

Key: ★★★★★ = Han Solo ★★★★★ = Darth Vader ★★★ = C-3PO ★★ = Luke Skywalker ★ = Ewoks

Gigolo Aunts Flippin' Out

RCA

★★★★★

Looking for a band that will be to the '90s what the Monkees were to the '70s? Bingo! Meet the Gigolo Aunts — except these guys play their own instruments, write their own stuff and do it well.

Flippin' Out has the pop sensibilities that made the Gin Blossoms the band alternative aesthetes love to hate — and that helped to sell a jillion discs. "Bloom" and "Figurine" sound alike, but the title track really stands out. "Flippin' Out" is a ballad about loss of self-control and depression, musically evocative of the early Beatles.

Most tracks are unapologetically catchy and poppy. The vocals are clear, and guitar and bass intertwine for a rhythmic foundation. Songs like "Flippin' Out" and "Cope" should propel this band along the college radio circuit, and deservedly so. ■ Amy Kennebec, *The Maneater*, U. of Missouri



Killing Joke, a British band conceived in the late 1970s that has influenced Soundgarden, Nine Inch Nails and Metallica, continue to explore the limits of musical creativity with *Pandemonium*, their 10th release.

Synthesizing elements of techno, thrash metal and non-western scales, *Pandemonium* could best be described as the prototype for the music of tomorrow. Check out the tracks "Exorcism," "Millennium" and "Mathematics of Chaos." Each blends socially cathartic lyrics with hypnotic rhythm progressions.

Helmet's *Betty* is nothing short of spectacular. The quartet, which boasts the unparalleled guitar work of lead vocalist Page Hamilton, is back with a vengeance. Unlike Killing Joke, Helmet incorporates basic musical elements, heavily influenced by jazz and blues, in its unorthodox ritual of pounding out new material.

Each works toward setting a standard that comparable musical acts should emulate in their quest for variety, perfection and good clean noise. ■ Skip Hudson, *Arkansas Traveler*, U. of Arkansas

Saint Etienne Tiger Bay

Warner Bros.

★★★★★

First a group of monks chants its way up the charts, and now a trio of British saints releases a dance record. Oh, this crazy business we call show—

Saint Etienne offer some truly divine tracks on their new album, *Tiger Bay*, a collection of evocative beats and powerful refrains. The release features a variety of mixes with Latino to Caribbean undertones.

"Hug My Soul," the first single, is typical of the Etienne sound — with rhythms that wander through techno and hip-hop. Other songs like "On The Shore" and "Pale Movie" incorporate tropical beats that, mixed with Sarah Cracknell's mesmerizing vocals, create a unique fusion — a "cultural techno."

This record isn't just filled with excellent dance grooves, it's downright heavenly. ■ Tanayha Anne Beckford, *The George Washington Hatchet*, George Washington U.



WITH A BULLET the OFFSPRING



"You never get the job you go to school for," says Offspring frontman, Bryan Holland. And he should know. Just a thesis paper shy of adding a Ph.D. in microbiology to his degree collection, he's postponing his research to build on the band's swelling success.

Maybe it's the 10 years in the Southern California surf-rat scene that bred their summer radio anthem "Come Out and Play (Keep 'em Separated)." Or perhaps it's time for melodic punk to take over the airwaves. Whatever the reason, the Offspring's third indie release, *Smash*, (Epitaph), is chewing up the charts like hungry bacteria.

But even after having a No. 1 album on *Billboard's* Heatseekers chart, the thrashy Orange County quartet says its new notoriety isn't that big a deal.

"We're still the same band we were five years ago," Holland says. "No one's stopping me in the supermarket."

