

MUSIC

'Thighs' an impressive collection

Veruca Salt bassist Steve Lack sheepishly blames all his interest in music on KISS *Destroyer*.

"While many would consider this fact to be a sad commentary on my generation's taste," Lack said, "it is, however, the first record I ever bought."

"I was six years old then, and it scared me."

But who didn't get into KISS *Destroyer*? Lack explains that he kept buying records that scared him, moving on to AC/DC's *Back in Black* and *Paranoid* by Black Sabbath.

"This method of buying records based on what frightened me continued right on through punk rock to very recent times," he said.

Remember the good old days when rock stars were supernatural gods who commanded respect through their sacrificial lives as martyrs for a generation. Fans held a deep respect for fire-breathing, heroin-injecting and Jack Daniels'-drinking bands that seemingly gave up their lives and their health to please the masses with monstrous rhythms that filled arena's



American Thighs
Veruca Salt

★★★

snot-swallowing, drug-dazed Sid Vicious or Johnny Rotten, and even AC/DC isn't frightening anymore (except for their bald drummer).

The MTV generation has its handful of characters, but for the most part, bands speak with their music first, image second.

On *American Thighs*, Veruca Salt put their best foot forward, weaving into the fabric of the dime-a-dozen pop-guitar world. Although it's difficult to distinguish yourself from the rest of the music scene today, Veruca Salt at least does what it does well.

Nina Gordon and Louise Post dish out helpings of their sweet vocals repeatedly on this record, carrying the band

through this, its first release.

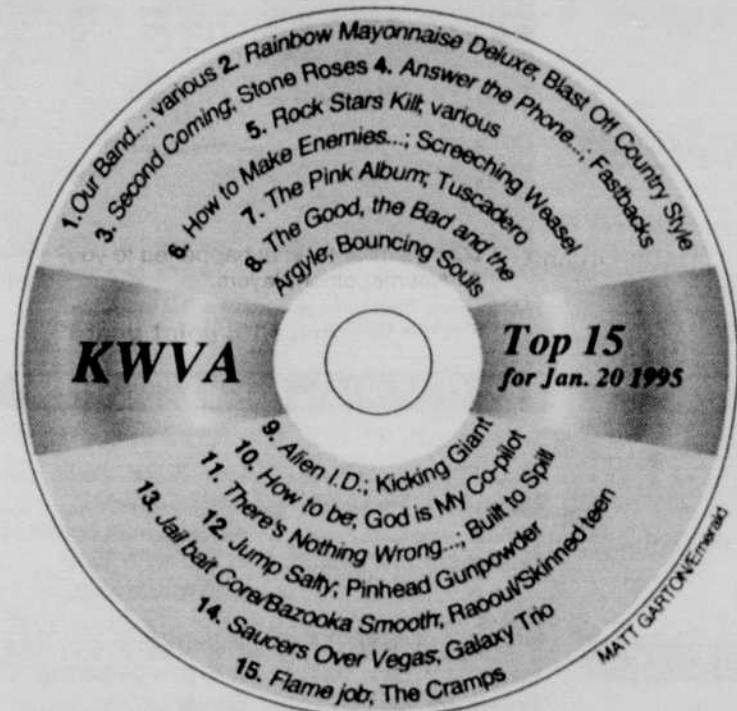
Gordon and Post surf the full spectrum of singing styles from church-choir softness on "Victrola," to soda-pop innocence on "Seether," and all the way to engaging and powerful howls on "All Hail Me."

The songs as a whole stand out as an impressive collection, mostly because of the refreshing variety that the band gives them. Most bands find a three-chord, 4-4 beat sound that they like and simply twist it into 10 to 13 different shapes to be consumed by 15 to 17 year olds.

It's funny that, although Post admits to being a classic rock child with such idols as Stevie Nicks and Michelle Phillips, Veruca Salt is a blend of current classic rock, and at the same time keeps in touch with the Generation X beatniks.

And it's no wonder. "I greatly prefer Pepsi to Coke," Veruca drummer Jim Shapiro said. "And I have no patience for people who claim they can't tell the difference between the two."

—CHRIS METZ
Oregon Daily Emerald



BEST-SELLING FICTION

1. *The Celestine Prophecy*, by James Redfield (Warner)
2. *Politically Correct Bedtime Stories*, by James Finn Garner (Macmillan)
3. *Acceptable Risk*, by Robin Cook (Putnam)
4. *Kiss the Girls*, by James Patterson (Little Brown)
5. *Self-Defense*, by Jonathan Kellerman (Bantam)
6. *The Murderers*, by W.E.B. Griffin (Putnam)
7. *Trust Me*, by Jayne Ann Krentz (Pocket Books)
8. *Eyes of a Child*, by Richard North Patterson (Random House)
9. *The Bridges of Madison County*, by Robert James Waller (Warner)
10. *Debt of Honor*, by Tom Clancy (Putnam)

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