

REVIEWS



± SPEWS

First Love, Last Rites  
Shudder To Think

Epic/Sony

I had never heard of Shudder To Think before I picked up this CD, but obviously they've got pull. On *First Love, Last Rites* (the soundtrack from the film of the same name), the band has secured guest appearances from the likes of

Liz Phair, Billy Corgan, the since-deceased Jeff Buckley and rock n' roll dinosaur Robin Zander (whom I assumed was dead before I saw his band, Cheap Trick, open for Pearl Jam this summer).

The music on the disc, for the most part, should accompany rainy days and gazing out the window on dour grey afternoons. There is a melancholic tone to most tracks, but it doesn't seem to be sadness for the purposes of depression — instead it is comfortable and calm, relaxing and easy. "Speed of Love", featuring John Doe, is a perfect example — the man makes you happy to be down.

Liz Phair's "Erecting a Movie Star" captures her at her poppy best, while Zander is able to escape the power chords of Cheap Trick on "Automatic Soup". He still manages to hook you in, though — which is even more remarkable considering his voice is the only instrument Shudder To Think (STT) lets him use. And STT's own roots-

ish "Lonesome Dove" shows that they're not just about propping up established stars — they've got talent, too.

But Buckley's rendition of "I Want Someone Badly" is the



record's highlight. STT seems to have made a point to work only with people with strong vocal talent (alright, not Corgan — but he sells records, so we'll excuse the band there), but the power and versatility of Buckley's voice floats him head-and-shoulders over everybody else. STT vocalist Nathan Larson takes

a stab at the same song later in the disc. He's good, but he goes for the same style Buckley used, and sounds inferior — like watching a high school talent competition between a trained vocalist and a bunch of kids who sing exceptionally well along with the radio.

But on *First Love, Last Rites* the kids are alright too.

GREG MCFARLANE  
Think Tank

Henry Rollins

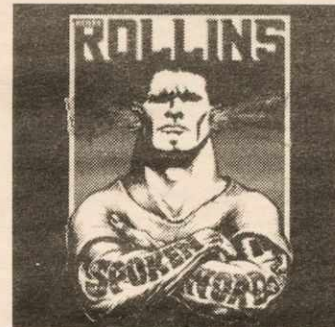
Dreamworks Records

This is yet another piece of art put out by Henry Rollins. Most people know him from the Rollins Band or from his earlier punk days with Black Flag, but little do people realize that he writes books and gives spoken word concerts. This is what *Think Tank* is, and it's a lot like stand up comedy — but with a violent and poetic twist.

Rollins goes from the things that piss him off at the airport to

how he kicked his own ass in Brazil right to his meeting with a seventeen year old battling leukaemia. A definite broad spectrum of images are made, with Rollins' words and energy as the paint and painter.

*Think Tank* is a double album and the two discs differ greatly in tone. The first is very comical, with all of his views on everyday shit that happens to him. He even gets into "The Gay Thing", a rant in which he states that he doesn't understand



homophobia and figures both homosexual and straight guys should be "high-fiving" each other in bars.

The second disc contains more stories about being on the road and things that relate directly to his band, like how his throat was classic for a person who smoked, drank, did drugs and screamed all day. In actuality, all he does is scream.

All in all this is a great compilation and yet another peek into the distorted mind that is Rollins.

DAVE MACDONALD

The Map

Dee Carstensen  
Universal Studios Canada



Dee Carstensen's newest release proves to be an intriguing mix of styles, but it is not the stellar collection of folk that was anticipated.

Known mostly for talents on the harp, Dee Carstensen has been taking folk music festivals by storm over the past few years. However, *The Map* is somewhat unreflective of her past efforts, for it is littered, oddly enough, with pop-style tunes.

Now, I don't meant to cry "sellout" because that would be an unnecessary exaggeration. It is a positive thing when artists experiment with other styles to broaden their range of possibilities. Yet, some of these songs sound as if they were constructed solely from the rigid blueprints of "light rock hit" radio airplay, rather than having been written with passion or inspiration. It could be that Carstensen wants some recognition in the cold, plastic world of mainstream media.

Nevertheless, there are a few beautiful songs from the Dee we know and love that send the listener scrambling for the repeat button on the CD player.

Overall, *The Map* was a little bit disappointing, but the more original tracks still exemplify ingenious songwriting.

JANET FRENCH

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MUD BEAM

15 ml	(1/2 oz.)	Jim Beam
25 ml	(3/4 oz.)	Kamora Coffee Liqueur
25 ml	(3/4 oz.)	Irish Cream Liqueur

Combine all ingredients with ice in a low ball glass.

DR. JIM BEAM

60 ml	(2 oz.)	Jim Beam
250 ml	(8 oz.)	Cherry Cola
		Cherry

Combine ingredients in a tall glass with ice. Garnish with cherry.

BEAM BENDER

15 ml	(1/2 oz.)	Jim Beam
15 ml	(1/2 oz.)	Ronrico Rum
15 ml	(1/2 oz.)	Gonzales Tequila
15 ml	(1/2 oz.)	Melon Liqueur
15 ml	(1/2 oz.)	Melon Balls

Pour ingredients over ice in a small rock glass and garnish with melon balls.



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