

# arts & entertainment

## Furnaceface fine

I've always thought that it was a bad idea for bands to give their albums names like "Good Music" for fear of single line reviews saying things like "No, it's not."

**Furnaceface**  
This will make you happy  
6/10

Well, Furnaceface have taken up this challenge with *This will make you happy*, an eclectic mix of funky guitar licks, amusing samples and some interesting production. Unfortunately, that's as far as it goes. Furnaceface seem to have hit on a good idea, but the songs all seem to be a bit short of coming off, leaving them wide open for those cynical reviewers.

Furnaceface fill their Chili Pepper-like riff driven tunes with "Bootsaucisque" type samples and in many cases, it is only these riffs or samples that save the songs. Indeed, the anticipation of the next riff or humorous sample keeps you listening. However, the riffs soon wear

thin and the novelty of the samples wears off leaving you looking for song structure and lyrics.

The lyrics on the CD are mainly about attitudes and events going on around each of us, with a cliché "Generation X" perspective, leading to a "preachy" feel about the CD (...you say f\*\*k the system/but it's not true/what really happens is the system f\*\*ks you). In addition, most songs are riddled with bad prose (...it used to be that metal bands were just metal bands/now they all want to be Pearl Jam), leaving you feeling a bit off.

One thing that does stand out is the production, which provides us with fun lead-ins and interesting vocal mixes. It is this production that solidifies the songs that do come together. Unfortunately these events tend to be patchy, with only parts of most tracks being good.

Several songs on the 16+ track-CD do stand out including "You poison my cup", "I drew a circle", and "Live and die".

Although I wouldn't suggest you run out and buy this CD this minute, it does bear consideration. I would recommend it for those of you who really like Bootsauce, pre-Mothers Milk Chili Peppers or the previous Furnaceface CDs, otherwise wait until you hear it before shelling out the cash.

Peter Brown

## Noise about Noise

### Wrapping and rhythm

I've never seen a cd packaged so exquisitely. It is wrapped in a piece of leather which has the title of the cd burned into it. This is strapped to an unglazed piece of ceramic resembling red sandstone with black cord. The booklet itself is filled with beautiful Native American images and quotations. It is quite an amazing package.

**Robbie Robertson & the Red Road Ensemble**  
*Music for The Native Americans*  
Capitol  
8/10

The last time I reviewed a cd (Rush) with such elaborate packaging, there turned out to be an inverse relationship between the incredible

artwork and the music. Such is not the case with Robbie Robertson's latest. On this album Robertson further explores his native roots and although most of the music can be credited to him, every song is a collaboration of sorts. The music is interesting and not inaccessible to those of us who find traditional Native American music outside our listenable realm.

By wrapping very traditional music in rich, textured, rhythmic layers, Robertson has created a cd which draws you in. And once you are in, the deep roots of the songs become more and more apparent and meaningful.

Literally, all songs are based on native traditions, legends, and the unfortunate (understatement of the century) events which took place as the Native land was "taken".

The most commendable thing about this cd is that it carries a very proud message in all of the songs. It is both a celebration of and reflection on Native traditions.

The liner notes are a must-read as they contain poignant thoughts by Robertson on each song. "I saw a photograph...of Indians, riding into what looked like a cloud of smoke, or fog, with one of them looking back at what would soon be gone forever..."

At least with releases like this, that which is gone will not be forgotten.

David Jørgen

## Head full of schlock

This is the second solo effort from the former lead singer and songwriter for The Icicle Works, and it is obvious from the start that he has evolved towards a much different style since those early days. With *Head Like a Rock*, McNabb has teamed up with Crazy Horse to produce a reverential homage to Neil "God" Young (as he is referred to in the liner notes) and his southern grunge guitar sound.

**Ian McNabb**  
*Head Like a Rock*  
*This Way Up*  
6/10

Past the opening *Fire Inside my Soul*, a cheesy how-I-became-a-rock-star piece of autobiographical schlock, some of his song-writing skill shows through. But nobody can do Neil Young like Neil Young and after listening to the album repeatedly, one questions why anyone would try. There are some strong numbers here, but none which quite mirror the brilliant creativity behind McNabb's better efforts in the 1980s with The Icicle Works.

Milton Howe

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## Local band alert

This week: Hardship Post



PHOTO: MIKE GRAHAM

If you haven't caught Hardship Post yet, you should hurry. They just signed to SubPop and will probably be hitting the road or recording studio soon. Over the past year they have turned down the grunge and put more emphasis on melodic elements in their songs. They rock and you can hum along. *Hack* is a must buy and they have a slew of other 7" releases too numerous to name here. Great tunes, clever lyrics...great band. Request 'em on CKDU (494-2487) and see 'em live. MG

come and meet

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