

# Defining Living Color • Consistently Sting • Belly Explores Its Feminine Side • Doubts About Jesus Jones • Zevon Howls

## U. COLLEGE RADIO CHART

1. **Pavement**, *Watery, domestic* (Matador)
2. **Freedom of Choice**, *Various Artists* (Caroline)
3. **King Missile**, *Happy Hour* (Atlantic)
4. **7-Year Bitch**, *Sick'em (C/Z)*
5. **Ween**, *Pure Guava* (Elektra)
6. **Grenadine**, *Goya* (Shimmy Disc)
7. **Jawbreaker**, *Bivouac* (Tupelo)
8. **Nirvana**, *Incesticide* (Geffen)
9. **Vanilla Train Wreck**, *Sounding to Try Like You* (Mammoth)
10. **Sebadoh**, *Smash Your Head on the Punk Rocks* (SubPOP)



Chart solely based on college radio airplay. Contributing radio stations: KASR, Arizona State U.; KEDG, California State U., Sacramento; KALX, U. of California, Berkeley; KLA, U. of California, Los Angeles; KUCB, U. of Colorado; WXDR, U. of Delaware; WXDU, Drexel U.; WUOG, U. of Georgia; WIUS, Indiana U.; WXJM, James Madison U.; WRFL, U. of Kentucky; WVUM, U. of Miami; WCBM, U. of Michigan; KCOU, U. of Missouri; WNYU, New York U.; WXYC, U. of North Carolina; KTRU, Rice U.; WIDB, Southern Illinois U.; KTSB, U. of Texas; WTUL, Tulane U.; WAKE, Wake Forest U.; KCMU, U. of Washington

## Sting

### Ten Summoner's Tales (A&M)

★★★★

It was definitely worth the wait. Sting comes back after a two-year respite with a fresh collection of music called *Ten Summoner's Tales*, a 10-track storybook of jazz-infused tunes.

The new release picks up where *The Soul Cages* left off with a soothing, eclectic muster of his signature jazz/pop style. On songs like, "If I Ever Lose My Faith in You" and "Shape of My Heart," Sting's smooth-as-silk vocals drift over some of his best work in years. Backed by an all-star band, it's hard to find a flaw in this album.

The real gem in this album is a re-release of "It's Probably Me," a song first delivered on the *Lethal Weapon 3* soundtrack. It's the coolest and bluesiest of all the tunes, illuminated by the guitar work of Eric Clapton.

If there is one word to describe Sting's work, it has to be consistent. He hasn't sold out his style or his fans, marking his maturity since his rebellious days with The Police. Passionate vocals, poetic lyrics, a cool, jazzy feel and the sweetest rhythm sections around — these are the ingredients for a great album, and apparently Sting's found the recipe: ■



Chris Cook, *The Norwich Guidon*, Norwich U.

## Belly

### Star (Sire/Reprise)

★★★

After sitting, and singing, in the back seat of two bands (Throwing Muses, Breeders), Tanya Donnelly has formed a vehicle for her burgeoning songwriting output — Belly. On Belly's debut, *Star*, Donnelly commandeers a jaunty, other-worldly pop outfit through the often troubled waters of female existence.

Donnelly's dichotomy of the creative and the destructive pops up in the lyrics, although the latter seems to dominate. Her honey-sweet voice sings of decapitated dolls, burning skin and suicide attempts. One song, "Slow Dog," is based on the ancient Chinese custom of tying a dead dog onto the back of an adulterous woman until it decomposes. "Dusted" deals with "a heroin addict rape victim basically."

Intriguing lyrical themes indeed, but the music sometimes falls short. The four songs produced by Gil Norton (Pixies, Pere Ubu) are the strongest; peppy drums and giddy guitar stylings create contrast with Donnelly's disturbing lyrics. Some of the slower songs, though, prove to be laborious and uninviting.



