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Religious Tolerance Panel

Tuesday, Oct 9th, 7:00 - 8:15pm MSC 226.

Participants include: Terry Dougherty, Minister; Barbara Finlay, Director of Women's Studies; Rev. Dr. Jo Hudson, Pastor; Nick Stransky, Graduate Student

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Wednesday, Oct 10th 11:00am—2:00pm

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THE BATTALION

Tuesday, October 9, 2001

VOLUME CONTROL



Betty Blowtorch Are you man enough? Food Chain Records

Rock from the 1980s is dead, and somebody forgot to tell Betty Blowtorch. Loaded with hard-line pro-female songs and plenty of screaming to fill in those annoying pauses between halfway decent chunks of real music, Betty Blowtorch's *Are You Man Enough?* is a good reminder to children of the 1980s why such music died long ago.

The album starts off well with "Hell on Wheels," but quickly crashes to rock bottom with "Size Queen," a song which, in all honesty, should have an explicit-lyrics warning. While by no means unafraid to tackle hard issues, such as an ugly girl's elementary school love in "I'm Ugly and I Don't Know Why," Betty Blowtorch makes huge leaps from the overly angst ridden to the painfully trivial. The band sounds great when not screaming incoherently, but for the most part seems to be straining to imitate what they feel is the greatness of the bands of old.

If Betty Blowtorch were to cut the ranting and wailing, they might be a band worth listening to. Until then, it's not even worth the price of a cheap CD. (Grade: D-)

— Jennifer Cross

Rustic Overtones Viva Nueva Tommy Boy Music

This is the sound of a band that one would expect never to make it out of the college circuit, yet Rustic Overtones were signed by Tommy Boy Records. In this sense they are very homey. The Tommy Boy Website claims, "The swelling waves of sound they make are always smart and satisfying ... [what] great bands are made of." But this is clearly marketing propaganda.

The music is bearable at times, but for the most part is too brassy and flashy, and the vocals are the worm eating this apple from the inside.

The lyrics are unimaginative and petty. Listeners hear on the first track, "C'mon," "If I try I'm halfway to triumph ... When I sigh I'm halfway to silence." By this point listeners may already be regretting a pointless purchase.

The third track, "Love Underground," says, "Love is underground and doesn't make a sound." The meaning is indecipherable. "I'm relaxed in karma and you're losing breath. When I take four steps you take two and you're half to death," is



P.O.D. Satellite Atlantic Records

Combining hard rock with pop and R&B might be a difficult thing to do, but P.O.D. (Payable on Death) pulls it off nicely. Their new CD, *Satellite*, varies wildly from song to song. One might imagine each song is sung by a different band.

The CD starts off with "Set It Off" and "Alive," two songs that make you want to get up and dance. "Boom" interrupts the smooth style of the CD with a hard rap edge, but "Youth of the Nation" more than makes up for it. There are a few songs on this CD that are so short they may not be considered songs. P.O.D. should have spent more time on these songs to give them some length, rather than rushing them out for the CD release.

Overall, P.O.D. has enough variety to avoid being boring, but enough similarity to have a style of its own. (Grade: A-)

— Jennifer Cross

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