

A Fresh Depeche • Cut the Knife • You Gotta Try Lulabox Good Music Goes Way of Dinosaur Jr. • Chris Isaak Croons

in

U. COLLEGE RADIO CHART

- 1 Belly "You Say" Repose
- 2 Dinosaur Jr. "I'm Not in Love" Sire
- 3 The Replacements "Superchunk" Sub Pop
- 4 The Pixies "Metal" Matador
- 5 Digable Planets "Rebirth" Elektra
- 6 Tree People "Re: Rolling" Elektra



- 6 Frank Black "Frank Black" Elektra
- 7 Shonen Knife "Let's Knife" Virgin
- 8 Fastbacks "Child of the Century" Elektra
- 9 Bettie Serveert "Polaroid" Matador
- 10 Poster Children "Look of the Year" Sire Repose

11 The Replacements "I'm Not in Love" Sub Pop

Dinosaur Jr. *When You Bin It* (Sire)

★★★

The band's first album since 1990's *Give a Glimpse of What You See*

is a return to form. It's a mix of the band's trademark guitar heroics and more melodic, hook-filled songs. "It's a mix of guitar heroics and more melodic, hook-filled songs," says lead singer J. Mascis.



The title is perpetually punning, a power pop term referring to guitar work that's both frenetic and struggling for balance. It's also shared with bands like R.E.M., The Smiths and The Replacements.

When *Give a Glimpse* hit stores, it was one of the most sold albums in its second week. Both the LP and the title single, "Smart Happen," are hovering in the top five of the college charts—a strong return to Dinosaur Jr., which helped define the sound of college rock.

In fact, without bands like Dinosaur Jr., the college music scene still would be 100% underground.

This album is much more than its weight in alcohol, so don't be afraid to pair it with next weekend's best movies for this

year. For all the guitar heroics, however, there are some good guitar moments and melodic, hook-filled songs, too. —Steve

Cordova, Daily Beast, U. of California, Los Angeles

Lulabox *Lulabax* (Shock Ink)

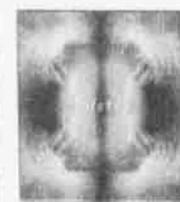
★★

Many always said, "Buy the band to see new things," and that adage holds here. Better than lava beans through a glass of Lulabax. Nothing to fear here but mood升了的 music and childlike daydreams of indescribable rhythm.

The self-titled debut album is a collage up by the British-American rock trio EP released in October. *Let's Blow* featured the driving, toe-whirling sounds of Kirby Doe and the inimitable, keyboardist, Karen Hill.

And after Mary Cassidy leaves a note around itself, then drops it back another, but in so doing, the lyrics return, are drowned and lost to those who enjoy a song done. She's at her best on the lighter songs, "Ginger & Spice" and "Ave."

This band is a unique amalgam of various sounds. Lulabax has the guitar sing-



ing, and rock, the opening, the voices of Cate Le Bon and movie star twangs of the Sadies with some more sounding out the pop, something missing.

The band's like a child having fun. Lulabax is packed with joy, feelings and situations but refuses to let it come to an end.

A series of pop-ups or flashbacks may make an random-sorted play. ■ Lisa Marie Royce, *The Post*, Ohio U.

Shonen Knife *Let's Knife* (Virgin)

★

If the Ramones were reincarnated as three Asian women and heavily influenced by the *Go-Go's*, the re-presentation would be *Shonen Knife*, the Japanese band from Tokyo.

The band's debut album, *Let's Knife*, features the energetic, if not a running on guitars, drums and basses, producing a noise, guitar chords, and harmonicas, drums, bass with plus, falsettos that, at first, is quite funny. The insatiable, day-catchy pop songs, bounce from the speakers, filling your eyes a sort of *Smart-Boot* (the Sex Pistols frame).



But then *Shonen Knife* slips its television edge. Four songs into the album, the novelty of the group wears thin.

Each song begins to sound exactly alike, a recurring downfall for many bands on their first major label. *Shonen Knife* quickly cuts into the nerves.

No, *Shonen Knife* is not original. But more important, it does work. The band mimics the Ramones throughout the album, even though the lyrics are its own. The lyrics focus on these heavy, real-life issues: Flying jellybeans, riding a rocket, black fish and the best pot cleaner in the world.

Shonen Knife's special food/music is anything but dull. *Let's Knife* becomes so annoying that this record should be kept in the drawer. ■ Andrew Johnson, *The Lantern*, The Ohio State U.

in the studio

Brooding crooner Chris Isaak will confront the challenge of following up the huge success of *Wicked Game* (and its soft-core video companion) with the new album *San Francisco Days*. Scheduled for release this spring, it features a lighter, more upbeat sound. Watch for a tour this summer.

Fans of The Replacements have ample reason to dance in the streets nowadays. The band's demise has spawned a solo project by drummer Chris Mars and a new band with bassist Tommy Stinson. The real musical treat, however, promises to be the June release of *14 Songs*, the long-anticipated solo debut by pop genius Paul Westerberg. Can the teacher keep up with his pupils? We'll see.

Former Blake Babies lead singer Julianna Hatfield is finishing up work on the follow-up to her first solo album, *Hey Babe*. The new record features Scott Litt (of R.E.M.-producing fame) behind the boards and is due for a July release.

Blur hits the music stands this spring with the projected arrival of a compilation album. *Essential* will include past dream-pop hits as well as new material from the album *Baby*.

And hold on to your flannel: England's Brand New Heavies are in London working on a album for release sometime this summer. ■ Eric Geyer, *Daily Texan*, U. of Texas



Brooder Chris Isaak

on the road

A brief look at April/May concert listings

Jesus Jones: Norfolk, VA, 4/27; Washington, DC, 4/28; New Orleans, LA, 5/1; Chicago, IL, 5/7; Universal City, CA, 5/13; Oakland, CA, 5/15

Sting with dada: Berkeley, CA, 4/30; 5/1; Seattle, WA, 5/3; Costa Mesa, CA, 5/7; Los Angeles, CA, 5/8-10; San Diego, CA, 5/12; Las Vegas, NV, 5/14-16; Salt Lake City, UT, 5/18; Red Rocks, CO, 5/19; Oklahoma City, OK, 5/21; Dallas, TX, 5/22; Houston, TX, 5/24; New Orleans, LA, 5/25

Indigo Girls: Ruston, LA, 4/28; New Orleans, LA, 4/29; Lewisburg, PA, 4/30; West Palm Beach, FL, 5/2; St. Petersburg, FL, 5/3; Kissimmee, FL, 5/4; Lancaster, PA, 5/7

10,000 Maniacs: New Britain, CT, 5/1; Storrs, CT, 5/2; Philadelphia, PA, 5/3; Elmira, NY, 5/5; Slippery Rock, PA, 5/6; Athens, OH, 5/7; Jamestown, NY, 5/8; Allentown, PA, 5/11; Charlestown, VA, 5/12; Memphis, TN, 5/14; Birmingham, AL, 5/15; New Orleans, LA, 5/16; Seattle, WA, 5/22

quotable

"When I was in college, sex wasn't life or death... People are just dealing with real life at a younger age now."

—Garth Brooks on why country lyrics are tackling tough issues