

# hard

Yeah right, so it's six months later and the second one of these things finally gets written, but life's like that, especially round here. Anyway, there's a ton of stuff to do, so here goes. *Sailing The Sea of Cheese* (Interscope) is the record where PRIMUS get to do the almost major label thing, and they also get a little more serious. Mr Claypool's lyrics are getting more and more incisive, there's plenty of the full scale musical pyrotechnics we've come to expect from these guys and there's a studio version of 'Tommy The Cat' featuring Tom Waits as Tommy to boot. Definitely worth a listen. Unfortunately the same can't be said for MUDHONEY's *Every Good Boy Deserves Fudge* (Sub-Pop) which is downright disappointing. Recorded on eight-track, it sounds like the debut album of a Mudhoney rip-off band. None of the dynamics or power that made them so damn awesome live. The best track is 'Thorn' which has been kicking around on single for a long while. Bit of a bummer really, but apparently they're still one hot tamale live.

Probably the month's only real hardcore record, *Strap It On* (Amphetamine Reptile) from NYC's HELMET. Much like fellow New Yorkers PRONG, these guys kick butt so hard your whole family will hurt. Incredibly heavy Sabbath style rifferama with a very harsh and upset sounding vocalist make this a very damaging record, and an absolutely essential one. I'm sure they're all real nice guys, but boy, they seem pissed about a few things and this record is like therapy. Last up are a couple of absolute gems from Dischord, who can pretty much do no wrong. JAWBOX's *Grippe* is wonderful, they're a very powerful three piece and at times pretty raw both emotively and musically, although there's definite hints of the melodic D.C. sound lurking. It's unashamedly upfront and intense, simple hard guitars and a lot of passion—the power trio still reigns supreme. **KIRK GEE**

## BIG DRILL CAR

**Batch**  
(Cruz/Jayrem)  
**CHEMICAL PEOPLE**  
**Angels'N'Devils**  
(Cruz/Jayrem)  
**DESCENDENTS**  
**Somery**  
(SST/Jayrem)  
**TONYALL**  
**New Girl, Old Story**  
(Cruz/Jayrem)

PowerPopPunk. There, I've invented one of those generic terms so beloved of British Rock magazines, and it's a good one for describing this particular clutch of Californian artistes. These guys all mix melody and catchiness with a touch of anger and downright speed. First up are youngsters Big Drill Car, whose 'Take Away' is the archetypal PowerPopPop song. It's all speed and hooklines and energy and makes you want to jump around wildly, pure pop at its loudest and best. The rest of *Batch* is also pretty lively, but that one track pretty much leaves everything else in shadow. Labelmates Chemical People are pretty much shadowed too. They seem nice enough boys with a serious interest in pornography and they have the



Descendents

Hernandez Bros do their album covers, but there's not really a lot else happening here. *Angels'N'Devils* is a six-tracker leaning more towards the rockier side of things without being a standout in any way, except for a dumb rap song that's quite annoying.

Things get a little complex now, as we try to vaguely track the Descendents/All saga. The Descendents are pretty much the Grandfathers of this 'sound', existing from '81 til '87, they pretty much articulated life for all the suburban punk misfits through heartfelt tomes like 'I Don't Want To Grow Up'. They were thrashing furiously one minute, then they would produce a brilliantly melodic paean of teen angst the next. *Somery* is a double album collection from throughout the Descendents career, and it covers things nicely. Maybe I'm as big a geek as the Descendents, but this is noisy, fun and certainly beats listening to the radio, so it'll do me fine. Post '87, the Descendents changed their name to All and just kept doing what they do best, only with a different vocalist. TonyAll seems to be an album featuring the bassist singing his songs with the band along for the ride and frankly it's quite awful. There's a couple of magic moments like 'Guitar Case', but most of this sounds like the guys who failed the auditions to be in the Monkees or the Knack, really soft and lame with truly horrible vocals. Don't let this put you off All's recordings though, as most everything else I've heard has been fine, and I saw these guys transform a pit of a San Fran club into a maelstrom of arms, legs and bodies flying everywhere through sheer energy, enthusiasm and some damn fine songs, which is after all, exactly what PowerPopPunk is about. **KIRK GEE**

