

Raftree (POB 1431 Union NJ 07083) Righteous Rock like this doesn't grow on trees...unless it's a Raf-tree!

Blake Rainey and his Demons "The Dangerous Summer" (Two Sheds POB 5455 Atlanta GA 31107) Should be called Blake Brainsy, because he is a musical GENIUS! Haunting, simple acoustic songs with fantastic lyrics are a good thing.

Randall of Nazareth (Drag City) There's such a thing as *too* acoustic.

Random Touch "Alchemy" (Roadnoise pob 1683 Crystal Lake IL 60039) These ethereal, weird-ereal, extraterrestrial compositions were obviously made by geniuses for geniuses, so to my dumb ears this is like a dog whistle I can't even hear. Comes with a DVD my dumb eyes can't see.



Rankin' Scroo "Godfada" (Rex/Koch) Reggae/hip hop that's too slow to be dancehall and too fast to be "screwed" (as opposed to scroo-ed). Dread-ful.

Raspberries "Live on Sunset Strip" (Ryko) When I caught this tour I expected to enter a half empty House of Blues as the (what I thought was) bizarrely prohibitive pricing made it clear that only the most dedicated record collector goons would make it out for this odd reunion. My bad. With all the praise and adulation from the horn-rimmed set I forgot that Eric Carmen was hot! As the club bulged with swooning former teenyboppers, as well as the Midwestern pop-addict masses. I realized that this was not just a band cranking out magic in the studio, these dudes really had "it," and if you don't believe me, check out this CD/DVD at the L.A. HoB. I think the Chicago show was better, by the way.

The Ratchets "Glory Bound" (Pirates Press 819 30th Ave. SF, CA 94121) Ratchious!

The Rats "Rats First Long Play Record" (RPM) Throwing a few nuggets of boogie into a 94% pure T-Rex genuflection, this 1974 platter, the sole LP by these rodents, needed to be reissued just to massage the colons of the all the Would-be Bolans. Far from a masterpiece, but genuinely genuine glam is by definition always pretty swell.

Rat Wakes Red "Energy Garage" (Rat Disk 393 West End Ave 15 E NY, NY 10024) I would have gone through virtually every other word in the dictionary and every proper noun in Encyclopedia Britanica before using either "energy" or "garage" to describe this.

Jon Rauhouse's Steel Guitar Attack featuring Tommy Connell (Bloodshot) Steel guitars don't attack, they invite and revel and share! This CD is a steel shell of joy bursting forth with resonating happiness (and some bongos and a vibraphone thrown in here and there). You need this Rau in your house!

Razorcake magazine (POB 42129 LA, CA 90042) What a great gimmick - a magazine with good stuff to read!

Ray's Vast Basement "Starvation Under Orange Trees" (Howell's Transmitter 2839 24th St/ SF, CA 94110) If challenging, enchanting art-folk-jazz Steinbeck-themed mood music was a genre, these would be the Beatles of said genre.

Rebel Pride "Backin' It Up," "It Is What It Is" (POB 1226 Largo FL 33779) Exactly what you would expect from the band name - Dixie-fried Southern Rock that borders on parody but is too earnest to not dig.

Rebuilding the Rights of Statues "Cut Off!" (Tag Team 115 North Kenmore Ave suite 3 LA CA 90004) Confusingly good. Or not good, I'm confused.

Recent Photo "The Monster Within" (recentphotomusic.com) Recently declared GENIUSES!

Red Eye, Black Eye by K. Thor Jensen (Alternative Comics) K. Thor is one of our favorites around here and in his first graphic novel he boldly allows us to dislike him a little. This travelogue has Jensen, in the wake of getting fired, dumped, evicted, and jarred by the September 11th attacks, becoming an Internet-driven Kerouac, taking a literary hobo route around the country, crashing with semi-strangers he's contacted via e-mail. As he couch surfs and drinks and chills and calls his mom he reveals himself to possess the kind of arrogance and sense of entitlement that make him far less than fully sympathetic. However, his expressive, spare, inky linework, his ability to listen (as he travels he gathers stories from his hosts that he presents as vignettes), and his ultimate disappointments (he felt he was entitled to the enlightenment and epiphanies other On The Road writers seem to enjoy and gets bummed when he realizes they ain't coming) add up to make this a brisk, compelling, satisfying read. And it's compact enough to bring on your own hobo journey!

Red Pony Clock "God Made Dirt" (HHBTM) Sorta sour sounding.

RED RED RED "Mind Destroyer" (Big Neck POB 8144 Reston VA 20165) My ears BLED BLED BLED. Best record I've heard in a long stretch.

Casey Reid "Cephalclog" (bigmuddyrecords.org) The beauty of the swamp sonically revealed!

Kurt Reifler (Red Glare Records) Should be called Kurt Rockfler, because he *rocks!*

Rennick "611-07-0681" (myspace.com/rennickmusic) Not the catchiest album title, but a pretty damn seductive album. Especially if smooth semi-goth vampire makeout music turns you on!

The Resonars "Nonetheless blue" (Get Hip) Should be called the Resorectors cause this pflowery psyche guitar gem made me wanna buy all their rec(t)or(d)s!

Retconned "Unhappenings" (Stickfigure POB 55462 Atlanta GA 30308) Stripped down synth punk that is either the stupidest or brilliantest musical endeavor of the 21st Century.

Reverend Beat-Man "Surreal Folk Blues Gospel Trash Vol. 1" (Voodoo Rhythm) This masked slice of bluespunk Swiss cheeze is so holey he should be elevated to Pope Beat-Man!

The Revisions "Revised Observation" (Dirtnap) To sound as tough and good as the Clash on an acoustic guitar you have to strum the fuck out of it! And to sound badass with a voice that quite frankly sounds kinda Haircut 100-ish is even more impressive!