

Local Product

Reviews Of Tapes By Area Bands

This month we begin with a review of the WHRW (SUNY Radio) compilation CD entitled *Moe's Meat Sandwich*. It's available at just about every independent record store in the triple cities area for just eight bucks.

Moe's Meat Sandwich is a collection of songs from last year's SUNY-based bands. Nearly all the bands on this 70+ minute CD are now gone, but many of the players have since formed new bands. Some are playing out already, others are coming your way soon.

Many different styles are represented on this disc; alternative, hardcore, industrial, bluegrass, rap, you name it. The straight-ahead rock and 'funk' tunes don't always work. The bands that take chances lead the pack with amazing authority.

The infamous and controversial *Vest* pull off a tough, well-focused industrial number entitled *Toast*. Generic Mike proves himself to be a master of synth/drum programming; his creative rhythm tracks provide a solid foundation for Krista Allthethyme's deadpan vocal delivery and Jef Czekaj's Thurston Moore-ish guitar.

Czekaj and Jen Godfrey's *Gobstopper* project contribute the brooding *Radical Luck*, probably the hardest song to listen to on the disc, but also one of the best. Thumping drums, mysterious vocals and distorted guitar make for a challenging and truly original cut that is hard to forget.

Uncle Pete's excellent *Meat Dept.* crank out two fun, enjoyable hardcore originals. I'm sure that *You're Such A (XXXXXX) Loser* is destined to become a WHRW underground classic.

Moving far to the right, the *Koza-Godin-Kamp Trio* perform sunshower, a soft yet swinging jazz original that is reminiscent of Wayne Shorter's *Footprints*. This track

features some nice upright bass playing from Ted Kamp.

I've never been a fan of "Phish-Blues Traveller-with-a-touch-of-Sly Stone bar funk, and the few shots fired in that direction here just don't cut it. But this small flaw is overshadowed by some intriguing acoustic bits by *The Acoustically Bent* and *Bonnie Highland Laddie*, a groovin' rap tune by *The Jigmastas*, and another *Vest* spinoff, *Bytches And Pryx*.

Although the styles vary greatly, the overall impression is one of unity. Lets hope that WHRW goes for Volume Two next year. There is something for everyone on this fine compilation. With twenty tunes for eight bucks, you can't go wrong. - Matthew White

Silly Pillows/

Pushing At Those Limits

Let's take this bit by bit: *Silly Pillows*. Good choice of words, because this tape is very silly, even bordering on ridiculous. *Pushing At Those Limits* perfectly describes what I experienced listening to this recording. The limits of my patience, tolerance, and even my sanity were pushed by this eight song EP. The music consists of extremely campy 60's pop that would make The Monkees or Spanky & Our Gang vomit. And those were the remotely listenable songs. Tracks like *Me*, *Hugobarneezles* with it's 'wall of cheap \$30 Casio sound' could push even the most normal soul into a psychotic rampage. There's more camp on this tape than in all of the 'Meatballs' movies combined. *Pushing At Those Limits* reminds me of Spinal Tap's summer of love ode *Listen To The Flower People*, only it was funny when Spinal Tap did it. File this one under 'music for people on thorazine'. If this sounds interesting, write to Silly Pillows at RR #1 Box 132-E3, Friendsville PA 18818. Mike Shonk

Unsound/Demo

Unsound is a power trio that rides a fine line between speed metal and hardcore punk. Their music is fast and aggressive. Not since *Hell Awaits* by Slayer have I heard someone sing so fast. (Fortunately, the tape comes with a lyric sheet.) The songs on this EP deal with many diverse topics. *Johnny Law* takes on police brutality, *Who Pays* tackles the middle east crisis, and *Peace Child* talks about the stupidity of war much as Metallica does in *Disposable Heroes*.

Unsound also has, as far as I know, the first ever song about second hand cigarette smoke, oddly enough entitled *Second Hand Smoke*. The lyrics go like this: *You can't smell this thing that's been putting me through hell! You don't care that my eyes are falling out and I think I'm losing my hair! Choke, choke! On Second Hand Smoke.*

Unsound also delivers a speed metal version of The Brady Bunch Theme called *Brady Crunch*. The music is loud and the recording is raw and garage sounding. It's perfect music for your favorite mosh pit or for just sitting around trashing your house. To order your copy, call (607) 277-1658. - MS

Tribulations/Tribulations

Tribulations is a nine piece reggae band with members hailing from Ithaca and Boston. They are truly one of the few great American reggae bands, and their new eight song CD showcases why. The Tribs have a knack for mixing many reggae styles. *Baby Don't Go*, with it's wild mix, shifts effortlessly back and forth between dance hall, roots and dub. Songs like *The Gate* and *Mr. Mason* will keep you moving, and may cause your hair to start knotting up in dreadlocks. The Tribs also take time out for some slow skankin' on *She's The Kind Of Girl*. This song is reminiscent of Bob Marley's classic *Turn Your Lights Down Low*.

It would seem that a band with two lead singers, a three piece horn section, bass, guitar, keyboards and drums would be difficult to keep together, but the Tribulations are tight enough to bounce a quarter off of. Their big sound shines through on this CD, most of which was recorded at Ithaca's Pyramid

Sound Recording Studios with Rob (Wacko) Hunter at the helm.

If you love reggae or even if you just need a good place to start, the harmonies and driving sounds of the Tribulations are for you. Can you say "Irie"? - MS

Snaggletooth/Demo Tape

This is one of the most interesting demos we've received in recent months. Snaggletooth is an Ithaca based four piece band that blends several styles to come up with their own sound. The first tune, *Emancipation Proclamation*, bridges the gap between hard rock and funk. It's a very high energy, very danceable tune with a catchy chorus and some hellacious slap bass and funky drums. Guitar wise, the tune is pure rock, and Tim High's vocals handle both styles well. Next up is *Thought*, which is a power ballad with a good melody. Fortunately, the tune doesn't use the standard 'acoustic guitar only for one verse, bass joins for the next verse, drums & electric guitar on the chorus' formula that is so annoyingly omnipresent on the radio these days. Instead, the band jams out on a chord progression that, while repetitive, kept me groovin'. This is my favorite song on the demo.

After *Thought* comes *Contemporary Insanity*, a Red Hot Chili Peppers type groove that will keep

you moving with a cool bass line, some neat time changes and interesting guitar work from Joe Iadanza. Joe's work on this demo is very good, but live the guy is one of the most entertaining players on the local scene. His phrasing and tone set him apart from the crowd.

Last on the tape is *Lose My Mind*, another metal/funk blend that had me skankin' in front of my stereo. (Could be dangerous on a car stereo...)

The tape was recorded by Will Russell at Electric Wilburland studios in Ithaca, and mixed at Pyramid Sound Recording Studios by Rob 'Wacko' Hunter. Needless to say, the tape sounds good. For a copy, send \$5 to Snaggletooth at 110 N. Aurora St., Apt 2, Ithaca NY 14850. It's worth it. - JR

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