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SOUND OFF



I-5 KILLERS

ARTIST: Various
 LABEL: Schizophonic

Welcome to Northwest Rock 101. Now class, we'll begin today's discussion talking about the *I-5 Killers*, Vol. 3 compilation that you should have already picked up at your local record store. If you haven't purchased a copy yet, you can buy a copy from me after class for the low, low price of \$25.

Although the first two *I-5 Killers* albums did a respectable job of capturing the varying sounds coming out of the Northwest, this third installment is the best yet.

To start with, we'll look at two bands that hail from Portland and are the very best that town has to offer. Please flip to track one of your CD.

Here we have Gift. This band consists of two members of the late Poison Idea. Their song, "What Used To Be," is one of the best punk pop songs you'll likely hear in your lifetime (that will be on the test). This song alone warrants forking out \$11 for this CD.

But wait, there's more.

Track two is Everclear with "Blondes." You'll notice some very Nirvana-like feedback and distortion on this one. They like to do that. It is another great song by the best band in Stumptown.

Now go to the third track. This is the song "Crash" by a local favorite, Kpans (silent K. That will be on the test also). Be careful with this one. The first time you hear it, you'll expect it to kick in at the 14 second mark, but it fools you and kicks in about 13 seconds later. You'll be happy when it does. You'll also learn how to make funny sounds with your guitar. One word of advice class: If you see Kpans live, stay clear of the guitarist. He likes to hit people in the head with his guitar.

Since we're talking about bands from Eugene, go to track 17 on your CD. This one is by Oswald 5-0. It's got a cool burp in it, and the backup vocals on the chorus add a nice touch. You may also notice the guitar

solo sounds like the theme to the show *Hawaii 5-0*. See the connection? Neat, huh?

Equally neat is the song by the Supersuckers. Bands in Seattle are still making music and apparently haven't let the death of that one guy take away their senses of humor judging by "Your Mom Rules," which is the last song on the CD. With Mother's Day right around the corner, this song fits in perfectly with today's discussion. It's a hilarious song that jams too. My favorite part is when the singer whines, "She'll make you a cake/You'll get an ice cream headache." That, my class, is a great piece of lyrical genius.

Now that we've touched on the best songs on this album — Hey! Don't start putting your books away yet; we still have two minutes left! — I'll briefly go over some of the other decent songs on this album.

The New Bad Things are their usual riotously funny selves with a song about a guy who likes a girl from Reed College. Ice Cream Headache (the band, not the lyrics) donate a catchy punk song, and Skiploader's song is pretty good as well.

By the way class, you can catch a lot of these bands and more on "The Weekend Kickoff PartyTime," with Big Jake and The Sloth on 88.1 KWVA from 2:00 to 5:00 a.m. every Saturday morning.

Class is dismissed.

— DAVE CHARBONNEAU
 Oregon Daily Emerald



HOIST

ARTIST: Phish
 LABEL: Elektra

How can one best describe Phish? They're not grunge. They're not pop. And they're definitely not glam rock.

As my roommate puts it, "They're, uhmmmmmm, that band."

Phish may have come up with sound so unique it can only be described as "the Vermont sound," their place of origin. (That is assuming that no other band of any merit has ever come out of that state.)

Even "hard-core" Phish fans are at a loss in describing the music. When I asked one fan who has tickets to the May 19 showing of Phish at the Hult Center, she could only say, "Well, they're a lot of fun, and they put on a good show."

So the task of trying to describe, and define, Phish is futile.

At best, one can only attempt to describe the elements of Phish.

In their new album, (*Hoist*), the four-man band has a jazzy tune. But it's definitely not jazz.

The lyrics tend to have a They Might Be Giants playfulness with lines like, "It's the Wolfman's brother/ coming down on me." By the way, the song "Wolfman's Brother" ends with the drummer's one line of the album, "Shirley Temple," which has no bearing to anything.

The overall sound of the album leaves the listener with the feel that these four guys just got together to have some fun.

(*Hoist*) has a total of 11 tracks, all of which will make listeners curl their lips with disgust or delight.

Probably the best song of the album is track six, "Lifeboy," a slow song with a lonely quality that is punctuated in the line, "God never listens to what I say."

Another favorite has to be the opening track, "Julius." "Julius" has a fast rhythm with an unexpected pace. The song has a jazzy tone. And it's really neat.

The rest of the songs on the album are unique in that none truly stands out, but all of them are worth listening to. How many albums have been recorded that you can say that about.

The question remains: Would you like Phish? Or more importantly, should you buy their album?

Some people will most likely be put off by the unique sound of the band. Others may find Phish a relief from top-chart songs that all seem to sound the same. You should go to the Hult Center on May 19 to find out for yourself.

I heard they put on a good show.

— JIM DAVIS
 Oregon Daily Emerald

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