

A Fresh Depeche • Cut the Knife • You Gotta Try Lulabox Good Music Goes Way of Dinosaur Jr. • Chris Isaak Croons

in the studio

U. COLLEGE RADIO CHART

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|---|---|
| 1. Belly , <i>Star</i> (Sire/Reprise) | 6. Frank Black , <i>Frank Black</i> (Elektra) |
| 2. Dinosaur Jr. ,
<i>Where You Been?</i> (Sire) | 7. Shonen Knife , <i>Let's Knife</i> (Virgin) |
| 3. Superchunk ,
<i>On The Mouth</i> (Matador) | 8. Fastbacks ,
<i>Out of the Charts</i> (Popluma) |
| 4. Digable Planets , <i>reachin'</i> (Elektra) | 9. Bottle Service , <i>Palomine</i> (Matador) |
| 5. Tree People , <i>Just Kidding</i> (C/Z) | 10. Poster Children ,
<i>Tool of the Man</i> (Sire/Reprise) |

Chart solely based on college radio airplay. Contributing radio stations: KASR, Arizona State U.; KEED, California State U., Sacramento; KALX, U. of California, Berkeley; KLA, U. of California, Los Angeles; KUCB, U. of Colorado; WXDR, U. of Delaware; WXDR, Drexel U.; WUOG, U. of Georgia; WUIS, 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.; WXYU, 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

nality of Lush, the dreamy abstractness of Cocteau Twins and maybe tiny twinges of the Sundays with similar note-bending yet deeper, less endearing vocals.

The band's like a child having fun. Lulabox plays peek-a-boo with feelings and situations but refuses to face realities head-on.

A seesaw of moodiness, this disc is maximized on randomly selected play. ■ **Lisa Marie Rovito**, *The Post*, Ohio U.

Shonen Knife *Let's Knife* (Virgin)

★

If the Ramones were reincarnated as three Asian women and lyrically influenced by the Go-Go's, the repercussion would be Shonen Knife, the threesome from Japan.

The band's debut album, *Let's Knife*, features the female trio slamming on guitar, bass and drums, producing coarse guitar chords and hard-core drum beats with playful singing that, at first, is quite funny. The insufferably catchy pop songs bounce from the speakers, lulling you into a sort of Smurfs-meet-the-Sex Pistols trance.



But then Shonen Knife starts to lose its edge. Four songs into the album, the novelty of the group wears thin.

Each song begins to sound exactly alike, a recurring downfall for so many bands on their first major label. Shonen Knife quickly cuts into the nerves.

No, Shonen Knife is not original. But more important, it doesn't work. The band mirrors the Ramones throughout the album, even though the lyrics are its own. The trio croons about those heavy, real-life issues: flying jellybeans, riding a rocket, black fish and the best pot cleaner in the world.

Shonen Knife's jovial, loud music is anything but dull. But *Let's Knife* becomes so annoying that this utensil should be kept in the drawer. ■ **Andrew Johnson**, *the Lantern*, The Ohio State U.

Dinosaur Jr. *Where You Been?* (Sire)

★★★★

Once again Dinosaur Jr. has proven the only thing that remains static about this band is its ability to make good music. With their fifth LP, *Where You Been?*, J. Mascis with Mike Johnson and Murph continue what they started back in the Massachusetts club scene during the mid-'80s.



They have helped to pioneer a power-pop style with stunning guitar work, personal lyrics and a straight-forward edge, a style they share with bands like Husker Dü, Sonic Youth and The Replacements.

Where You Been? delivers 10 songs with no filler and is one of the more solid albums out in record stores. Both the LP and the first single, "Start Choppin'", are hovering in the top five of the college charts — a fitting tribute to Dinosaur Jr., which helped define the sound we call alternative.

In fact, without bands like Dinosaur Jr., the Seattle grunge sound still would be relegated to obscure 7-inch singles.

