

### Bettie Serveert

Lamprey  
Atlantic



First of all, Bettie Serveert is not a "grunge" band, although every article on them says they are. They're Dutch, for crying out sideways.

Lamprey is a fine example of crafted, inspired indie pop — and every time you think the melodies are getting too sweet, guitarist Peter Visser busts out an angular guitar break. Watch for the first single, "Crutches," to hit heavy rotation at your local left-end-of-the-dial station. Lamprey is a formidable album in the fine tradition of good, unassuming college rock. You should buy it.

■ Eric Geyer, *The Daily Texan*, U. of Texas

### Juliana Hatfield

Only Everything  
Atlantic



On the other hand, you should not buy *Only Everything*. When Hatfield fronted Blake Babies, her quirky songs about sleeping and longing and bleeding seemed fresh.

Three solo albums later, the music is getting slower and louder, the lyrics are beginning to spoil and the net result is kinda lame. Go buy Blake Babies' *Earwig* instead. It's better.

■ Eric Geyer, *The Daily Texan*, U. of Texas

### Matthew Sweet

100% Fun  
Zoo Entertainment



Mediocrity doesn't have to pervade pop-structured music. Bands rehash verses, choruses and that happy-go-lucky sound — but not Matthew Sweet.

With his new release *100% Fun*, Sweet styles catchy melodies with dirty, guitar-driven tunes.

Enlisting the help of guitarists Richard Lloyd (Television) and Robert Quine (Lou Reed, Richard Hell), Sweet achieves a sound that squeals and crunches around

his clear vocals, especially noticeable in "Super Baby" and "Sick of Myself."

*100% Fun* is for fuzzy-pop fans who are tired of bubble gum that doesn't stick.

■ Aaron Cole, *Long Beach Union*, California State U., Long Beach

### Fun-da-mental

Seize the Time  
Mammoth Records



The days of Public Enemy and B.D.P. have passed — only a handful of political rap groups remain to challenge a new generation of West Coast gangstas.

To their credit, the British enclave Fun-da-mental aspire to revive the passion of Public Enemy's earlier polemics. Unfortunately, the group captures neither the melodic precision nor the lyrical frenzy of Chuck D and company.

What Fun-da-mental do best is convey the urgency of their concerns. The first single, "Dog Tribe," complements its lyrical rage with an assaultive scratch groove. It's also a healthy reminder that problems remain, whether in Long Beach or London.

■ Dennis Berman, *The Daily Pennsylvanian*, U. of Pennsylvania

### Sparks

Gratuitous Sax and Senseless Violins  
Logic Records



The original synth-pop duo are back. Twenty-four years after Mael brothers Russell and Ron released their first effort, they're still together, and it's a sure bet that prog-

eny like Erasure and the Pet Shop Boys would still be flipping burgers if it weren't for these techno trailblazers.

Instead of catering to the whims of a heavy-handed record label, Sparks recorded *Gratuitous Sax and Senseless Violins* on their own terms and their own time. What the duo have come up with is a glittery album of happily hummable tunes with clever lyrics, quirky titles ("I Thought I Told You to Wait in the Car," "Now That I Own the BBC") and mellifluous Giorgio Moroder-ish aerobic workouts that come off like matured Euro-disco wine.

So dust off that mirrored disco ball — Sparks are back.

■ Jeff Stratton, *The Metropolitan*, Metropolitan State College of Denver

**this is fort apache.** — Great stuff from The Lemonheads, Dinosaur Jr, Buffalo Tom and others crawled out of a dinky, Boston-ghetto recording studio and onto this MCA compilation. Buy it, even if only for the neat-o, save-the-Earth-type packaging.

**Jimi Hendrix, Band Of Gypsies** — Reissue of Jimi Hendrix's last official recording before his death. A limited number are being pressed on vinyl and released in the original packaging. C'mon, you remember vinyl. It's that black, shiny stuff.