## SCREAMING TREES

**Anthology**  
(SST/Jayrem)

The Screaming Trees have pretty much followed the alternative path to success. A bunch of albums and solo things on very hip indie labels, (SST and Sub Pop) then the big deal with a major and a critically acclaimed album, *Uncle Anesthesia*. With this sort of success, it's natural the back catalogue is raided, and thus SST have culled 21 tracks off their four releases from the '85 to '89 period. This stuff bears little resemblance to the gloom rock the Screaming Trees seem to specialise in

focusing largely on his pre-1967 recordings. There are unreleased acoustic versions of classics and stereo versions in the set.

Warners will release a 4-CD **Jimi Hendrix** live box set called *Stages*. It will feature an entire concert from each of the years from 1967 to 1970, highlighting the evolution of his guitar performance.

Virgin will reissue classic R&B performances from the Modern label. First up are **Johnny Guitar Watson** 3 *Hours Past Midnight* and **Etta James** *R&B Dynamite*.

MCA are releasing a 3-CD **Lynyrd Skynyrd** box set, *The Collection*. The 47 song set features 15 rarities including an early version of 'Free Bird', demos and an acoustic version of 'All I Can Do Is Write About It'.

Warners are issuing a 4-CD **Crosby Stills & Nash** boxed set—78 tracks from CSN, CSN&Y, Manassas and Crosby, Nash and Stills individually. There are 27 previously unreleased demos, alternate mixes, unreleased compositions etc plus a 34 page book.

Polygram have reissued an mid-price CD **Dusty Springfield** *The Ultimate Collection*, **Bunny Wailer** *Protest* and **Parliament** *Live: P-Funk Earth Tour*.



Big Drill Car

now, it's all intensely 70s sounding. Mark Lanegan's voice is a lot rawer

and the band a lot messier, at times they seem like a Southern backwoods

version of Them, at others like the Long Riders punkin' out. This one will be a hit at all those alternative parties before the Mogadon kicks in. **KIRK GEE**