This album is worth far more than its weight in alcohol, so don't hesitate to part with next weekend's beer money for this

one. In fact, for any fan of honest, powerful and fun music with good guitar work and intelligent lyrics, this album is worth giving up part of your tuition fees. ■ **Steve Cordova**, *Daily Bruin*, U. of California, Los Angeles

Lulabox *Lulabox* (Shock ink)

★★★

Mom always said, "Don't be afraid to try new things," and that advice holds here. Better than lima beans, though, it's Lulabox. Nothing to fear here but mood swings of music and childlike daydreams of indecisive rhythm.

This self-titled debut album is a follow-up to the British/American trio's first EP released in October. *Full Bleed* featured the driving but whining sounds of "Ride On" and the uncertainty of "Ivory Hill."

Vocalist Mary Cassidy lassos a note around itself then drops it to pick another. But in so doing, the lyrics often are drowned and lost to those who enjoy a sing-along. She's at her best on the lighter songs "Giving It Away" and "Ava."

This band is a unique amalgam of various sounds. Lulabox has the guitar origi-



in the studio

Brooding crooner **Chris Isaak** will confront the challenge of following up the huge success of "Wicked Game" (and its soft-porn video companion) with the new album *San Francisco Days*, scheduled for release this spring. It features a lighter, more upbeat sound. Watch for a tour this summer.



Brooder Chris Isaak

Fans of **The Replacements** have ample reason to dance in the streets nowadays. The band's demise has spawned a solo project by drummer Chris Mars and a new band with bassist Tommy Stinson. The real musical treat, however, promises to be the June release of *14 Songs*, the long-anticipated solo debut by pop genius **Paul Westerberg**. Can the teacher keep up with his pupils? We'll see.

Former Blake Babies lead singer **Julianna Hatfield** is finishing up work on the follow-up to her first solo album, *Hey Babe*. The new record features Scott Litt (of R.E.M.-producing fame) behind the boards and is due for a July release.

Blur hits the music stands this spring with the projected arrival of a compilation album. *Essential* will include past dream-pop hits as well as new material from the album *Baby*.

And hold on to your flannel. England's **Brand New Heavies** are in London working on a album for release sometime this summer. ■ **Eric Geyer**, *Daily Texan*, U. of Texas

on the road

A brief look at April/May concert listings

Jesus Jones: Norfolk, VA, 4/27; Washington, DC, 4/28; New Orleans, LA, 5/1; Chicago, IL, 5/7; Universal City, CA, 5/13; Oakland, CA, 5/15

Sting with dada: Berkeley, CA, 4/30, 5/1; Seattle, WA, 5/3; Costa Mesa, CA, 5/7; Los Angeles, CA, 5/8-10; San Diego, CA, 5/12; Las Vegas, NV, 5/14-16; Salt Lake City, UT, 5/18; Red Rocks, CO, 5/19; Oklahoma City, OK, 5/21; Dallas, TX, 5/22; Houston, TX, 5/24; New Orleans, LA, 5/25

Indigo Girls: Ruston, LA, 4/28; New Orleans, LA, 4/29; Lewisburg, PA, 4/30; West Palm Beach, FL, 5/2; St. Petersburg, FL, 5/3; Kissimmee, FL, 5/4; Lancaster, PA, 5/7

10,000 Maniacs: New Britain, CT, 5/1; Storrs, CT, 5/2; Philadelphia, PA, 5/3; Elmira, NY, 5/5; Slippery Rock, PA, 5/6; Athens, OH, 5/7; Jamestown, NY, 5/8; Allentown, PA, 5/11; Charlestown, VA, 5/12; Memphis, TN, 5/14; Birmingham, AL, 5/15; New Orleans, LA, 5/16; Seattle, WA, 5/22

quotable

"When I was in college, sex wasn't life or death... People are just dealing with real life at a younger age now."

—Garth Brooks on why country lyrics are tackling tough issues