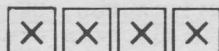


Vinyl

LONG PLAYS



A CERTAIN RATIO "SEXTET" (FACTORY LP)

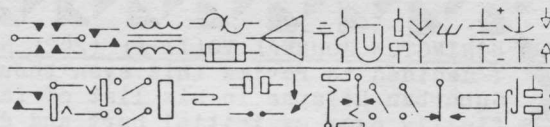
--- I had almost written these guys off after the disjointed failure of "To Each... ", but "Sextet" shapes up rather nicely. It's a moody work that reflects the pain and hurt we at times desire. Quiet but moving, ACR use the rhythmic base of funk to explore new possibilities. The mix is a real eye opener; the busy bass and percussion are prominent but never overbearing and help create a trance-like mood. Intimate and personal, the calm resonance of the vocals extend the subliminal hurt. A rewarding album that's well produced and Hannet's name is nowhere to be found. (BOZ)

D.A.F "GOLD UND LIEBE" (VIRGIN LP)-- This has been described as a "sensual" album and that's very accurate. True, synthesizers and cymbals don't generate warmth for some. It's the vocals that really convey it. I can't understand a word Gebi sings because it's all in German. It's the feeling in his voice that comes across. For all I know he could be saying "go home yanks". (Craig Snyder)

TENPOLE TUDOR "LET THE FOUR WINDS BLOW" (STIFF LP)--- Pleasant but undistinguishable rocky British pop. "Three Bells in a Row" was a better effort but that was a single. They also dressed better back then. Buy the T-SHIRT. (BOZ)

VARIOUS ARTISTS "BUSTED AT OZ"

(AUTUMN LP)--- An attractive compilation consisting of live performances by six different Chicago bands. The Effigies and Da (change your name!) fare the best while the rest (the Subverts, Naked Raygun, Strike Under, and Silver Abuse) vary in quality but ultimately have less going for them. The Effigies are a good danceable thrash band that even "nice" people like me can dance to. Da's single from last year displayed an effective Banshees influenced sound. The two songs here don't quite reach that level although "Fish Shit" comes close. Although it's doubtful that this record will change anyone's life it's still a good bet for anyone interested in regional American underground music. (BOZ)



SOCIAL CLIMBERS (HOBOKEN LP)--- I'm really at a loss to explain why I like this. Basically the music may be described as eccentric pop which some may consider "arty" but to me sounds like good fun. The lineup is rather simple consisting of bass, guitar, farfisa, and rhythm box. Unusual hooks and odd melodies attract my interest. Some of it's goofy like the guy with the long legs on the back cover but then they throw you off and do something kind of sad. Sounds like a quirky Young Marble Giants if that's possible. Recommended. (BOZ)

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NICK LOWE "NICK THE KNIFE" (COLUMBIA LP)--- Nick Lowe albums are like rock trivia quizzes with his good natured thievery and tongue in cheek attitude winking at you and asking "guess where I stole this from...". There isn't a thing on "Nick the Knife" that you haven't heard somewhere else but that's not the point, Nick's just tossing his pure pop elements around again and how much fun he has fitting them back together again is the point. (And yeah, it does have a nice cover, Boz....) (Cz)

VARIOUS ARTISTS "TEST PATTERNS" (HI TEST LP)--- I really wanted to like this compilation of St. Louis bands compiled by John the Mailman who edits Jet Lag fanzine. I mean St. Louis isn't all that different from Miami... or is it? There are 7 different bands but outside of the beginning to the Mopeds' "Woe is Me" which sounds like "Babylon's Burning" it's all downhill from there. You've heard it all before

just like the two years too late ska sound of the Felons. Sorry John I like your mag but your bands just don't cut it, but what do I know so send \$6 to Hi Test, P.O. Box 7941, St. Louis, Mo. 63106. (BOZ)

