

around for closer to 15 years, as this is a reissue of a 1994 album I'd never heard or heard of. And it's great, with production that is overall as solid as their later work, but said production coyly apes lo-fi primitivism as times, as the occasional psychedelic drone, the constant Dollrods/Moe Tucker backbeat, and echoey vocal effects (sometimes on the lead, almost always on backups) make this CD a surprise treat that even non-Cherry fans will dig.

Ovipositor "Pirate Flag at Half Mast" (arbeit macht dinge) If you like your music weird like the Fall or rough like late 80s postpunk or smart like indie bands that went to college a lot then you're Ovi-positively going to dig this.

"Oxblood - First Blood" compilation (oxbloodrecords.com) Kansas City apparently has some great, and at times gloriously fucked up music, according to this comp. While there's some (expected) Heartland rootsy Americana on here, there's also weird dance music, punk, and garage, as this comp has excellent tracks from some of our faves including Ssion, Olympic Size and White Whale.

Pacific UV (WARM pob 1423 Athens GA 30603) Pacific-arific! Majestically moving!

The Pack A.D. "Tintype" (Mint) This Two Man Band (in which both men are women) plays the kind of blues garage rock that two man bands do so well, but without ever going apeshit or all Clapton. This keeps it moody and smoky, with the vocalist always sorta sounding like Ozzy on "War Pigs" when he does that "Oh lord yeah!"

Palefighter "Swan Dive Bomb" (bigduckmanagement.com) Should be called Paleruler because THIS RULES!

Paper Airplanes "boyhood" (54 40 or Fight) Paper is fragile, yet very important.

The Paper Cranes (Unfamiliar, areyoufamiliar.com) Pop-tastic pop music that made my happy button pop.

The Passive Aggressives "Reloaded" (Dead Fish) The Massive Regurgitives.

Joshua Path "Headlight in the Sun" (Vanalden) A Path I'll avoid

Patience Please "fleeting frequencies" (HHBTM POB 742 Athens, GA 30603) Patiently pleases!

The Patsys "Both Sides Never" **Patsys/Magic City** split single (Umbrella, thepatsys.com) If your garage was as good as the Patsy's garage you would park your car in the house and move in. They are crazy ridiculous good, maybe the most underrated garage band in the universe. Which puts Magic City in an awkward position, as I seem to have strained my praise muscles, already, but they rock well as well.

Paulson "all at once" (Doghouse doghouserecords.com) Maybe too clever.

Pax "10,000 Words" (Locomotive) Pox.

PCN TOURS: Martin Guitars DVD (PCN 401 Fallowfield Road Camp Hill, PA 17011) Remember those awesome segments on Mister Rogers' Neighborhood where they would visit a factory and see how interesting things were manufactured? Well imagine that five minute segment expanded to two hours and you've got this detailed tour of the Martin Guitar factory. This is apparently from a series that highlights interesting things around Pennsylvania, and considering the opening montage included women inspecting spinach and a tank doing donuts I'll venture that this is not mostly a music-themed program, but guitar fans, amateur letheirs, and wood aficionados will appreciate this lengthy tour. Not as compelling as Mister Rogers' tours in that the assembly line workers never speak, this is saved by an intro by the great great great grandson (or something like that) of the original Martin, and he's a natural storyteller, who relates the ancient origins of Martin Guitar and shows off some historic axes. The guy giving the long tour is some kind of artist liason (which may explain why he is a little too excited to namecheck Mark Knopfler) and other than an obsession with wood prices, he does a great job showing the meticulous craftwork that goes into an acoustic guitar. Did you know that around 1900 was the golden age of the ukulele?

Peachfuzz "Catch Your Snap" (Teenacide pob 291121 LA, 'A 90029) Near perfect powerpop with an edge of punk and rage that made me forget all the other peach acts for 49 nutes or so.

Pearlene "For Western Violence and Brief Sensuality" (High and Dangerous Records 3420 Middleton Ave #25 Cincinatti OH 45220) Fantastic collection of dreamy/nightmarish Southern rock full of soul, drugs, and simultaneous reverence and disregard for the giants whose shoulders they stand upon.

