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JUNE 12...JULY 16

CHICAGO CULTURE. CHICAGO SOUNDS. CHICAGO ATTITUDE

SOUND-BAR

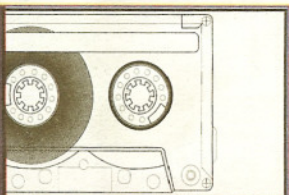
The Greatest Club

That Never Was

U R TAKES A BEHIND-THE-SCENES LOOK AT WHAT EXACTLY HAPPENED
TO THE MUCH-HYPED SOUND-BAR SUPER-CLUB AND
CATCHES UP ON THE CURRENT STATE OF CLUBBING IN CHICAGO

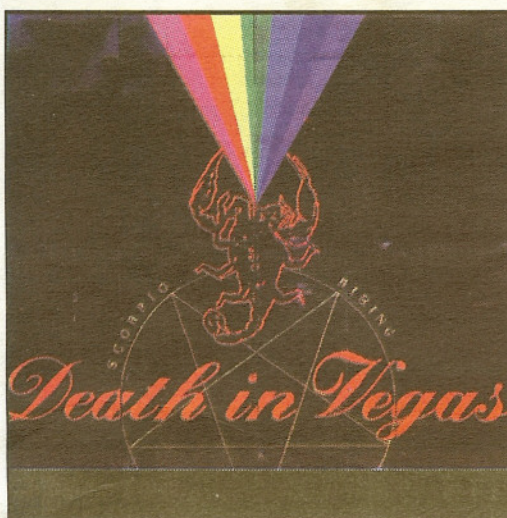
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MUSIC AND NIGHTLIFE GUIDE



Various Artists Punk-O-Rama 8 (Epitaph)

Ah, the 8th annual installment of Epitaph's current line-up, this time with 31 tracks and one video on two CDs for your aural pleasure. Epitaph's always been one for diversity, but lately they're more about following trends in alternative music than blazing new paths in punk since its "third wave" in the mid-1990s. Sure, they have the steady stable of bands that've been with them for ages — Bad Religion, Rancid, NOFX, Pennywise — and set the bar rather high for new bands that come along, yet the vast amount of *Punk-O-Rama 8* only signifies the flavor of the month in radio-friendly sounds. Overrated bands Hot Water Music and Division of Laura Lee are among a whole slew of less-than-spectacular label mates, including rip-off artists the (International) Noise Conspiracy, Matchbook Romance and U.S. Bombs. Is it punk's fate to shamelessly rehash the sounds of yesteryear to the genre's unwitting death? **Tom Molony**



Death in Vegas Scorpio Rising (BMG UK)

I was in a state of thigh-quivering agitation when I gave SR its first spin. Until...my personal photographer made a casual yet MENSA-level observation: "That first track ["Leather"] sounds like a Mountain Dew commercial." The sonofabitch was right. Track two, however — "Girls," featuring Adult's Nicola Kuperus — is the sort of rubber suit-wearing, ether-sniffing affair I've not caught wind of since ol' Buffalo Bob did the tuck and wink to Lazarus's "Goodbye Horses" in *Silence of the Lambs*. Unfortunately, any character DiV had is lost in their attempts to accommodate the gaggle of guest vocalists. The LP ends up — much like a Dolly Parton Christmas special — made of entirely unrelated parts. Liam Gallagher, Dot Allison and Hope Sandoval all give momentarily engaging yet ultimately monochrome showings. However! The bolt-busting Kuperus track, along with the gibberish-inducing album title, makes this a must-have for any discerning collector of "music." **Mark von Pfleffer**

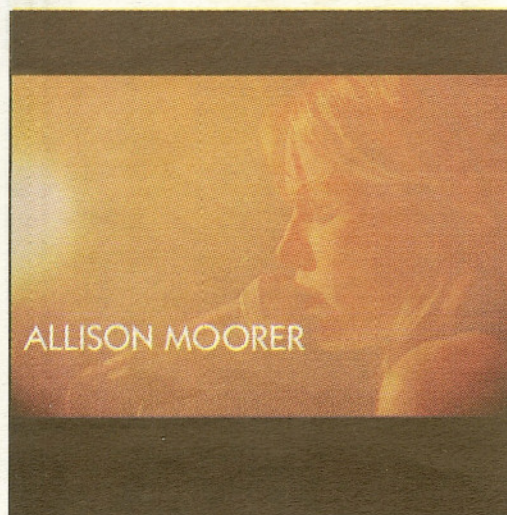


Quintron Are You Ready For an Organ Solo? (Three.One.G)

Quintron, known as much for his organ histrionics as for his Drum Buddy and sidekick/significant other Miss Pussycat (she of Flossie and the Unicorns), raises the stakes on *Are You Ready For an Organ Solo?* From the album's suggestive title and cover art (check the airbrush t-shirt and Drum Buddy earrings -- hot!) to an interior money shot of Quintron himself, who knew the organ could be so dirty? It's Preachers Gone Wild: Quintron sounds like a wayward revivalist fired up (in all the wrong ways) with the power of the Holy Spirit, and Miss Pussycat is his cutest cheerleader on tracks like "Teenage Antoinette" and "Underwater Dance Club." It's a bizarro universe of partial nudity and good beats...and it's funny as hell.

