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TOLL
 Bob's in Fort Worth $\begin{aligned} & \text { growling voice is an almost con. } \\ & \text { stant presence.on every song. He } \\ & \text { rarely pauses for more than f few } \\ & \text { seconds to let his bond get in a m. }\end{aligned}$ seconds to let his band get in a mu.
sical riff, but he does use his voie like an instrument, testing the lim. its of his vocal range.
Thenoll's sound can best be des
scribed as a blend of driving beats scribed as a blend of driving beas
and occasional hard guita licks Circone's moaning voice on top of
the instrumentals completes the package. It is a sound that wont make you get up and shout, but
won't put you to sleep either. The Toll is not apraid to add
new twist to the guitar rock formu. la. Brett B. of the rap group 7 AB appears on two songs, War is Re-
lease" and "American Mess", Both
songs are attacks on the American government's policies overseas and
got home. They want to know why at home. They want to know why
thousands of troops are sent to the Saudi Arabia when we have peopl being killed in the streets of ou
cities every day. The best song on the album is
the last one, "Sweet Misery" It iss bizarre song that begins slow and
thoughtful, poetically deccribibg inner feelings about the night From there it builds up to a fass screaming obscenities about the "Sweet Mi
At the opposite end of the mu. Wish". It has a joyful, happy bead
and a sickening, sugar-coated chorus that sounds like it was stolen
from an old Partridge Family al.

## 

Shanding on the Ledge" are songs
that almost beg to be played live
Bassist Greg Bartram Bassist Greg Bartram and drum.
mer Brett Mayo lay down strong mer Brett Mayo lay down strong
rhythm tracks on these songs and
Circone howls at his fiercest. In concert, Circone would almost cer.
tainly use his improvisational tal. ents to spice up these songs even
On Sticks and Stones and Broken
Bones, The Toll has made a move into issue-oriented rock a n' nove
However, there are still a few
How songs that have no deep sociolog.
cal meaning. It is good to hear that The Toll has not gone completely serious and
just for fun.

Livoria With their first album, Llvoni,
songwriter Warren Defever com. pletes a project that's been ongoing
since high school. Accompied since high school. Accompanied
by vocalists Karin Oliver and Angin
ie Corozzo, the band has been
. ie Corozzo, the band has been
working on tracks for the debutfor
the last several years. Like many first albums, most of the tracks are
songs that have been worked and revamped over and over. The
change in songs over time can be
seen in "E Nicoli" and "Fossil" both of which are given in two completely different forms. The
time spent on the album shows Livonia's tracks are deceptively
simple on the first play, but reved a rich, lush texture upon closer lis-
tening..̈
Although often compared with label-mates The Cocteau Twins,
His Name Is Al His Name Is Alive is an entirely
different animal. While the
Cocteaus and most this genre keep an airy, ethereal tone to their work, His Name ls
Alive draws from the basics. The
ener ethereal is deeply entwined with torted guitars rather than the typp:
cal British synth and strings. The spirit of Dinosaur Jr. and Sonic
Youth are felt as much in Livonids songs as Tangerine Dream.
This isn't to say that the album is straight rock. "Darkest Dreams"
is an instrumental track that sounds a lot like something avant
garde composer Brian Eno might
have done in his "Another Green World "days. Multiple layers of
fuzzy guitar melodies are put fuzzy guitar melodies are put
down on top of one another to cre ate a unique combination of sound
The same idea is put into the vocals. Oliver's and Corrozzo's voic es are less sweeping and operatic
than, say, Liz Frazier's from the Cocteau Twins. Actually, they
most closely resemble Gregorian most closely resemble Gregorian
chants, giving the vocal section an chants, giving the vocal section an
earthy feeling that brings the lyrio a stark reality.
The combination of two worlds,
British ambient goth music and American alternative guitar rock,
gives His Name Is Alive a sound that keeps them unique from either genre. Rather than following ex-
pectations with their first album, pectations with their first album,
the band has started on a style all
their own, something that should their own, something that should
be interesting to watch progress on be interesting to
their next album.