Those already familiar with Donnelly from her other bands will appreciate *Star*, while the uninitiated may find it uneven and disjointed. Buy accordingly. ■ Don Leibold, *The UWM Post*, U. of Wisconsin, Milwaukee

## Jesus Jones

### Perverse (EMI)

★

The latest Jesus Jones release, *Perverse*, is an apt name for a band that plays primarily with computers in lieu of actual instruments. The band gained attention in 1991 with its power hit single and video, "Right Here, Right Now." That album, *Doubt*, gave the band a couple of Grammy nominations and, most likely, the only hit it'll ever have.

*Perverse* is an attempt to ride the wave of techno-popularity invading college campuses across the nation. Techno seems to be some bizarre ex-hippie conspiracy to get Greeks to take acid and dance all night. Presumably a little blotter makes the music sound better because without it, the album becomes extremely annoying. A more appropriate classification would be hard-edge disco.

The band has tried to derive a formula from "Right Here, Right Now" and repeat it continually throughout its new release. The album takes you on a computer loop to hell as the politically correct lyrics of Mike Edwards are whispered through a cheesy pose. The bubble-gum politics are not an attempt at making global concerns palatable to the youth but an attempt at simply fluffy and contrived marketing.

Fans of techno will appreciate the shortened single versions of the dance excursions. If you can't afford to go to a club, you can turn up the music and have some friends blow smoke in your face, flick the lights on and off and wave a *Playboy* or *Playgirl* in front of your eyes as your pupils expand. For everyone else, *Perverse* offers only the jagged feeling of next-day reality. ■ Joe Traina, *Florida Flambeau*, Florida State U.



# in B S I C

## in the studio

Ahh-ouu! **Warren Zevon** is howling again. Zevon, responsible for more than two decades of music and the ever-classic singles "Werewolves of London" and "Excitable Boy," is working on an album to be released in April.



Zevon: Still exciting.

After a brief detox from Jane's Addiction, Perry Farrell's back with his new band, **Porno for Pyros**, and a debut album slated for release in April. As those who caught Porno's rare gigs at Lollapalooza last summer can attest, look for a more tribalized reincarnation of the Jane's sound.

After six years, chameleon actor/rocker **David Bowie** is changing back to the color of music and working on a solo project due out at the end of April. *Black Tie, White Noise*, produced by Nile Rodgers, is backed by Al B. Sure! and Mick Ronson, along with some other insightful musicians — including Bowie doing his Clinton impersonation on sax.

Following the *Dry* album, **PJ Harvey** mixes it up again in a London studio. Her latest shock 'n' rock thriller is due in stores late spring.

While hiding out in an L.A. studio, punk rocker **Billy Idol** hopes to wrap up his new release by early spring or summer, but as far as details about the sound, "mum's the word" from EMI. Once a punk, always a punk? Not necessarily. ■ Jill O'Brien, *Daily Nebraskan*, U. of Nebraska

## on the road

A brief look at March concert listings

**Elvis Costello and the Brodsky Quartet**: Los Angeles, CA, 3/14; San Francisco, CA, 3/15; Los Angeles, CA, 3/16; Boston, MA, 3/17; New York, NY, 3/18

**Gin Blossoms**: New Orleans, LA, 3/1; Birmingham, AL, 3/2; Tuscaloosa, AL, 3/3; Ft. Lauderdale, FL, 3/5; Tallahassee, FL, 3/6; Tampa, FL, 3/7; Orlando, FL, 3/9; Athens, GA, 3/10; Atlanta, GA, 3/11; Raleigh, NC, 3/12; Chapel Hill, NC, 3/13

**King Missile**: Jacksonville, FL, 3/6; Atlanta, GA, 3/7; Charleston, SC, 3/8; Wilmington, NC, 3/10; Raleigh, NC, 3/11; Charlotte, NC, 3/12; Virginia Beach, VA, 3/13; Richmond, VA, 3/14; Washington, DC, 3/15; Asbury Park, NJ, 3/18; Philadelphia, PA, 3/19; New York, NY, 3/20; Long Island, NY, 3/21

**Phish**: Los Angeles, CA, 3/18; Sacramento, CA, 3/22; Santa Rosa, CA, 3/24; Santa Cruz, CA, 3/25

## quotable

"It's not any kind of primal scream therapy — it's just so people can tap their damn foot."

—Frank Black (formerly Black Francis of The Pixies) on rock 'n' roll