

"Genre-blending" is the word the press release uses, and it roughly fits: You've got your politics ("From Her Lips to God's Ears," with its roaring "Condoleeza!" chorus), your pints ("Pints of Guinness Make You Strong"), your throat-tearing vocals, your singalong rants (the spectacular "Sink, Florida, Sink") and a delicious dose of fuck-shit-uppedness.

Against Me! plays with Riverboat Gamblers and Fake Problems at 8 pm Sunday, March 25 at the WOW Hall. \$13.50 adv., \$15 door. — Molly Templeton



Against Me!

New Wave Numerals

The Manchester music scene of the '70s and '80s, where musicians experimented with and perfected pop-infused punk songs and danceable club beats, fostered such bands as Joy Division, New Order and The Smiths. The scene, with its catchy, pop appeal, no doubt inspired similar bands of today like The Killers and Aqueduct.

A long way from Manchester, the Kansas-based **Roman Numerals** evoke the new wave club scene of the former era with '80s dance beats, angst-laden vocals and airy synthesizer. The band's website sums them up nicely: "This is the sound of the past informed by the future, as if Big Black had visited early-'80s era Gang of Four in a vision, or if the ghost of Fugazi had haunted Modern English."

Of course, they weren't always The Roman Numerals. Fittingly, they were originally a Joy Division cover band. The positive response from one Halloween show (as Unknown Pleasures) inspired the boys to write their own tunes.

Their self-titled album begins with "My Life After Death Pt. 1," which gives the illusion that they're a straightforward rock band with added keyboards. The moderate pace of the song, combined with airy guitar plucks and grizzly vocals with a hint of reverb, gets you moving,

but it's later in the album where the incorrigible dance beats come out. By "The Rule of V," the David Bowie-inspired vocals, crunchy guitar and sneering synthesizer will get the audience on the dance floor, swaying their hips and arms like drugged-out zombies (maybe I've watched too many after-school specials about club kids).

The Roman Numerals, Dan Jones and the Squids and The Underlings play at 10 pm Thursday, March 29 at Diablo's Downtown Lounge. 21+ show. — Amanda Burhop



Roman Numerals

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