

review



Whatever I touch, melts in my clutch

by Brent Legault

You may remember Mr. Heatmiser as the angst-ridden, hot-headed villian whom melted the holiday snows. made the play-dough children cry, and wrecked general mayhem in the early-70's claymation-Christmas classic, "The Year Without Santa Claus.

Now Mr. Heatmiser is very likely part of a coffee mug somewhere, but his spirit lives on in a Portland pop-grunge band of the same name.

Heatmiser, the band, isn't out to spoil your Christmas. It would rather smack you in the jaw with bouncy guitar riffs, and gouge out your eyes

with fun-lovin'vocal melodies.

The band's debut, fulllength album, Dead Air (Frontier), zooms by with 14 peppy, vim-laden songs. It doesn't waste time on lengthy guitar solos, or lengthy anything. Just 37 minutes of BAM! POW! SOCKO!

Dead Air may not immediately grab you and slap you around, but with repeated listenings you might find yourself snapping your fingers and popping your gum.

Heatmiser is sure to be well-received by many fans of today. It has the proper mix of recklessness and irreverency required to spark any youthful "ne'er-do-well" to disobey his or her parents, and it would

certainly look nice in any grunge-aficianado's album collection.

But, while Dead Air is certainly good moshing material, it's too homogeneous and uninteresting to warrant a serious listening. You need to gather with friends and drink some beer. You can slip Heatmiser inbetween AC/DC and Nirvana, and dance and holler and break some furniture.

To its credit, Heatmiser sounds like a great live band. who happened to produce a mediocre album, an album that isn't even as memorable as Heatmiser's flesty predecessor.

chums Tom and Chris Gor-

man from her hometown of

Newport, RI. to finally form

summer sessions with pro-

ducer Gil Norton of the Pixies.

and Echo & the Bunnymen.

the conception and resultive

birth of Star came into the

musical world.

And from the spring and

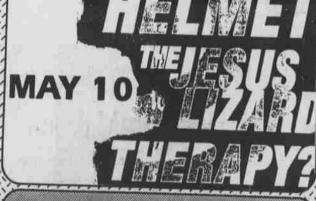
Belly and enter the studio.

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Belly bears small piece of beauty

by Kimberley McGee

It's the kind of music you wish would never stop.

From the first track, Belly's Star grabs you with its grainy guitars and haunting lyrics. Tearing down a musical alley of dream influenced lyrics and mellodies, Tanya Donnelly pulls out onto Rock Stardom mainstreet with her first solo album.

The third track "Dusted" swirls and carries Donnelly's voice over the tide of violins and guitar riffs. Her strong lyrics tear through "Gepetto" to create a childish nightmare; so that kid from the bad home came over my house again/ decapitated all my dolls and if you bore me you lose your soul.

Although it is her first solo album. Donnelly has put in a few years with some very talented new groups. After six years and five albums with the Throwing Muses. Donnelly teamed with ex-Pixies Kim Deal, lending her talents to the Breeders two albums Pod and Safari before finally embarking on a solo career.

Although Donnelly's past is flowered with talented muses and pixies, she shows off her guitar talents as she enters a forum created for her by

"It's hard to get used to the idea of being the main focus on stage." Donnelly said of the change.

When she left the Muses, Donnelly hooked up with child

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