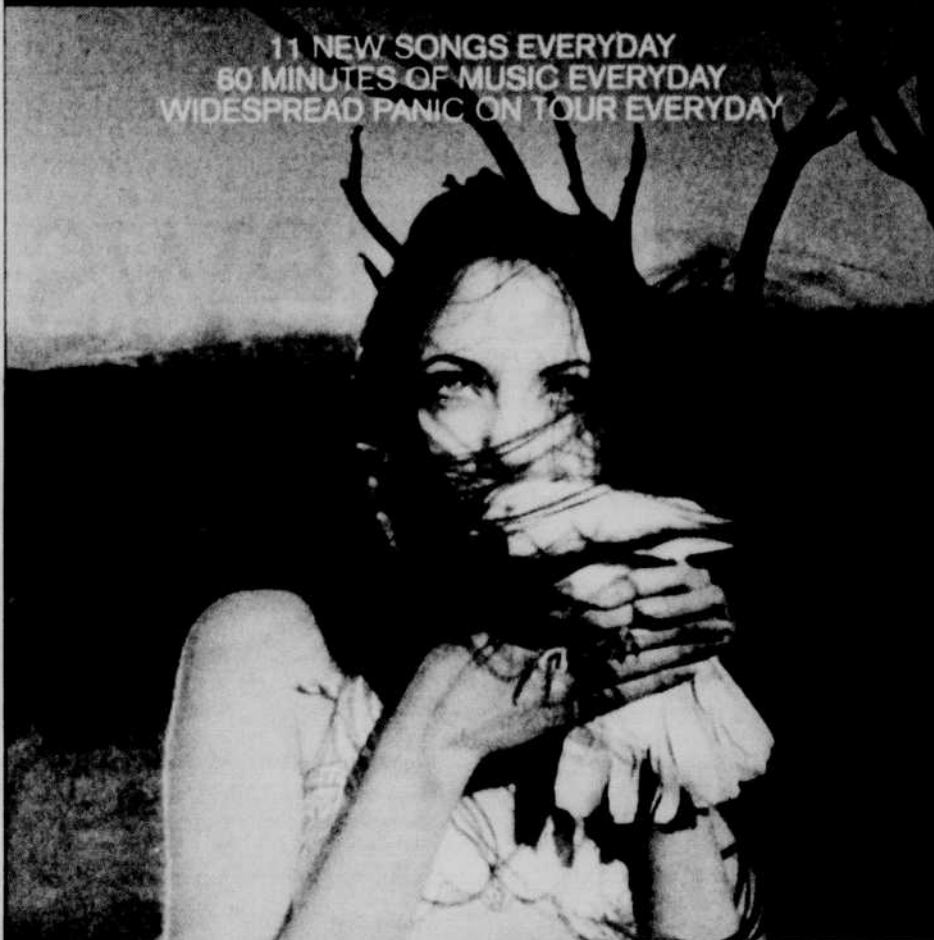


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SOUND OFF

SEASON TO RISK

★
GROUP: Season to Risk
LABEL: Columbia



CREEP DIETS

★★ 1/2
GROUP: Fudge Tunnel
LABEL: Columbia



Here are two bands under the same label, with very similar sounds.

Fudge Tunnel hail from England, and Season to Risk are from the Midwest.

Both have a very U.S.-oriented sound with large degrees of distortion and moaning lyrics, much like U.S. underground heroes The Jesus Lizard and Sonic Youth.

Although both play a very "American" style of music, it's the Brits who have come up with a better disc, not to mention a better name.

Fudge Tunnel's second release, *Creep Diets*, is by far the superior of the two, largely because of its powerful hooks and a more direct sound overall.

It's the subtle things that make *Creep Diets* a much more listenable album than Season To Risk's self-titled debut.

If you're into lyrics being sang (or slurred) through a heavily distorted microphone, both of these

bands have plenty of it. But many times the mumbling gets boring after the second track unless there's something else to keep you listening.

Fudge Tunnel's lyrics take a back seat to the powerful, bass-heavy sound of the music. They use equal parts of booming rhythms and memorable hooks to create a sound that is not unlike Soundgarden without Chris Cornell.

Season To Risk, however, fail for the most part to deliver anything that catchy. The album kind of stumbles along with singer Steve Tulipana trying to trip out the listener with weird lyrics. Again, that wouldn't be a problem if the band held up its end of the bargain. But it doesn't. Instead, Season To Risk come off as a very, very poor man's The Jesus Lizard.

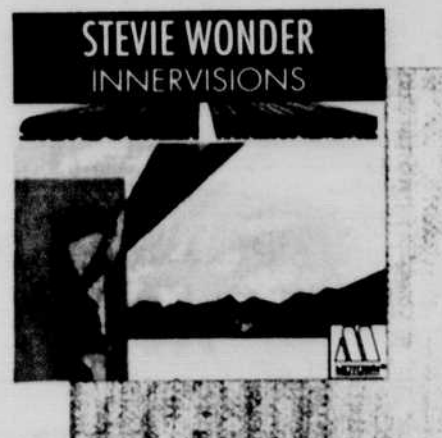
Season To Risk show potential on the driving "Why See Straight" and the mellow "Home," but float aimlessly between those two songs the rest of the way.

Creep Diets, on the other hand, has at least six songs that grab you the first listen. "Grey," the album's opener, has an unmistakable Soundgarden-ish feel to it (without Cornell). A monstrous hook sucks the listener in and the song chugs along from there.

"Tipper Gore" and "Good Kicking" resemble many of the

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