

VOLUME
CITY

**The Ramones
"We're a Happy
Family: A Tribute to
the Ramones"
Columbia Records**

Though not known for selling millions of albums, the Ramones have surpassed industry standards by influencing several of today's major bands. "The Ramones Tribute Album" features an impressive and diverse list of artists including Red Hot Chili Peppers, Pete Dinklage, Rancid, Marilyn Manson, Green Day, Garbage and Tom Waits performing their favorite Ramones songs.

As pioneers of punk, the Ramones made three-chord melodies look easy by blending simplistic guitar and Joey Ramone's distinct vocals. Second generation punkers Green Day and Offspring follow suit on their flawless renditions of "Outsider" and "I Wanna Be Sedated," while Rob Zombie lends creative talent on his version of "Blitzkreig Bop." Kiss also does a surprisingly good job on "Rock and Roll Radio," keeping it fun and energetic.

Most of the tracks are worth listening to, but Tom Waits' take on "Return of Jackie and Judy" should be skipped because he sounds like a raving, drunken bum. Manson's cover of "The KKK Took My Baby Away" is also somber and disappointing, leaving little trace left of the Ramones' original. Any music fan can enjoy this album, but it is an absolute must for every Ramones fan.

★★★★☆ —Chris Elmi

**Sum 41
"Does This Look
Infected"
Island Records**

Armed with herds of teen admirers, Canada's punk pride and joy Sum 41 has come out with its third release "Does This Look Infected" in ample time to make up for Blink-182 and Green Day taking some time off. From its album cover, one can assume that the album's title refer to the state of the band's music, and whether or not it has been infected by the mainstream virus yet. The answer to that is a definite maybe.

On its third album, the quintet has shed its super fast-paced beach rock tunes for a heavier, moodier feel that sounds like a direct product of "Orange County." Between the last

album "All Killer No Filler" and its latest outfit, the band has graduated from song titles such as "Crazy Amanda Bunk Face" and "All She's Got" to less female-oriented, more thoughtful picks such as "All Messed Up and Over My Head." The first single off the album is the anthem "Still Waiting" which was the brain child of post-9/11 chaos. A noteworthy track on the CD is the tentatively titled "Hell Song" in which Sum 41 uses erratic riffs and super rhymes from front man Deryck Whibley, and sounds like secret disciples of the Offspring. The song "Thanks for Nothing" has drummer Steve Jocz step in to lend some Beastie Boy-type vocals, keeping with the band's tradition to pay homage to all of their musical influences through their music, hip-hop artists included.

Despite repeated TRL exposure and accusations of being a commercial garage act, these underage keg pushers have managed to stay out of control and smugly obnoxious. While the average age is still younger than the members of N*SYNC, Sum 41 uses "Does This Look Infected" to prove they still have the careless talent and self-destructive tendencies that are the perfect combination for a good ol' neo punk album.

★★★★☆ —Nishat Fatima

**Pacifier
"Bullitproof"
Wild Side**

Pacifier's debut self-titled CD is the answer for insomniacs because it will put you to sleep.

Lead vocalist, Jon Toogood, strains for mediocre vocals accompanied by cliched lyrics. Subsequently, he fails to live up to his last name. Pacifier has filled its album with random bombs, possibly to sound more edgy than it really is.

The band is trapped in an early 1990s rock sound that has lost its originality. While it's hard to distinguish between songs, the track "Bullitproof" is one worth playing. But a generic-sounding guitar and the Pacifier's annoying frontman will make listeners want to check out what's playing on the radio instead.

The bottom line: Pacifier is uninspired and lacks creative direction. If this CD is any indication, Pacifier is destined to remain another unknown band in the rock world. Listeners should not waste time or money on this lackluster album.

★★★★☆ —Chris Elmi

★★★★☆ Make it stop, my ears are bleeding!!
 ★★★★★ Don't waste your harddrive space
 ★★★★★ Download it
 ★★★★★ Burn your friend's copy
 ★★★★★ Spend the dough, buy your own
 ★★★★★ Buy it, burn it, tell a friend

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

**Streep receives
Artistic Honor**

PARIS (AP) — Meryl Streep was awarded France's highest artistic honor, and she thanked the country for "loving women of a certain age — in movies and in life."

France's culture minister, Jean-Jacques Aillagon, named Streep, 53, a commander of the order of arts and letters, praising her "courage, delicacy, sensitivity and determination." He said she's been a star in France since 1985's "Out of Africa."

Streep thanked her fans in both French and English. "Usually, America doesn't reward people of my age, either in day-to-day life or for their performances," she said.

"I hope they'll understand," she joked.

Streep and fellow American,

director Spike Lee, won honorary "Cesar" awards — France's equivalent of an Oscar.

**Mills distraught over
press criticism**

LONDON (AP) — Former model Heather Mills says press criticism following her marriage to Sir Paul McCartney has left her "absolutely wiped out."

"The lowest point of my life has been since the press turned on me really badly, which sounds crazy," she said Saturday. "Now I'm at that stage where I feel absolutely wiped out."

Mills, who lost a leg in a traffic accident 10 years ago, said some newspapers had turned against her because she rarely opened up in public. The bad publicity had even caused manufacturers of prosthetic limbs to shun her, she said.

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