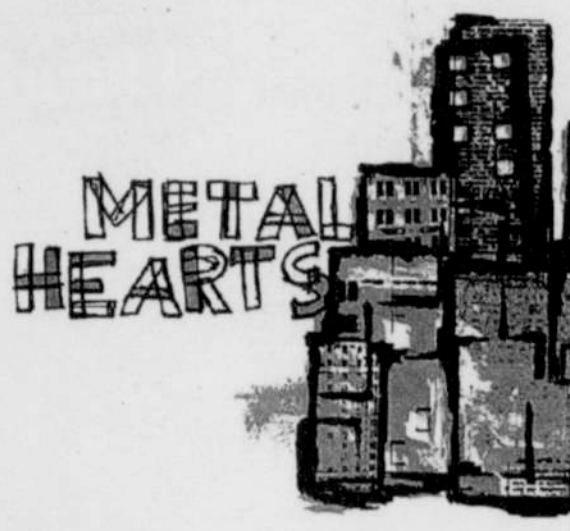




a band and—only a touch sadly, I might add—is not that band.

On its sophomore effort, *Socialize*, the half-gay Baltimore duo of Flora Wolpert-Checknoff (the queer one) and Anar Badalov offer chilled-out, contemplative tunes that split the difference between a stark yet less extreme version of early Modest Mouse and The Postal Service at its most solemn. Not since the heyday of Portland legends Hazel have a male and female voice melded so beautifully on tracks such as the ethereal “Disappeared” and “Vampires/Tendency to Run.”

Wolpert-Checknoff seems to be no stranger to the thesaurus (or Magnetic Poetry), as evidenced by the lyrics “you can watch me fester in masturbatory quiet.” Cohort Badalov cuts to the chase a bit more concisely on the cello- and sax-laden standout “Gentleman’s Spell”: “I’ve got the charmer’s charm, I’ll walk you home under my arm, I’ve got the gentleman’s spell, but I’ll fuck in any motel.”

All feigned disappointment about Metal Hearts’ lack of cock rock potential aside, *Socialize* is an unobtrusive, mystifying listen that left me feeling like I do after a summer nap: fully refreshed but sweaty, slightly disoriented and not quite ready to rejoin the rat race.

Frolic & F***

Ariel Aparicio • Mia Mind Music

Ariel Aparicio is a gay Cuban rocker better known for his two Thai restaurants in Brooklyn, though his bravely titled album *Frolic & F**** could change that. Ably backed by the Hired Hands, he veers from rousing, raucous jams like “Punk Rock Girl” and “All My Life” to the goofy country train wreck of “Brenda Lee,” in between managing to put the gay back into reggae on the easygoing “Get Happy,” which is featured on the Adidas Web site. The only constant on this stylistically diverse CD is Aparicio’s raspy, soulful voice, which clearly conveys

his joy in being temporarily out of the restaurant and in a recording studio working his mojo.

The deal-sealer for me, however, is Aparicio’s heartfelt cover of The Replacements’ anguished 1984 lament “Unsatisfied” and his shout-out to former head Replacement Paul Westerberg in the liner notes: “Thank God for Paul Westerberg.” Amen, brother. Westerberg and The Replacements have always been the ultimate default winter music choice for me, and Aparicio has done a fine job of capturing that

band’s early adventurous spirit on *Frolic & F****.

The only bummer: At just seven songs and 25 minutes, there’s just barely enough time to frolic and, unless frenzied quickies are your poison, no time at all to f***.

The Sound of You and Me

Garrison Starr • Vanguard Records

When Garrison Starr sauntered onstage at a recent Portland gig with hair tousled liked the lead singer of Goo Goo Dolls and a sleeveless black AC/DC T-shirt that accentuated biceps bigger than



most of the beer-swilling fellas in the audience, all I could think was “butch.” The sensitive, soul-baring yet rocking set that followed confounded all my expectations, as does her immaculately produced *The Sound of You and Me*.

Starr lays it all on the line in a tough but tender voice not dissimilar to Indigo Girls’ Amy Ray on the gently pulsing opener, “Pendulum”: “I don’t want to go down with you, you’ve got shoes nobody can fill, but the bigger part of me loves you still.” There’s a lot to love here, particularly upbeat folk rock tinged with just a twangy taste of Starr’s hometown, Nashville, in standouts like “Beautiful in Los Angeles” and “Let Me In.” Quieter, subtler grace is achieved on sweeping numbers like “Big Enough” and “Pretending,” and sweet home Portland is name-checked on the spare “Black & White.”

The Sound of You and Me is the sound of one heart breaking in a perfectly gorgeous display of musical fireworks that will accompany me on my Red Bull-fueled road trips, time kept by the constant barrage of bugs splattering on my sun-baked windshield.

JIM THOMPSON is a Eugene freelance writer.

eatingout eatingout eatingout eatingout

CAFFE MINGO

serving dinner nightly @ 5pm

in northwest Portland, we don’t do reservations
be a kitchen voyeur
eat at the original
503 226 4646



simple Italian cooking
simple Italian food

MINGO

serving lunch mon-fri, dinner 7 nights
happy hour in between

in Beaverton, we do reservations
full bar, big bottles of wine
great.....if you can find it
503 646 6464
(directions at mingowest.com)

WORLD CUP COFFEE & TEA

1740 NW GLISAN 503-228-4152



POWELL'S BOOKS 503-228-4651

WWW.WORLDCUPCOFFEE.COM

721 NW 10TH 503-546-7377

Starky's

Restaurant and Bar

Portland's Eastside
Dining & Spirits

Featuring music and videos on
flat screen plasma monitors
Video Lottery • WiFi

• Sidewalk Patio Now Open

Extended menu including
late night hours

Fri. Sat. til Midnight

503-230-7980 • 2913 SE Stark
www.starkys.com

SINCE 1947...

HOW COME YOU HAVEN'T CHECKED US OUT???

LUNCH, DINNER, BRUNCH, FULL BAR, ECLECTIC WINE LIST IN AN ITSY BITSY PLACE,

Organic produce, hormone + antibiotic free meats + wild caught fish.

Live music 10pm to close every Friday.

Open traditional Irish music session coming soon!

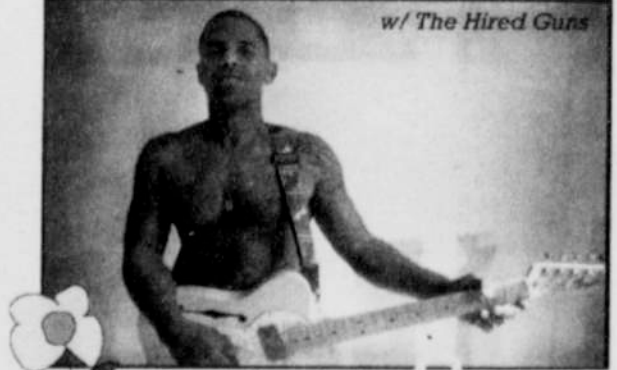
LeakyRoof™
Established 1947
GLOBAL BISTRO

Lunch - Monday thru Friday
Dinner - Monday thru Saturday
Brunch - Sunday (Saturdays soon too!)

theleakyroof.com ~ 503-222-3745
16th & SW Jefferson

ARIEL APARICIO

w/ The Hired Guns



Frolic & F***



Bar snacks: 4-6 and 9 til closing.

WEST CAFE

SW 12th & Jefferson Street
westcafedpx.com 503.227.8189

Evening and weekend parking available. Free wifi.

