

the Briefs leaning more Sum 41 than the Damned. And it doesn't take a computer to figure out these guys won't need the label promo budget to pay for their new/vintage T-shirts anymore. >>>ED

RED SPAROWES



Every Red Heart Shines Through The Red Sun Neurot

Members of Neurosis and Isis return with their second kaleidoscopic explosion of psychedelic instrumental metal. The best part is that you can't really play the blame game—like, "Cult Of Luna totally ripped off Neurosis and Opeth"—because they're already a fine-tuned, musical killing machine. Also, this confirms that only bands that are named after birds (hey there, Pelican) can play smart instrumental. >>>KG

PETE ROCK



Underground Classics Rapster

From the moment the first beat starts bangin', *Underground Classics* puts any doubts about the bravado of its title to rest. The crazy thing is, most of the material here is from latter-day

Rock joints, some of which weren't even released stateside, and featured rappers like The UN as opposed to Nas, Run D.M.C. or some of the larger artists Rock produced. And now that MCs like Ghostface have brought respect back to the harder-hitting style of East Coast hip-hop, Rock's creative cannon rings through as not just groundbreaking for its time, but still slightly ahead of it. >>>KH

DANI SICILIANO



Slappers !K7

It is a rare musician (and, sadly, an even rarer female musician) that makes two great albums in one year, but Dani Siciliano has quickly followed up her rich pop performance on Herbert's *Scale* with her own slinky sophomore effort. Siciliano has a jazz chanteuse's sense of cadence and diction, and her voice, which morphs effortlessly from tough and bluesy to sultry and airy, sounds equally natural on dance tracks as it does blowing through the electronica honky tonk of "Why Can't I Make You High?" With that kind of vocal malleability, it's no wonder she's busy! >>>RR

SLUMBER PARTY



Musik Kill Rock Stars

Their minimalist pop's already about as laid back as it gets, but a newfound fondness for psych drones gives Aliccia Berg and crew's fourth album a soothing haze. So call in sick to work, pack a picnic lunch, lie in the park and listen on repeat all day.

>>>MATTHEW FIELD

low-rent pop styles, be they quirky pop, teary-eyed ballads, hyper-tense college jangle or windswept instrumentals. A slight album at best, its charms are hard to locate amidst the casual vibe. Fans of K Records acts like Lois will find something to enjoy here; the rest will most likely let this one go. >>>DOUG MOSUROCK

SNAKES & MUSIC



Isabelle Universal Warning

A surprisingly potent record full of infectious indie-pop that's catchy in a late-'90s Superchunk sort of way. Unfortunately, it can also drag along like late-'90s Superchunk. But feel good rockers like the opening title track and "Sinking Ships" have a no-strings-attached bliss factor that's hard to totally ignore. >>>KH

WOVEN HAND



Mosaic Sounds Familyre

On his third solo album, former 16 Horsepower frontman David Eugene Edwards mixes Eastern melodies, passages of dark unintelligible speech and refrains of "Alleluia" in an enormous, hollow (in sound and emotion), folk-inflected tone-poem. Edwards draws his often over-wrought religious imagery and themes from a more hell-conscious mindset than his optimistic Christian-indie brethren (Danielson, Sufjan Stevens) and comes across like a soul-shaking preacher in the wilderness. This is nihilistic music for fervent believers. >>>KR

SOCCER TEAM



"Volunteered" Civility & Professionalism

Dischord DC duo Soccer Team follows a tried-and-true indie formula: bedroom navigation through a number of lo-fi,

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