

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

in the studio on the road

U. COLLEGE RADIO CHART

1. Belly <i>See You Again</i>	6. Frank Black <i>Animal Blood</i> (Elektra)
2. Dinosaur Jr. <i>When You Can't Sleep</i>	7. Shonen Knife <i>Let's Knife</i> (Virgin)
3. Superchunk <i>Oh, My My</i> (Mercury)	8. Fastbacks <i>One of the Chords</i> (Uptown)
4. Digable Planets <i>Let's Get It</i> (Capitol)	9. Bettie Serveert <i>Believer</i> (MCA)
5. Tree People <i>Let's Kill It</i> (K-Led)	10. Poster Children <i>Lead of the Man</i> (See Reprise)

Dinosaur Jr.

When You Can't Sleep (Sire)

★★★★

It's a little hard to believe, but Dinosaur Jr. is back. After a two-year hiatus, the band's new album, *When You Can't Sleep*, is a return to form. The band's sound is as raw and energetic as ever, with a mix of hard-rocking riffs and melodic hooks. The album is a testament to the band's enduring talent and their ability to evolve while staying true to their roots.



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Lulabox

Lulabox (Shock Ink)

★★★

More accessible, they're glad to try new things—and that advice holds here. Better than funk beats, through pop Lulabox. Nothing to fear here, but mood swings of those and childlike, droll, and indie. Boston.



Their self-titled debut album is a follow-up to the British-American rock trio's EP, *EP*, released in October. *Lulabox* features the driving, but whining sounds of Rudy D., and the uncertainty of Jerry Hill.

And after Mary C. assays *Lulabox*, a more rounded self than dropped to pick another hit in recording, the lyrics often are drawn to and best to those who enjoy using doing. She's at her best on the lighter songs "Geez! It Was," and "Yes."

The band is a simple amalgam of various sounds. Lulabox has the guitar (origi-

ally) and rock, the acoustic, the brass, the... (text continues)

The band's... (text continues)

A series of... (text continues)

Shonen Knife *Let's Knife* (Virgin)

★

If the Ramones starts a quarrel as three-year-old... (text continues)

The band's... (text continues)



...and... (text continues)

But then Shonen Knife starts to lose its edge... (text continues)

Each song begins to sound exactly alike... (text continues)

No, Shonen Knife is not original. But more important, it doesn't work. The band mimics the Ramones throughout the album, even though the lyrics are its own. The 10 songs about love, life, and life issues—being jobless, riding a rocket, black tea and the best pot in the world.

Shonen Knife's pop, loud 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.



Brooder Chris Isaak

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

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; 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