VARIOUS ARTISTS "CHANTONS NOEL. GHOSTS OF CHRISTMAS PAST" (LES DISQUES DU CREPUSCULE LP)---

Thirteen bands/ artists- an Xmas LP although you'd never know it by listening. Astec Camera are the only ones with the right idea I suppose, they contribute a jazzy instrumental perfect for your next holiday brunch. Why am I listening to this? "Tokyo Twilight" by the Names is haunting and makes me want to hear more. Cabaret Voltaire's "Invocation" could be an outtake from "Red Mecca". Good stuff. I'll pass on the rest... Tuxedomoon, Durutti Column, Thick Pigeon..... hip background music perhaps. A must if you collect LP's from small foreign countries. This one's from Belgium. (BOZ)



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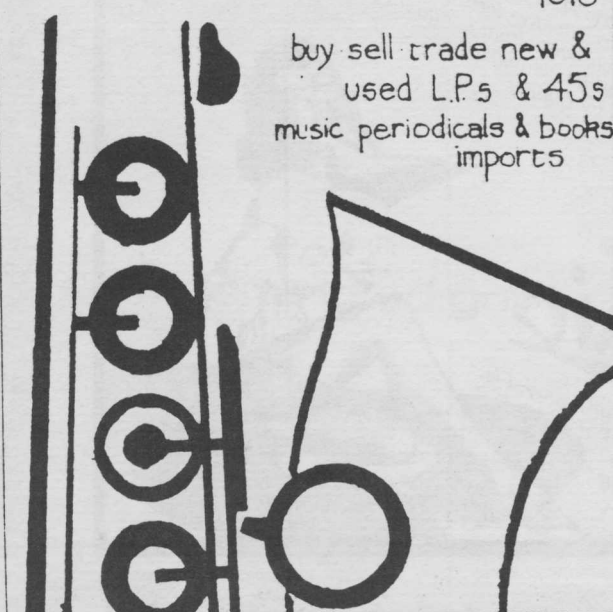
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FINGERPRINTZ "BEAT NOIR" (STIFF LP)---
 These guys showed some real tuneful potential on their first two LP's. But here it's all thump- thump-thump- and- handclapping to the point that you don't care if there's some less than wretched songwriting here; that incessant BEAT obliterates everything laid under(!) it. Does this mean "Stars On 45" will be the most influential record of the 80's? Get me a razor... (Cz)

BAD BRAINS (ROIR CASSETTE)---
 What else can I add that I haven't said elsewhere? NO this tape can never replace a live Bad Brains performance but what else can? Good reggae and some of the best thrash noise in the Universe make this an absolute must. Buy this, borrow it, steal it, dub it... use whatever means you have available but make sure you get it! (BOZ)

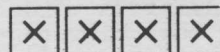
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THE FLESHTONES "BLAST OFF!" (ROIR CASSETTE)--- If you bought "Roman Gods" and couldn't figure out what the fuss was about you'd be best to trade that in and pick up "Blast Off!" instead. Contrary to what NY Rocker may lead you to believe there's nothing on their latest LP that comes close to matching the material on this tape. All these selections were originally produced for Red Star in 1979. What we have is a raw vital bar band that was capable of pushing 60's R&B and psychedelicia to the MAX. The Tones may not have an inch of originality in them but they steal from all the right sources. Trashy but brilliant dance music. What went wrong? (BOZ)

SINGLES



NON EROTIC MALE BONDING "TORTURE"/
"THE MIDDLE YEARS" (GREEN 7)---
 NEMB are from D.C. and include two members from the Stick Figures. Cool textural rhythm sounds similar to the Stick Figures but different. "Torture" aptly describes it's slow hypnotic funk beat; compelling and not at all painful. "The Middle Years" is more upbeat; a mechanical rhythm section and a wonderfully dissonant guitar create some very demanding but listenable music. An incredible record, I just wish it was longer with 4 songs on it like the Stick Figures EP so that we could have become better acquainted. (BOZ)

