

Frank Black on His Own • Perry Farrell Fires Up New Band JudyBats Earn Wings • Soundgarden – Don't Call it Grunge

in 3 5 1 9

U. COLLEGE RADIO CHART

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|---|---|--|
| 1. Belly , <i>Star</i> (Sire/Reprise) |  | 6. Ween , <i>Pure Guava</i> (Elektra) |
| 2. Dinosaur Jr. ,
<i>Where You Been?</i> (Sire) | | 7. The Jesus Lizard/Nirvana ,
<i>Untitled</i> (Touch and Go) |
| 3. Superchunk ,
<i>On The Mouth</i> (Matador) | | 8. Bottle Service , <i>Palomine</i>
(Matador) |
| 4. Digable Planets , <i>machin'</i> (Elektra) | | 9. Shonen Knife , <i>Let's Knife</i> (Virgin) |
| 5. Pavement , <i>Watery, domestic</i> (Elektra) | | 10. King Missile , <i>Happy Hour</i> (Atlantic) |

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; KUGB, U. of Colorado; WXDR, U. of Delaware; WXDU, Drexel U.; WUOC, U. of Georgia; WIUS, Indiana U.; WJMJ, James Madison U.; WRFL, U. of Kentucky; WYUM, U. of Miami; WCBM, U. of Michigan; KCOU, U. of Missouri; WNYU, New York U.; WXYC, U. of North Carolina; KTRU, Rice U.; WIDR, Southern Illinois U.; KTSB, U. of Texas; WTUL, Tulane U.; WAKE, Wake Forest U.; KCMU, U. of Washington

World Party *Bang!* (EMI)

★★★★

Donovan, the troubadour of flower power, hasn't made a record since 1976... or has he? Let's start the rumor now: World Party's Karl Wallinger is Donovan, an alter-ego fronting for the hopeful, shy songwriter from the '60s. OK, it's a stretch, but listening to the latest World Party, *Bang!*, you, too, may believe and be healed.



In Wallinger's world, there's nothing funny about peace, love and understanding. His grandiose vision led him away from the Waterboys eight years ago, (one grandiose vision a band, please) and he crowned himself arbiter of '60s idealism, '70s conceit, '80s new age and '90s ecology. Fortunately the records are not as silly as that sounds.

He's getting cynical as he grows old, pointing out in "Give It All Away," "Kings, queens and presidents/younger than the Stones" and wondering throughout the record how we've come to this.

Wallinger's music is an alloy—stronger and more stain-resistant than its component parts. *Bang!* heralds influences from Dylan to Stevie Wonder to Hayden to the recent Manchester shuffle, but, like previous efforts,

Wallinger still shifts gears between songs as if he just bought a standard transmission. Buckle up for safety. ■ **Thomas Conner**, *Oklahoma Daily*, U. of Oklahoma

Porno for Pyros *Porno for Pyros* (Warner)

★★★

Perry Farrell has a tough act to follow—himself. With Jane's Addiction, Farrell was one of the main purveyors of "alternative rock" before the term became corporate rhetoric. The band was not only unashamedly erotic and controversial, but also had in Farrell a lead singer with the savvy to bring the band's fringe sensibilities into the mainstream.

With Porno For Pyros, his new band, Farrell has some similar aspirations. On its self-titled debut, PFP alternates between songs about post-riot Los Angeles and mildly explicit sexual situations. PFP, however, lacks the bravado Jane's had.

In Jane's Addiction, Farrell's proud sexuality had a kind of legitimacy against the huge, unharnessed backdrop of the band. This time around, the band has less talent and Farrell's controversy seems tired and moronic.

On "Cursed Male" Farrell waxes non-poetic about old men not being able to drive fast cars, while during "Orgasm" he ego trips about giving a woman her first. The resulting

album seems hurried and unpolished; the band just is not ready to live up to the hype Farrell cultivated during last summer's Lollapalooza tour.

This is not to say PFP is devoid of reward. Both songs about the Los Angeles riots, the self-titled "Porno for Pyros" and "Black Girlfriend" are powerful in their frankness.