P.G. Six "Slightly Sorry" (Drag City) Slightly snoozy.

Philpot "Hate Writes Better Than Love" (Universal) Puts the "class" in "Classic Rock Reproductionsim."

Pi "The Curse of the Songwriter" (thatcrazychick.com) Absolutely delicious Pi, and I usually don't eat things that sing with this much 70s singer-songwriter inflection, but for some reason this was tastier than rhubarb a la mode.

Pike "...From Someone So Small" (Smile We Hate You) Like!

● **Pink Floyd: Meddle - A Classic Album Under Review** DVD (Sexy Intellectual) More of a survey of early Floyd than a focused look at an album, this is a great companion to the all the recent Syd stuff that is floating out there, as it really demonstrates what the band had to do after Mr. B's transition from functioning rocker/human. While the documentary too often has to rely on printing interview quotes from Floyd members rather than finding interview footage, I still think this is one of the more solid entries in this series, providing interesting analysis to a work that begs to be analyzed.

Pink Reason "Throw It Away" ep (Criminal IQ) I honestly spent 12 minutes playing this at 33 then 45 and it sounded wrong both ways. Either this was somehow mastered at 39 RPM is this is genuinely weird music.

The Pit That Became A Tower "The Pineapple Fields" (Men of Israel) Wicked indie-sounding Israeli acousto-rock that made me think the word "yeam" for a long time.

Pizzeria Kamikaze comic by Etgar Keret & Asaf Hanuka (Alternative Comics 644 NE 9th Ave Gainesville FL 32601-4440) A remarkable comic by Israeli fiction all-star Keret about a mundane afterlife solely occupied by suicides. Perhaps the most impressive aspect of this must-read comic is the way mundanity is rendered in such a way as to be absolutely captivating. This story is almost the opposite of magical realism, as it turns a spiritually otherworldly scenario utterly normal. Hanuka, who is an elegant craftsman, renders these characters in a line that is equally adept at relating inexpressiveness and (rare in this case) warmth.

The Placebo Man by Tomer Hanuka (Alternative Comics) Whoa, a bunch of comics where you actually learn about people who have feelings! Hanuka's fantastic story anthology contains, amongst other gems, the best Tarzan comic ever.

Plain White T's "Stop" (Fearless) This reissue is apparently remastered with a few bonus tracks, but it's basically the same as it ever was: a solid outing for some sincere local kids who I wouldn't have expected to ever stand out from the pack, but who nonetheless did and now hopefully will make modest to decent money for a long time. I always genuinely liked these guys, and you can hear on this album why they connect with the young folks. This guy *means it!*

Plane "I see love the future" (Blue Room) Plane and simple - this is awesome! Lotsa Chicago bands are affecting Euro-accented lately...I guess you can't sound suave if you talk like Ed Vrdolyak.

Plastiscines "LP1" (Caroline) People might tell you that Parisian ladies this beautiful couldn't actually make good garage pop punk, and they might be right, because this is not one of the 50 best new poppy garage bands I've heard this year. But they are some seriously fine looking women, so I'll remember the band's name a lot longer than 43 of their betters.

Carl Platou "Frozen Eve" (carlplatou.com) Spooky guitar meets mournfully cool vox in a neighborhood so cinematic that all the lightpoles have guys in tilted fedoras and trenchcoats leaning on them, awash in dramatic shadows.

Please Don't Feed The Bears! (A Vegan Cookbook) by Abjorn Intonsus (Microcosm) There's that uncomfortable line somewhere North of a Foods Not Bombs demonstration where scene-centric punk rockers are a hackeysack game away from hippiedom, and I think a Vegan cook book straddles that line. But hell, I'll cook from it - this has everything from bouillabaisse to bubble tea!

Podington Bear (myspace.com/podingtonbear) Precious electro pop that makes you want to hug one of those robot dogs.

The Poison Arrows "Straight Into the Drift" (File13) Futuristic dreariness that uses synthesizers the way Abu Ghraib interrogators used dogs and waterboards. Yet I love it!

