

**Paranoid & Sunburnt**  
Skunk Anansie  
(One Little Indian/Epic)

This woman is mad — in both ways. She's angry and she's a bit off her trolley.

Skunk Anansie's *Paranoid & Sunburnt* starts off with "Selling Jesus" and ends with "Rise Up." In between is a brilliant collection of good ol' rawwk songs about, errrr, racism. The lead singer wails and screams through most of this record, mainly about 'Anglo-Saxon muck.' Wow! It takes a lot of guts to tackle the rednecks on their own turf. Ironically, "It Takes Blood And Guts To Be This Cool But I'm Still Just A Cliché" is one of the less angry and more soulful tracks on *Paranoid & Sunburnt*. Also, it is very possibly the only serious contender for the Meatloaf Award For Long And Totally Pointless Song Titles However Catchy They Might Be.

Anger and frustration aside, Skunk Anansie will hopefully be around for a long time. Their hit "I Can Dream," which is included on *Paranoid & Sunburnt*, established their staying power. "Selling Jesus" is an equally good song, as are "100 Ways To Be A Good Girl" (Liza Minelli eats a couple of kilos of gravel and hires Def Leppard as her backing band), the sing-a-long "Rise Up," and the relatively terrifying "Little Baby Swastikkka."

Sure, the lead singer (OK, I

admit it, I don't know her name) could lose the chip on her shoulder (which, by the sounds of things, should be about the same size as a small giant redwood), not to mention the permanent PMS. But it just wouldn't be the same. It's about time that someone started putting out songs about something other than getting pissed and having sex and falling in love and fluffy bunnies and all that crap.

**EUGENIA BAYADA**

**Love On My Mind**  
Lorenzo  
Attic

After listening to this CD, it's pretty obvious that the only thing on this guy's mind is sex.

Lorenzo may be one of the latest singer/songwriters to hit the R&B scene but musically, there is nothing new about him. No fresh new styles, no different types of lyrics, just your basic penis-pumping, R Kelly wannabe. Not that that's bad, it's just that this CD gets kind of annoying after the first three songs.

You put the disc in and you're like, "Not bad, voice is a bit annoying though." By the ninth song, however, you're saying, "DAMN!" (and that's not in a good way). It's as if you were hearing the same song nine times in a row. One song, "Just Wanna Touch You," stands out a little, but only because it's got a more upbeat, reggae groove to it. "If It's Alright

# REVIEWS & SPEWS

With You" is good, and not surprisingly, it's the only song not produced by Lorenzo. It's done by none other than Keith Sweat, who also supplies background vocals. The rest of the songs are just, well...ordinary.

Either this CD was written and produced in about an hour, or there is no real talent in Lorenzo. It's the kind of album I wouldn't spend money on. Borrow it off a friend, listen to it once, and then give it back.

