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SOUND OFF



CHARMLESS
★★★
ARTIST: Kpnts
LABEL: Grinning Idiot Records

It's been my experience that you usually have to take bands from Eugene for what they're worth: Bands from Eugene rarely make much of a dent in the Northwest music scene, let alone any scene outside of Eugene.

So when Kpnts formed two years ago in Eugene, the band already had the cards stacked against it.

After developing a following playing the inevitable basement parties around Eugene, Kpnts moved up to the club ranks and became one of the most talked about bands in town.

Again, that was no big task considering its competition.

While Kpnts was becoming a local favorite, Grinning Idiot Records was in the process of becoming a local label that would give local bands the opportunity to release their music without having to make the obligatory move to Portland.

Kpnts stayed in Eugene, Grinning Idiot signed them and the result is a superb album.

Kpnts' first full-length release, *Charmless*, is a collection of guitar-driven, melodic power pop. With the snappy guitar work and understated drums, the band achieves a subtle power that few bands can pull off.

With *Charmless*, Kpnts proves that they are one of the best to come out of Eugene in a long time (at least since 1990 when I arrived here) and puts them right up there in the same ranks with bands from Eugene's big brother cities, Portland and Seattle.

The music on *Charmless* is in the same vein as Portland's Hazel and (although less so) The Spinanes, two bands that got some national recognition for their Sub Pop releases in 1993.

KWWA TOP 20

1	SHONEN KNIFE	ROCK ANIMALS
2	PHISH	HOIST
3	NINE INCH NAILS	THE DOWNWARD SPIRAL
4	ROLLINS BAND	WEIGHT
5	DAS EFX	STRAIGHT UP SEWASIDE
6	SLANT 6	SODA POP RIP OFF
7	JAWBREAKER	24 HOUR REVENGE THERAPY
8	PAVEMENT	CROOKED RAIN
9	GREEN DAY	DOOKIE
10	JAWBOX	FOR YOUR OWN SPECIAL...
11	SOUNDGARDEN	SUPERUNKNOWN
12	GANG STARR	HARD II EARN
13	HOLE	LIVE THROUGH THIS
14	PANTERA	FAR BEYOND DRIVEN
15	JELLO AND MOJO	PRARIE HOME COMPANION
16	MOTORHEAD	BASTARDS
17	OUTKAST	PLAYERS BALL
18	VARIOUS	ABOVE THE RIM
19	THE CHARLATANS	UP TO OUR HIPPS
20	SAUSAGE	RIDDLES ARE AROUND ...

The biggest differences are that Kpnts is not on Sub Pop and its album is better than the other two's efforts.

The album sounds as if it were recorded live in the studio in one take with little emphasis given to overdubbing and mixing. That may or not be the case, but the point is, the seemingly live sound does Kpnts well.

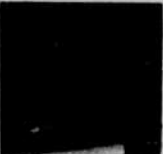
When you get to this part of the review, you realize how really solid this album is because you have to pick out two or three songs to talk about, but you can't decide on which ones to talk about because they're all so good.

The shining moments on this album come on a couple of tune-fest stumps: "Pie Song," and "Ants." Then again, you've got to like the poppy hooks in songs like "Light Sprinkle," "Forehead," and "Best Kissers." Hell, even the slow song "She's Got You," and the instrumental "Lunchpale," are impressive enough to be noted as very good songs.

Although *Charmless* doesn't break any musical barriers, what it lacks in originality, it makes up for with musicianship. Four talented guys, one great album, and from Eugene no less.

By the way Kpnts guys, I saw that episode of "Get A Life," too. If you have it on tape, I'd like to borrow it.

— DAVE CHARBONNEAU
Oregon Daily Emerald



WEIGHT
★★★
ARTIST: Imago
LABEL: Imago

I know this woman who believes Henry Rollins is God. She also believes he is the man.

Of that, I have no doubt. Henry Rollins is a man.

And if I really believed in God, I suppose it's possible that Henry Rollins could be that ... whatever you want to call it.

The woman I know believes Mr. Rollins to be God because of albums like *Weight*, which Mr. Rollins and his band, the Rollins Band, recently released.

I might have to disagree with some of this woman's assessments, however.

She believes Mr. Rollins to be God because of traits like his

Turn to **REVIEWS**, Page 9



phish

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