



Reggae great **Burning Spear's** latest release, "Freeman" is a solid, well-refined addition to his impressive discography.

My Morning Jacket radically listenable

By Ryan Nyburg

It's good to know that one member of the defunct band Mission of Burma is still making music worth listening to. That post-punk indie powerhouse broke up in the mid-1980s after releasing relatively little recorded mate-

rial, but are now more popular than ever with the rerelease of their music

on the fledging Rykodisc label. Com-

pounding the band's visibility is the new album, entitled "Love and Affliction," by former Burma frontman Clint Conley's new outfit, Consonant. It would, of course, be unfair to

compare this band to Conley's former project, but similarities do exist. Those stuttering guitar rhythms that defined Burma's sound abound, but the punk vocals have been completely jettisoned for a more melodic approach. The album is full of wellstructured pop-rock that feels like it was built from the ground up. The liberal use of distortion and feedback keeps things from becoming too listener-friendly, and some experimentation with form adds eclecticism to the mix (my personal fave is the country/western styling on "Night for Love")

The lyrics add to the structure as well. Conley specializes in a stark, unencumbered lyrical style, never wasting words and never embellishing. All

Turn to CD REVIEWS, page 14D



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