**MOHANAD MORAH**

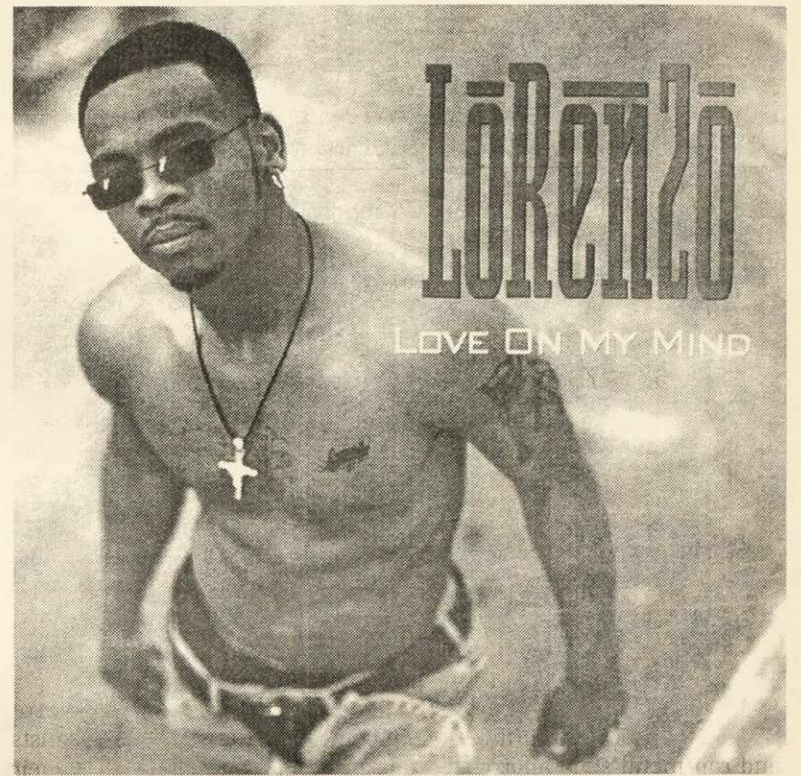
**ICHOR**  
ICHOR  
Independent

To describe Ichor in two words, 'visceral' and 'drums' are the first that come to mind. To label them is impossible, but in their music there are elements of tribal, trance industrial, and percussion.

The basis of Ichor as you may have guessed is percussion, and lots of it. The instrumentation otherwise consists of bass guitar, very minimal use of keyboards, and some of the most intense vocal work I have heard in a long time.

Top off the package with some of the cleanest production ever done and you have my favourite album of the year.

To contextualise this band, you have to remember that traditionally, most western music is grounded primarily in melody and/or harmony. Much of the



rhythm and beat-heavy music that has started to appear in the west since about the sixties has been stolen and imported from other cultures. Many artists from the west have gone back to the roots of the music that they have been making by tracing a path to primitive cultures and exploiting them, at least on a cultural level. This was the start of 'world music' as a genre, as people started to take gear into the rain forests and export the sounds that they heard. Recently in the west there have

been a few groups working with tribal rhythms that do not exploit any particular culture. Ichor is one such band that has turned their search for inspiration inwards.

Ichor is Karl and Christian, a couple of guys living in Toronto who are currently working on their second album, due in early spring. The debut is available through the Sam's on Barrington and well worth whatever they are charging for it.

**JAMES BEDDINGTON**

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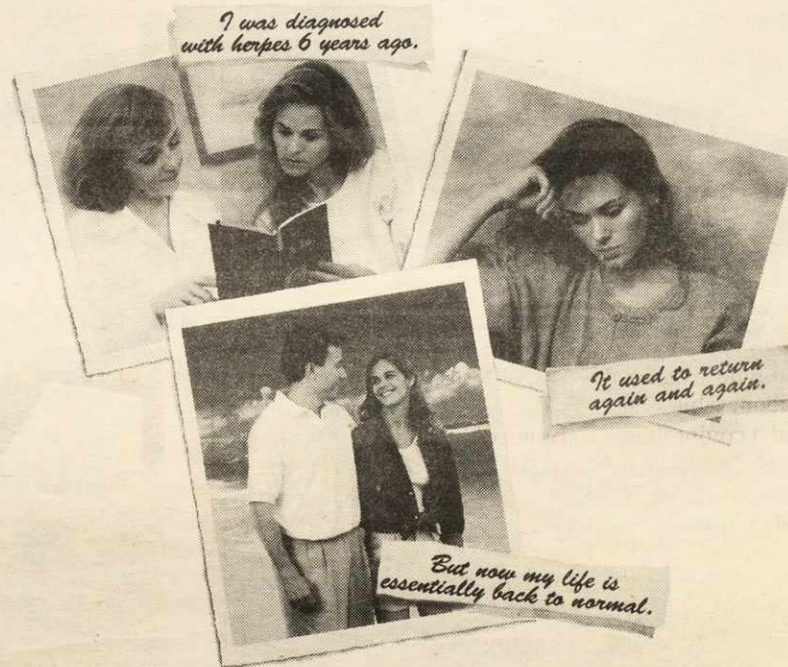


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