**Portishead, Dummy** — Moody and atmospheric, *Dummy* is like the soundtrack to the weirdest, sexiest film-noir detective story never told. Scary music for frightened people.

**Bruce McCullough, Shame-Based Man** — Kid in the Hall McCullough takes your favorite *Kids* sketches and twists them into hilarious avant-garde, spoken-word bits. Includes "These Are the Daves I Know."

**Smooth Grooves: A Sensual Collection** — Sexy, steamy — this four-CD collection from Rhino Records came out just in time for that winter thaw. R&B at its best. Aretha, Marvin — need we say more?

**The Cucumbers, Where We Sleep Tonight** — A hungry band with a name pertaining to food. They're distant cousins to the cranberries and, of course, Belly. The music is delectably danceable and not too rich. *Burp.*

## Schroeder

Great Zen philosophers have said that happiness manifests itself in strange places. Little did they know that 20th century people would find theirs in golf carts, Wonderbras and, uh, Newark, Del.

"Happiness is the essence of **Schroeder**," says drummer Brian Erskine of the ever-happy Newark-based band. "Angst is too miserable for us, so we write beautiful pop songs that leave a big smile on your face."

But don't let the sugar coating turn your stomach the way the sound of Kathie Lee Gifford's voice makes that man convulse — or whatever that heinous incident was. Just take **Schroeder** and its first full-length album, *Moonboy*, at face value: solid music and clever pop tunes.

The quartet — Erskine, guitarist Nick DiMaria, bassist Michael Bolan and singer Larry DiMaio — met about four years ago at the U. of Delaware. Like most bands, it developed its sound by performing small shows around campus for local alternative hipsters. Since then, it's developed a prodigious following.

"Our musical attitude is the same as it was when we started three years ago," Erskine says. "It's positive and upbeat because we want our listeners to smile."

*Moonboy*, like the music of Stone Roses and Blur, is a melodic mix of up-tempo love songs that are neither girly nor overbearing.

The lead track, "Heavenly," is the quintessential Schroeder song, with its refrain: "I'm happy/I'm happy now." "Waste of Time" is a little darker than most of the others, but hey, even happiness comes in different shades.

"Too Beautiful" is the knot that ties the whole album together. It's quick, with the unmistakably Schroeder maxed-out psychedelic electric chorus on the 12-string guitar.

Schroeder is still shopping for a label. It came close to signing with TVT records, but the deal turned sour.

"I'm very satisfied with the direction the band is headed," Erskine says. "I mean, we've conquered Newark. What else is left? Europe?"

For more information on Schroeder, write: Zowie Records, 91 E. Cleveland Ave., Newark, DE 19711.

■ Tom Jarrett, West Chester U.

## U. Radio Chart

1. **Stone Roses**, *Love Spreads*, Geffen
2. **Soul Coughing**, *Ruby Vroom*, Slash/WB
3. **Jon Spencer Blues Explosion**, *Orange*, Matador
4. **Kitchens of Distinction**, *Cowboys & Aliens*, A&M
5. **New Radiant Storm King**, *August Revival*, Grass
6. **The The**, *I Saw the Light*, Sony
7. **Dead Hot Workshop**, *River Otis*, Seed
8. **18th Dye**, *Done*, Matador
9. **The Wedding Present**, *Watusi*, Island
10. **(The) Laurie Anderson**, *Bright Red*, Warner Bros.

Chart solely based on college radio airplay. Contributing radio stations: WRFL, U. of Kentucky; WVUD-FM, U. of Delaware; KRNU, U. of Nebraska, Lincoln; WUVT, Virginia Tech; KUCB, U. of Colorado, Boulder; KUOM, U. of Minnesota; WCBN-FM, U. of Michigan; KUOI, U. of Idaho; WWVU-FM, West Virginia U.; KASR, Arizona State U.; KTRU-FM, Rice U.; KWVU, U. of Oregon; KLA, UCLA.

★★★★=Hamburglar ★★★★★=Grimace ★★★=Mayor McCheese  
★★=Fry Guys ★=Ronald McDonald