GET SMART! "WORDS MOVE" (SYNTAX 7
EP)--- Clean sparse sounds with a sharp angular beat. Slightly neurotic rock that vaguely reminds me of the first Talking Heads LP although that's probably an inaccurate comparison. A simple uncomplicated approach. Write to: P.O. Box 493, Lawrence, KS 66044. (BOZ)



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THE JAM "TOWN CALLED MALICE"/PRECIOUS"
(POLYDOR 7" & 12")--- Talk about mixed feelings. "Town Called Malice" swings like great Motown-oh, to hear the Supremes do this-without the somewhat busy arrangement of "Absolute Beginners". Short, sweet, and straight to the heart/ If those two represent their next LP, bring it on! However, "Precious" is art/funk/disco drone of the sort that is so fashionable these days (and done better by others). A nice change of pace and not necessarily bad, but just faceless and not showing any of the Jam's best qualities. And the 12" has an extended version, no less. Thrills. The 12" also features a live version of "Town Called Malice" that basically sounds like the studio track with screaming. Oh boy. Buy the 7" or hope "Town" is on the LP. (CZ)

YELLO "BOSTICH" (STIFF AMERICA 12" 4 SONG EP)--- I don't know why music like this has lyrics, because the vocals are usually buried in production tricks, and no one's gonna listen to them at discos anyway. And the music's too passive and boring to be heard anywhere else, so who cares? (CZ)

THE HATES "NO TALK IN THE 80'S" (FACELESS 7" EP)--- Average west coast style punk via Texas. They're OK but how many other bands are there that sound exactly the same? Actually you should read about them in Robin's report from Texas; she's more objective and descriptive than I am. It's just that I'm running out of new adjectives to describe punk rock and I can't find my Thesaurus! Please ignore my drivel and send \$3 to the Hates. Their address can also be found in Robin's report. (BOZ)

FLIPPER "SEXBOMB"/"BRAINWASH" (SUBTERRANEAN 7")--- Can this be a new trend? Hand drawn picture sleeves in crayon.... hmmm. The last Public Image LP should have sounded like this but then this guy in Flipper makes Johnny seem like a seasoned pro. Screaming vocals! "DO THE SEXBOMB!" What is he singing about? Maybe it's a new dance except I don't know the steps. Yeah you guessed it this is totally incoherent.... a mad genius at work. (BOZ)

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DISCHORD

1) THE TEEN IDLES "MINOR DISTURBANCE" 2) S.O.A. "NO POLICY" 3) MINOR THREAT EP 4) GOVERNMENT ISSUE "LEGLESS BULL" 5) MINOR THREAT "IN MY EYES" 6) YOUTH BRIGADE "POSSIBLE EP" (ALL DISCHORD RECORDS 7" EP's)--- A care package from Washington D.C./ 48 songs on six 7" singles/ I don't know how these guys do it. Top honors go to S.O.A. and Minor Threat. Why Henry left S.O.A. to join Black Flag is a mystery to me. There's nothing on the new Flag LP that comes close to the fuzzed out manical (not mechanical) intensity of S.O.A. Maybe Henry wanted to be a star. The first Minor Threat EP is excellent D.C. hardcore but "In My Eyes" comes close to transcending that genre entirely. They take everything to the extreme; the accelerated tempos, the quick stop and go time changes, the crazed guitar work... a screaming mad wall of noise. It seems more than a coincidence that the latest Dead Kennedys takes a similar approach. Jello's been obviously influenced by the D.C. sound. The Teen Idles were an early version of Minor Threat (well they had 2 of the same guys) and are worthwhile; a glimpse of greater things to come perhaps. Government Issue and the Youth Brigade are more straight forward, not quite as frantic, and not quite as essential as the others. If these EP's are any indication, D.C. might possibly have the best hardcore scene in America today. If interested send \$2.50 apiece/p.p. for both Minor Threat singles and the Youth Brigade to Dischord Records, 3819 Beecher St. NW, Wash. D.C. 20007. The others are currently out of stock but write anyway and maybe they will repress the stuff. (BOZ)