Allison Moorer Show: A Live Release (Universal South)

Like her older sis Shelby Lynne before her, singer Allison Moorer emerged from Nashville anonymity last year with a gorgeously woozy CD of detailed country-soul splendor and high-gloss boot-scooting boogie. So ears are perked for the follow-up to *Miss Fortune* just as they were for *Love, Shelby*, the confused bid for crossover success Lynne released in 2001. The bad news is that Moorer's decided to issue *Show: A Live Release*, from a set she played in January at Music City's intimate 12th & Porter, instead of a new studio album. The good news is that she's in fine form, alternately roaring and slinking through *Fortune* highlights, as well as older cuts and a chiming cover of Neil Young's "Don't Cry No Tears." When Lynne joins her for a mid-set trio of tunes the sisters endow their harmonies with plenty of warmth, and Kid Rock's guest spot on closer "Bully Jones" provides some obligatory live-album grit. **Mikael Wood**



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Stacie Orrico (ForeFront/Virgin) Sixteen-ity-less as Y2K+ teen-popsters come - oh, r single "Stuck" has to be the year's dandiest -ian-identified act. Oh, right: Evanescence Silent all these years, Amy Lee opens her since Linkin Park surges out. A primer for st **mate Dance Divas** (Arista) The omnipr these ladies of their sometimes hard-won track monster on at the right bridal shower Dayne represent! ... **The Bad Plus** These they do include interpretations of Nirvana under-50 set, these three scruffy New Yo proof that when old A&R guys at major label ing into view, they go out and find a jazz **Data 80** (Force Tracks) Saturated-fat puffy-Sweden that's like Daft Punk absent the tw Something Dangerous (Mantra/Beggars) It' global-village promise her work always in guess.) But the grooves here are particul casual Shakira fan, which these days means ... **Athlete** Vehicles & Animals (Parlophone for folks who thought Blur didn't try hard **Stratford 4** Love & Distortion (Jetset) We who still wholeheartedly believe in indie-ro Back (VP/Atlantic) Dancehall vet Wonder's R. Kelly's impossibly buoyant "Ignition" r waves upon which it slips out of the radio. I der ... **The Isley Brothers 3+3** (Epic/Le from 1973 to you, complete with "Summe zaps Seals & Crofts of their icky frozen-yo (Aware/Columbia) Geek-pop godheads Ma Shawn Mullins join forces to vanquish those ing give in to harmony-group wholesomen **Jayhawks** Rainy Day Music (Lost Highway the Jayhawks' gorgeous "Blue" is an upbeat nothing as incandescent as that on the 'H plays it pretty close to its title ... **Turboneg** Heart/Epitaph) Truth in advertising here, too played up all the cowbell ... **Lizzie West** H Bros.) New Yorker Lizzie West's Warner Bros played and sung well, each touched with en to hear them maybe one more time. So basi **Cold** Year of the Spider (Flip/Geffen) Not me sad enough, not nice enough - Cold are the without a "Sister Christian" ... **Powerman** Powerman 5000, on the other hand, are all **Verbena** La Musica Negra (Capitol) Evidently album left Alabama rockers Verbena with Queens of the Stone Age's sweet dinosaur c CD. But, dudes: not mean enough, not funny enough ... **Bill Frisell** The Intercontinenta dreamy effort than last year's supremely nar namentals finds Frisell wondering if he can rende prettily as he does America's. You know the an War (Astralwerks) Nine out of 10 pundits agre record in 2003, it will be this lively mash-up rude-boy abrasion ... **Rooney** (Geffen) Don't f tiful. Hate 'em 'cause they got a big fat record Do You Party? (Soundslike) Drew Daniel of Ma rockin' house and disco records and promptly wear glasses, you might feel inclined to join hi tor (Kill Rock Stars) Loved by sexually empower gled copy editors (that's four exclamation poin bons vivants are betting that there are quite a star fans filling America's universities ... **Ela** (Strange Fruit/Koch) Elastica didn't exactly lea live performance from its wound-tight studio a way). So these BBC sessions don't do much short-lived vim. But it's still some serious vim ... Been Long (Bar/None) Second-string Omaha ro ture a guest turn by Conor Oberst (or does it? town would sound like without the scrutiny of th Now (Stones Throw) As swaddled in fuzz as an from beneath the couch, this vintage blast of b fusion (originally intended as a children's albu relic CD reissues were invented for. Which mea can't appreciate its context, just its bizarre, free

By Mikael Wood