Robert Pollard "Normal Happiness" (Merge POB 1235 Chapel Hill NC 27514) You will love a minimum of 4 of these 16 songs, and like a minimum of 9. Thus Pollard keeps his rock batting average in Wade Boggs territory.

Poobah "Steamroller" (Monster P.O. Box 460173 San Antonio TX 78246-0173) Guitar psyche meets bar rock and like where they meet. Count on Ohio for always having one more legendary local band you never heard of and feel dumb for for said deficiency. Poo-tastic!

● **Iggy Pop** "Live In San Fran 1981" (MVD) This is a CD of the soundtrack to a DVD that used to be a Target Video VHS, and that said, it sounds pretty great. Iggy was relatively powerful then and this band, while not imitating the Stooges, was pretty bonecrushing when they wanted to be. Fans likely have the video already, but the bonus rarities here are two silly rock songs Iggy recorded with Ric Ocasek. If I was a firefighter I would pump "Fire Engine" whenever we raced to a blaze. Of course, if I was a firefighter I might not have heard enough records to know how goofy and unoriginal this is. Which would be a good thing.

Pop Punk's Not Dead compilation (Go Kart POB 20 Prince At. Station NYC 10012) An arguable premise made somewhat convincing by the Queers, Squirt Guns, Bamix, and the always amusing, often confusing, never soothing Boris the Sprinkler.

Portico "Shape to form" (Hinge) Porticoma.

Potop "Session 1" (Slusaj) Pobottom: (

Duffy Power "Vampers and Champers" (RPM) One of the joys of RPM releases is being convinced that someone you never heard of is incredibly important. These 60s-era blues rockers demonstrate that in addition to possessing the best and/or worst name in the history of blues rock, Power also was a nuanced, impressive performer, who never reduced his source material to minstrel-show fodder or skiffish absurdity. And he does "God Bless the Child" straight. Impressive.

Power of 6 comic by Jon Lewis (Alternative Comics) Better than all the X-Men movies. In fact, Lewis should write the next X-Men movie.

Preserving Efforts Vol.01 DVD (MVD) This compilation of underground hip hop videos features Guru, Atmosphere, Canada's hilarious Wordbugler and a bunch of white European rappers who actually are more in touch with the humor of early hip hop than with the dullness of most modern underground/backpack stuff.

The Pretty Things "40th Anniversary-Live in Brighton" (Snapper Music, www.snappermusic.com) There's not much that needs to be said about this remarkable (and remarkably low-priced) CD/DVD package, except that, if you fancy yourself even a casual fan of one of Britain's finest, or, if you're already with the program, you need to own this. The "Classic" '66 lineup returns to have another go at the entire Pretties' catalogue in this intimate 2004 performance. Opener, "Roadrunner" kicks (and I DO mean "Kicks") things off, with the band sounding as strong as ever, with Phil May's vocals still positively feral (not to mention, of course, that he still has far more hair than the voluntarily bald Alt-Rock hipsters who go about, blissfully unaware of underground forefathers such as he), as he shouts, "DON'T BRING ME DOWN, MOTHERFUCKER!!!" leading the band into a still-punk as fuck rendition of said number...Of course, more "Sophisticated" numbers, like the early 70s favorite, "Havana Bound," which benefits from the strong harmony vocals of messrs. Wally Waller, Jon Povey and Frank Holland (actually, everybody sings, here), and the underrated twilight of Psych-dawn of Heavy Metal classic, "Cries From The Midnight Circus," show off the diversity still projected by the 21st Century Pretties. In fact, there really aren't that many Blues staples, here, one exception being "Hoochie Coochie Man." Now, before you groan, get a load of this action: The Pretty Things, already a force to be reckoned with on their own, are joined by none other than Arthur Brown, who no longer needs a flaming headpiece, as he bursts into flames every time he sings, or, should I say, sings... Brown and Phil May toast each other in their own, inimitable, styles, taking the familiar Blues standard to new heights of braggadocio, Phil with his most blueswailin' leather-lunged White Devil self, complemented by Arthur, breaking glass and the sound barrier like an evil Tom Jones. You'll swear you've never heard this song before. This rendition may give you nightmares, but, they'll no doubt be the sexy kind. Of course, the band also plays some outstanding