Although the band members can tune out the notoriety, it's more difficult for MTV watchers to miss. After all, "Come Out and Play," with its snake-charmer guitar riff and sore-throat chorus, has been featured on *120 Minutes*, and it catapulted the Offspring from snowboarding buzz clips to a hard-core force to be reckoned with. ■ Jeff Stratton, *The Metropolitan*, Metropolitan State College of Denver



Helmet
Betty
Interscope
★★★★★



Killing Joke
Pandemonium
ZOO/BMG
★★★★1/2

With the arrival of *Pandemonium*, from industrial rock pioneers Killing Joke, and *Betty*, Helmet's ferocious follow-up to 1992's *Meantime*, it's obvious a return to basics is not on the menu.

U. COLLEGE RADIO CHART

1. **Beastie Boys**, *Ill Communication* (Capitol)
2. **Helmet**, *Betty* (Interscope)
3. **Velocity Girl**, *Simpatico!* (Sub Pop)
4. **Lush**, *Split* (4AD)
5. **Opus III**, *Guru Mother* (FootWest)



6. **Man or Astro-man?**, *Destroy All Astronem!* (comp)
7. **Stone Temple Pilots**, *Purple* (Atlantic)
8. **Frente!**, *Marvin The Album* (Mammoth)
9. **Green Day**, *Dookie* (Reprise)
10. **Beck**, *One Foot in the Grave* (K Records)

Chart solely based on college radio airplay. Contributing radio stations: KCOU, U. of Missouri; KRB, Southeastern Oklahoma State U.; KLSU, Louisiana State U.; KJNU, U. of Nebraska; KTRU, Rice U.; KTUH, U. of Hawaii; KUCC, U. of Colorado; KUSF, U. of San Francisco; WEGU, Auburn U.; WGBN, U. of Michigan; WDB, Southern Illinois U.; WSBF, Clemson U.; WTUL, Tulane U.; WUDG, U. of Georgia; WVUT, Virginia Tech; WVVU, West Virginia U.

in the studio

- Mothers, tell your children not to worry — **Danzig** is currently working on a new LP titled, um, *Danzig4p*. No, we don't get it either.
- **Slayer** is in the studio: Vocalist Tom Araya hints there might be a love song included, albeit one "based upon the cruelties of one infamous serial killer." Slayer! Scary devil rock band!
- The **Black Crowes** are working on a new record, *America*. (We get that one.) If you can't fight your Crowes jones any longer, look for occasional appearances on the HORDE tour.
- Wacky funsters **Skinny Puppy** are reportedly cooking up a little something for the fall. What's more, you — formerly helpless consumer — can have a say! The Pups are now online — you can reach them at puppy@netcom.com.
- The **Melvins**, who are credited (blamed?) with pioneering the grunge scene, are working on their second release for Atlantic records. Look for *Stoner Witch* this winter.
- College radio darlings **Bettie Serveert** are currently recording a new album in Amsterdam, New York and New Orleans. Ah, the sorry lot of rock stars.
- Finally, spaz-rockers **Green Apple Quickstep** (formerly Inspector Love and the Ride Me Babies) are scheduled to release their second LP sometime this fall. In a perfect world, they would get paid on virtue of band name alone.

Our Picks for this Month

There's so much music out there, we don't have room to review it all, but these are the recent releases we're spinning.

- 7 Year Bitch**, *Viva Zapata* (C/Z) — Post punk fury that proves that there's more to Seattle than grunge and double lattes.
- Marilyn Manson**, *Portrait of An American Family* (Interscope/Nothing Records) — Trent Reznor's first project on his nothing label mixes equal parts kitsch and horror to give listeners a stew that's as danceable as it is repulsive.
- Warren G**, *Regulate... G-Funk Era*, *Violator* (Death Row) — From Dr. Dre's crew, Warren G's beats are way smooth, with lyrics exploring familiar terrain — funkied out with a gangster twist.
- Miranda Sex Garden**, *Fairytales of Slavery*, (Mute Records) — MSG blend glockenspiels and woodwinds with kitchen utensils. If you're into the Enigma thing, you'll love these mysterious madrigals.
- L7**, *Hungry for Stink*, (Slash/Reprise) — Freaky packaging, churning rhythms and chant-along choruses. What else do you need from a band without a Y chromosome?