Ultimately, though, the problem with *Porno For Pyros* is its laziness. This material would have been better served with a tighter band, a lyric rewrite (Farrell's vagueness is his downfall) and more careful production. Interested uninitiates should search out Jane's Addiction albums in front of this inconsistent offering. ■ **John Colpitts**, *Middlebury Campus*, Middlebury College

The JudyBats *Pain Makes You Beautiful* (Sire)

★★★★

From the dream-tinged wistfulness of "All Day Afternoon," the opening cut on The JudyBats latest album, it is obvious the Knoxville, Tenn., group has earned its wings. After two inconsistent offerings, The JudyBats have returned with a polished, more mature style.

Their new release, *Pain Makes You Beautiful*, features melodic songs, layered guitars and lyrics that are poetic, but unpredictable. The band's first single from the album, "Being Simple," is just that, a clean, acoustic ballad with delicate electric lead drifting through the background. And tracks like "Ugly on the Outside" combine rich harmonic textures with jangly guitar for a collection you can't refuse.



The album's 12 cuts are simply of the smile-producing genre, and even songs with biting lyrics are done in a gentle way. Grunge this is not.

Pain Makes You Beautiful is not a groundbreaking album. But it's not the latest alternative gimmick either. It's simply honest music. ■ **Deborah Malarek**, *Montana Kaimin*, U. of Montana

in the studio

The **Melvins** are carrying on the punk-metal torch with their first album for Atlantic. This is the group to which Nirvana's Kurt Cobain owes his sound. To repay the debt, Cobain has stepped into the group's production chair. Should be a wild marriage.



Don't call them grunge

Sound—"please don't call us grunge"—**garden** will send listeners straight for the closest pit with its upcoming work. Word has it that the group will team with producer extraordinaire Rick Rubin. Expect to hear something noisy in July.

The funky folk rap of **Arrested Development** touts a back-to-basics sound March 23. The *Unplugged* album, which stems from the group's MTV special, coincides with a home video. AD hopes to bring its next offering to listeners next fall.

Heretics of rock, **Faith No More**, are releasing a five-song EP this spring. This jewel includes covers of the

Commodore's "Easy" and The Dead Kennedy's "Let's Lynch The Land Lord."

Those peppy little Brits, **Teenage Fan Club**, are popping out some even peppier tunes. The Club's follow-up is due to hit the racks in June. The album was recorded in the group's studio in Glasgow, Scotland. Although TFC had enough material for two albums, the group chose not to try the G'N'R double whammy. ■ **Christina Pirozzi**, *Foghorn*, U. of San Francisco

on the road

A brief look at March/April concert listings

Belly: Hoboken, NJ, 3/28; Woodstock, NY, 3/29; Boston, MA, 3/31; Toronto, ON, 4/1; Detroit, MI, 4/2; Chicago, IL, 4/3; Minneapolis, MN, 4/4; Seattle, WA, 4/10; Portland, OR, 4/11; San Francisco, CA, 4/13; Hollywood, CA, 4/15; Los Angeles, CA, 4/16; Austin, TX, 4/23; Houston, TX, 4/24
Dinosaur Jr.: Chapel Hill, NC, 3/28; Atlanta, GA, 3/29; Philadelphia, PA, 4/1; New York, NY, 4/2; Buffalo, NY, 4/5; Detroit, MI, 4/7; Columbus, OH, 4/9; Chicago, IL, 4/10; Minneapolis, MN, 4/11; St. Louis, MO, 4/13; Lawrence, KS, 4/14; Austin, TX, 4/16
The JudyBats: Dallas, TX, 3/30; Phoenix, AZ, 4/3; Los Angeles, CA, 4/6; San Francisco, CA, 4/7; Santa Clara, CA, 4/8; Sacramento, CA, 4/9; Berkeley, CA, 4/10; Portland, OR, 4/12; Seattle, WA, 4/13
Rage Against the Machine: Chicago, IL, 4/3; Minneapolis, MN, 4/5; Denver, CO, 4/7; Salt Lake City, UT, 4/8; Portland, OR, 4/10; Seattle, WA, 4/12; San Francisco, CA, 4/14; Santa Monica, CA, 4/16

quotable

"There was a lot of screaming and tattoos. I was the only one who sang on key."

—Jeff Heiskell, of The JudyBats, on the U. of Tennessee music scene