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P.S. Lucky interview candidates will hear from us in December.

## gumby rocks



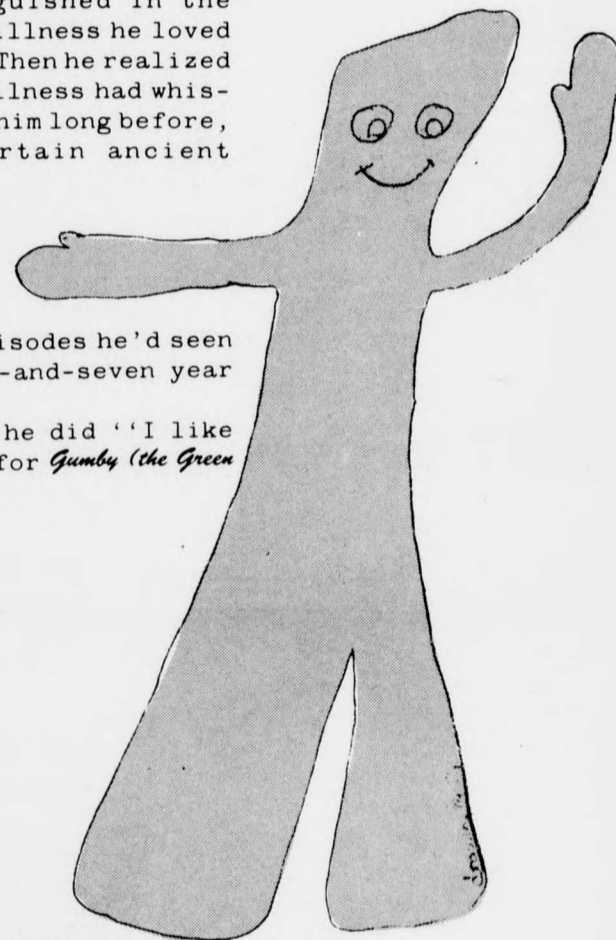
by Valerie Hochschild

Various Artists  
*Gumby (The Green Album)*  
Buena Vista Records

That clean-cut, hairy chested, fun-lovin' alternative music legend Jonathan Richman had a dilemma. He'd been asked to write a song for a compilation tribute album. As much as he respected the cause, he'd never written songs on assignment before. Off he wandered into the Mojave Desert and languished in the eerie stillness he loved so well. Then he realized that stillness had whispered to him long before, "In certain ancient

question why Frank Jr. was picked over the now-chic Harry Connick Jr. The upstart just wouldn't understand.

Flo and Eddie of the Turtles understand *everything*. Their song is Beatles-on-a-Lowrey-organ, out of a Tears For Fears' dream, and it's called "We are all Gumby." It captures the spirit which makes this project so important; what two generations have learned from the slope-headed one, "Be



Gumby episodes he'd seen as a six-and-seven year old."

And so he did "I like Gumby" for *Gumby (the Green Album)*.

Richman's is one of many stories indicative of this labour of love. The sincerity of intent shines through each performance.

Dweezil Zappa and his inferior-talent sister, Moon Unit, wrench out the most searing licks and plaintive melodies since their "Let's Talk About It" collaboration a few years ago (Jane Fonda and Don Johnson were in the video, you'll remember).

Brave combo rushes headlong into two songs - zydeco and polka - with an inherent sense of danger. Sly and Robbie turn out a dense and easy groove that was, no doubt, a relief from working with Boogie Down Productions.

And then there is Frank Sinatra, Jr., doing a bang-up job in the Gumby TV Theme with a 36-piece jazz orchestra and arrangement by Billy Rogers. It's a killer track that lays to rest any

humble and respectable/Above all, just be flexible."

From a critical standpoint, *The Green Album* cannot be touched. It transcends rock music theory and historical context, getting down to the essential human spirit that unifies us all. It's sobering to think it's taken a stick of clay to make us realize it.

Peter DoNotKnow, president of the CWhySF, gave it two thumbs up. "I just can't wait for the sequel," he was heard saying.

As Frank Jr. sings, "If you've got a heart, then Gumby's a part of you." *Gumby (the Green Album)* is actually available on CD through the independent Buena Vista Records. For more information write 9255 Sunset Boulevard, Suite 614, Los Angeles, CA 90069 USA.