

Active's day still to come

Let's Active
Every Dog Has His Day
I.R.S. Records

by Ron Kuipers

oes anyone remember Mitch Easter? You know, the guy who produced the first two albums for none other than R.E.M. Bet you thought he'd faded into oblivion. Well almost, but not quite. He's in this band now called Let's Active, and guess what: it's another one of those jangly-type college bands.

Anyway, they made this record called Every Dog Has His Day, and it's kind of confusing. I mean, there's potential here, but the band just doesn't pull it off. You can hear that distorted guitar a la R.E.M. but sometimes overtop of that will be this funny synth sound which just doesn't fit. Then there's this folky acoustic song called "Mr. Fool" which is really good, but it sits right beside these psychedelic-type rock songs — kinda like Bob Dylan meets Spiderman. It's interesting, but confusing, you know?

So I was listening to this song called

...I figure it will be another day for

"Sweepstakes Winner," and the singer is

saying things like "experience has taught

me more than what to know." Now that

line in itself is confusing, but still interesting, right? What else is interesting is that

the band switches singers from time to time. They have a woman named Angie

Carlson singing some of the songs, and

she's got this killer voice that adds more

she has anything to do with it (which I bet she does), the songs she sings are the best ones

Let's Active.

Later on, I was checking the credits and noticed that Easter wrote all the songs except three, and these he co-wrote with Carlson. So I got to figuring that this album seemed to be more of a special project than anything else. I mean, so much different stuff is happening, which is usually cool, but most of it just doesn't fit together. But hey, maybe I'm just being narrow-minded. It just seems like Easter is trying to do everything he wanted to do, all within the confines of one album.

Which brings me to the album title. Easter sees R.E.M. take off and figures, "well, every dog has his day." Maybe so, but I figure it will be another day for Let's Active. I mean I don't want to sound too harsh, because I like listening to the album because it's interesting. But I also hate being confused. I just don't know whether I hate being confused more than I like being interested. So why don't you decide.

Sudden Impact's Personality not split — just B-A-D

Sudden Impact Split Personality Fringe

by Ron Kuipers

oah, is this bad. This is B-A-D bad. On the press release that comes with this album it says "Sales point — a Diabolic Force Production." Now is the band

just trying to tell us about some Eastern Canadian thrash label, or do they actually mean that this album was created by Satan in order to inflict pain upon the unsuspecting listener?

Betcha it was sent by Satan. It's an unfortunate record, because there are some excellent hardcore and metal-influenced bands. Sudden Impact just isn't one of them. This album is fast, heavy, and

always boring.

And the lyrics are just hilarious. Aside from the odd spelling mistake, the band gives us insightful commentary like, "Tearing it up just want to go faster/ Going face to face with disaster/ Shooting the line right down to the end/ A joy ride to hell on my way to oblivion." That last line just kills me. All I can say is, see you guys later and have a nice trip.

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