VIRNA LINDT "YOUNG & HIP"/"THE DOSSIER ON VIRNA LINDT" (COMPACT 7")--- One of the most fun singles this year. Virna's a blond Swede who sings songs written by a fellow named Taylor and they're with the Compact Organization, a new label-co. in England. Her voice is mixed down and I still haven't decided if she can sing yet. Something old and something new with a dash of mystic, atmosphere, and 60's niteclub feel- excitement. Like I said, fun but not for everyone. (Craig Snyder)



Screaming Sneakers

SCREAMING SNEAKERS "MARCHING ORDERS" (SCREAMING SNEAKERS 12" EP)--- Remember when the Sneakers were considered Cichlids' clones? That was some time ago; the band has since moved to NYC and their first EP has enough ammunition to silence even their staunchest critics. Well recorded and produced, the Sneakers have an energetic power pop sound that occasionally reminds me of early Blondie circa "Plastic Letters" (thats a compliment!). However that's not an accurate description as some of the material is a bit more adventurous similar to the Bananases. "Violent Days" is my favorite, it features loud guitars and Lisa Nash (lead vocalist) at her most convincing. Of special interest is their cover of "I Can't Help It", the old Reactions tune. Why didn't the Reactions version sound like this on their own EP? Yes! I think I could fall in love with Lisa if only she didn't have those tatoos... but I guess that's my hangup. Silly isn't it? Anyway I like this record very much. Thank you. (BOZ)

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XTC "SENSES WORKING OVERTIME"/"BLAME THE WEATHER"/"TISSUE TIGERS"(VIRGIN 7)--- This one comes in a picture sleeve that's as inconvenient as it is clever-things going in all directions that folds into one tidy cover that's impossible to get the record out of. The A-side isn't much different with its odd, vaguely Indian sounding textures and rhythms meshing into a hooky sing-song chorus. It works, really. On the flip, "Tissue Tigers(the Arguers)" is straightforward XTC(is that a contradiction?) pop that could have been an A-side as well, and Colin Moulding's tune "Blame The Weather" is amiable enough listening fare, but I can't remember what it sounds like. (CZ)

SUBVERTS "INDEPENDENT STUDY"(CLANDESTINE 7" EP)--- Rather routine hardcore from Chicago, the Subverts can also be heard on the "Busted at Oz" LP reviewed elsewhere. Stronger production would help although "Radiation Nation" is decent Damned influenced punk. (BOZ)

PYLON "M-TRAIN"/"CRAZY" (DB 7)--- From the cover (featuring a prism sticker of a jumping fish...you know that kind that are usually plastered on trucks) to Vanessa's wild voice this is a neat single. Pylon seems to be more accessible, without losing any of their mystery. They still sound spooky and dangerous. "M-Train" features Vanessa providing the woo-oo of a train gone almost out of control. "Crazy" sounds like a lively dirge of a mental patient about to give up and give in to her illness. This is another quality record from DB recs, a label to be supported! (Mary)

THE DANCING CIGARETTES (GULCHER 7" EP)--- Their press release describes this as "mental theatre dance music". Well I'm not sure what that means but the Cigarettes do bear some resemblance to Pere Ubu back in their early days. Good forceful funky up tunes and a squealing sax on "Mr. Morse" make this worthwhile. The Cigs are from Indiana and can also be heard on "Red Snerts" an Indiana compilation on Gulcher. (BOZ)

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RHODA WITH THE SPECIAL A.K.A. "THE BOILER" (TWO TONE 7")--- This is not a regular single. It's a story song; a story with a great beginning and a rotten ending; a song with great music all the way through. The subject is rape. Just the word chills the hearts of most women and here's a whole song about one woman's experience. The music sets the scene, weaves in and out of the story line punctuating the words and actions, and sadly trails off at the end/ Rhoda has a fine voice. She plays the parts of the woman and man, piping high for the first and growling low for the second. The special A.K.A. (what is left of the original specials) support the words with excellent musicianship. This is not a single for everyone. It's very disturbing because it reminds us that rape is a crime of brutal violence. This well crafted single is highly recommended. (Mary)