## IGNORANCE

**The Confident Rat**  
(Metal Blade)

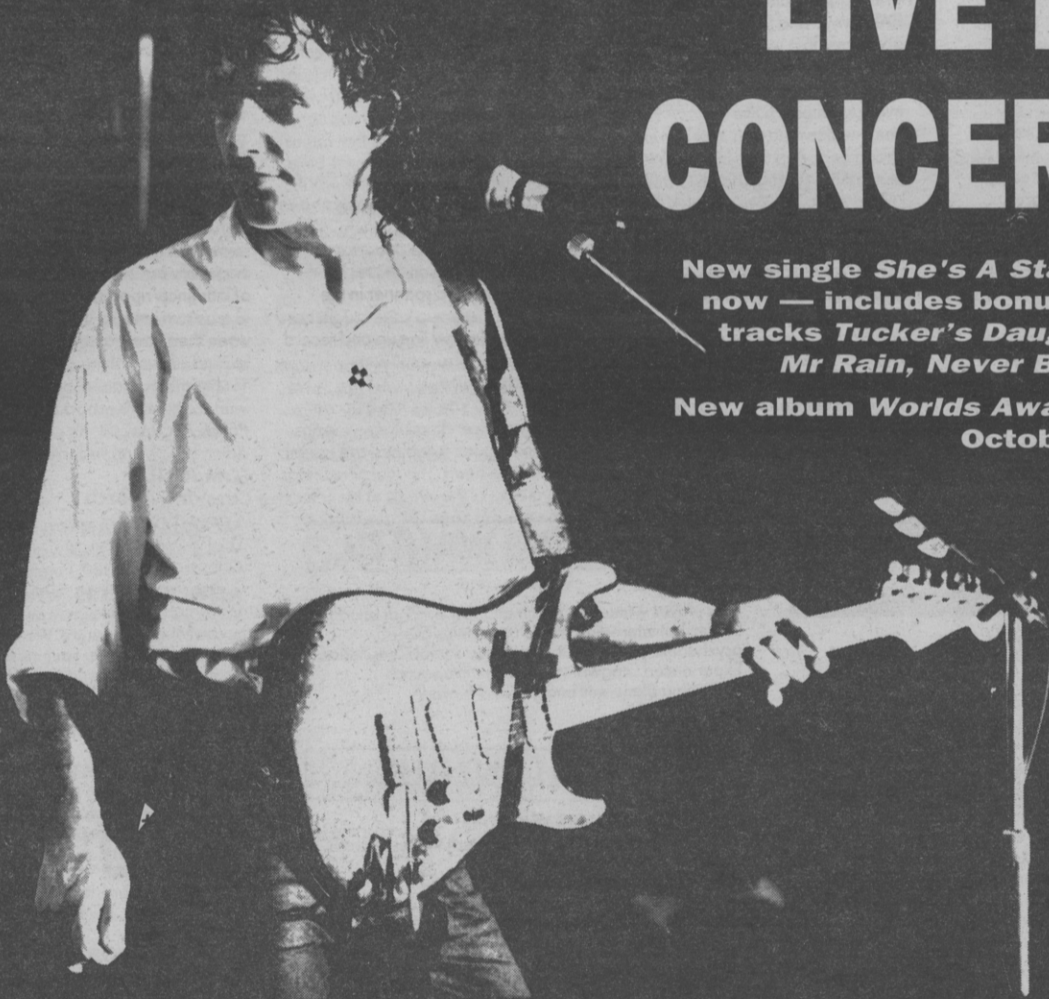
Thrash huh? It's a wild and crazy genre, you can tell by the way these guys are rolling all over each other and wearing shorts, hightops and colourful shirts even though they're all over 16 and when you actually put the thing on it's about as wacky as the cover. Don't get me wrong, it's all very well played and everything, and I'm sure it will sate the diehard fans of this sort of thing, but it's just sort of nowhere-ville. The lads just chug along

and the excitement is meant to come from some predictable funk basslines (enough already, I need more funky metal like I need rabies) and a couple of sincere, serious bits like 'Why' which make me think of fuckin' Yes or something equally scary. Why do so many metal bands sound way 70's now? I'm sorry, but Anthrax are just Styx or Journey or something of that ilk sped up, and even our own Ultimate are so much like Iron Maiden I expect that puppet thing to appear. Maybe I'm getting old, but I think I'll stick to Slayer thank you, and leave this for the young uns. I never did have the legs for shorts anyway. **KIRK GEE**

## THE GLUEPOT PRESENTS

# IAN MOSS

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New album *Worlds Away* out October 28

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| Tue Nov 12   | AUCKLAND • THE GLUEPOT               |
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| Thurs Nov 14 | HAMILTON • THE CLUB                  |
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TICKETS ON SALE AT USUAL OUTLETS



# CDs

Atlantic have released their 3-CD **Ray Charles** boxed set *The Birth of Soul* with 53 tracks of his R&B recordings such as 'I Got A Woman' and 'What'd I Say'.

Expect a **King Crimson** 4-CD box set of remastered studio material and a disc of live recordings between 1969 and 1984.

The **Beatles** label **Apple** will release several CDs via Capitol / EMI of other artists on the Apple label. Scheduled are **Billy Preston** *That's the Way God Planned It*, **Mary Hopkins** *Postcard*, **Badfinger** *Magic Christian Music*, **Jackie Lomax** *Is This What You Want* and **James Taylor** *James Taylor*.

Columbia will release a 2-CD set *The Ballad of Mott*, a **Mott the Hoople** retrospective.

Columbia USA have withdrawn the now collective recent reissue of **Sly & the Family Stone**'s 1973 *Fresh* as it accidentally contained different versions or mixes of every track on the album.

MCA have reissued **Howlin' Wolf** *The Chess Box*, a 71 track 3-CD package

who's

# Gotcha

soul?