POPE PAUL POT "ADVENTURES IN PLASTIC TV LAND" (NO FIDELITY EP)--- From the San Francisco Bay area, the same place that gave us the Residents and the Dead Kennedys, comes Pope Paul Pot, sounding alot like the Residents with lyrics by Jellow Biafra or something like that. The standout cut is "K-K-K Carolina On My Mind"-"well the mud feels good on my leather boots, as I goosetep through the hills". Fun lyrics, but watered-down Residents music ain't my cup of tea. (No Fidelity Records, 1029 Pardee St., Berkley CA 94710). (CZ)


VIC GODDARD "STAMP OF A VAMP"/"HEY NOW" (CLUB LEFT 7")--- Vic, now a niteclub singer with a new niteclub band and their own niteclub somewhere in England. Wow. Well, Vic's finally found his notch? In a lot of his recent interviews he's been saying he would rather sing for middle aged people. With his new style and lyrics he's a lot better off doing that. Nothing to go apeshit over but it's certainly charming. (Craig Snyder)

START (L-ERT 7" EP)--- New wave from Kansas. Jazzy upbeat tunes with a Holiday Inn piano player. I think they're trying to be mods though. I'll pass. (BOZ)

THEATRE OF HATE "DO YOU BELIEVE IN THE WEST WORLD"/"PROPOGANDA" (BURNING ROME 7")--- Almost every song that TOH does is a mini-epic, an anthem of one sort or another. Last year's "Nero" sounded like it was made in Hell but "Westworld" reminds me of uhh.... cowboys. Theme music for a modern day western? Perhaps. Actually I can never seem to make out what Kirk is singing (not that it really matters) so I'll have to assume instead. Really terrific though, a faster tempo reminiscent of early Skids but delivered with that poisonous spite. Love their sax player- almost unhuman emotions in his playing. I bet they're great live. (BOZ)

FOUR SKINS "WHITE NEIGHBORHOOD" (BEATNOTE 12" EP)--- Not to be confused with the English Oi band the 4 Skins are a NYC white (well 3 of the 4 members are) funk band. James Chance comes to mind but I'm still not convinced. A hip AWB. (BOZ)

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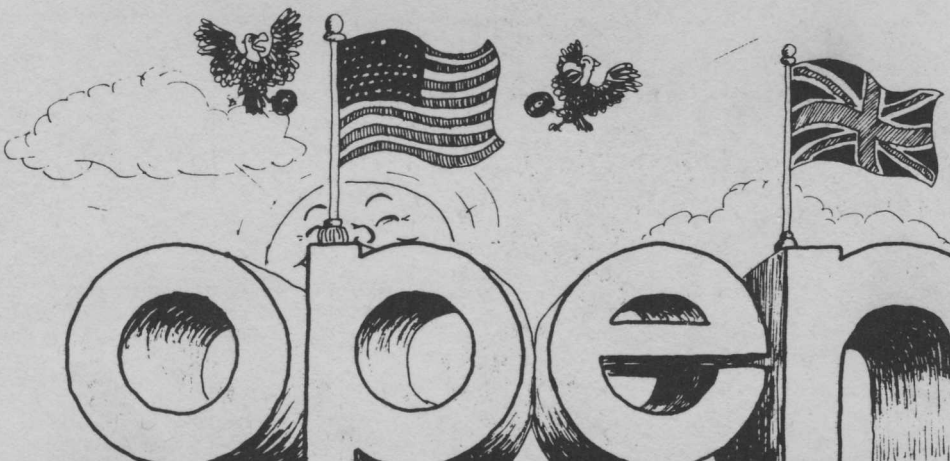
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