

New Music

X MARKED THE SPOT, PLUS LONG OVERDUE MISFITS

⇒ X

Beyond and Back: The X Anthology

BY PAIGE MCRAE
Staff Writer

Ah, the glory of X! During the late 70's and early 80's they were at the vanguard of the Hollywood punk scene, with John Doe and Exene Cervenka presiding.

They function as a sort of link between older L.A. bands like the Doors (Ray Manzarek produced four of their albums) and more recent ones like Jane's Addiction, who have

ahead of their competition is the way Exene and John harmonized to create one lead vocal. Guitarist Billy Zoom and drummer DJ greatly add to the band's compact sound.

They explored unpleasant relationships, hangovers and the city they called home.

X give an artful and real glimpse into the L.A. punk scene of their day but stand the test of time of by influencing new generations. "Beyond and Back" is a good place to become acquainted with this legendary punk band.

⇒ The Misfits Static Age

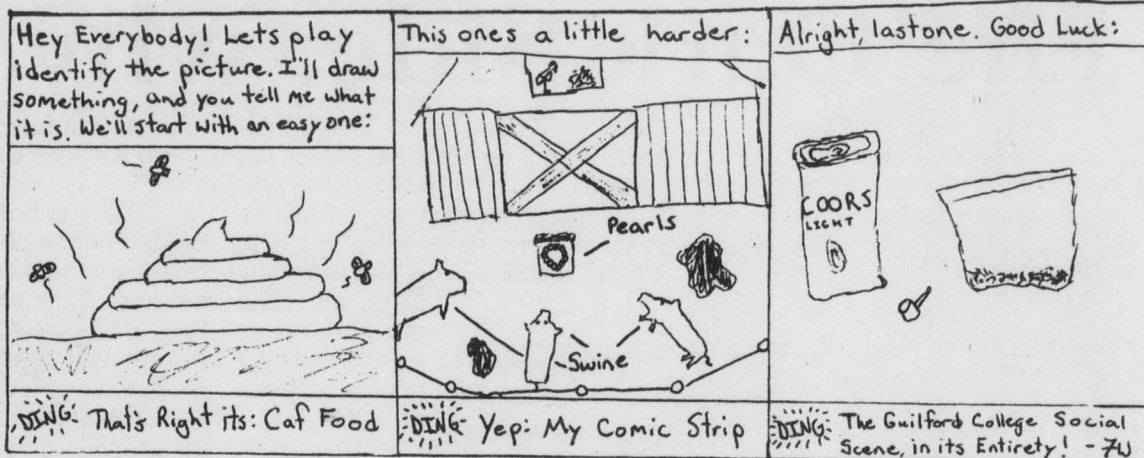
BY JEFF IRVING
Staff Writer

1997 has been quite a year for the Misfits. A tribute album with bands like Pennywise, Sick of It All, and NOFX has been released. The current version of the Misfits put out "American Psycho," which got mixed reviews.

Finally, they released "Static Age" for the first time outside of their box set.

These songs were recorded in 1978 and would have made up their first album, but there were problems in mixing some of the songs and in finding a label that would distribute them.

Many of these songs appeared on "Legacy of Brutality" with muddier production quality, but that's been fixed on "Static Age." It no longer sounds like they were playing in an empty indoor swimming pool. There's even a song on here that just made it to the mixing board and has now been released for the first time.



These 17 bomblets were recorded nearly 20 years ago, but they're far from dated. The formula is pretty basic; take the Ramones' 3-chord barrage, mix in a little bit of the Doors, up the guitar distortion so it's just a little bit harsher, and let the B-grade horror movie obsessions fly long and far.

If you're looking for politics, you won't find it here, except maybe "Bullet", a thrasher about JFK's assassination (well, sort of). These guys did some of the most relentlessly kitschy (in a good way), catchy, aggressive, and fun punk rock of the late 70's/early 80's, and many of today's bands are still trying to catch up.

In his early days, Danzig's voice echoed Jim Morrison and showed hints of Iggy Pop. Franche Coma's guitar roars and clangs like a stainless steel girder stuck in a cement mixer. Jerry Only and Mr. Jim are always on the spot with their raw but

tween the Doors and the Stooges, and many of us have heard Metallica cover "Last Caress"

If this album were released shortly after it was recorded, it could conceivably have ranked somewhere up there with "Never Mind the Bollocks," "London Calling," "Damaged," and "Zen Arcade" in terms of essential punk rock albums. It also stands as great stupid-but-brilliant rock and roll that is meant to be enjoyed and not politicized.

If you want to begin your Misfit education, "Static Age" would be a good start.

If you already have most of their stuff, though, you probably have most of these songs.

If that's the case, listen to this album, see which production/mixing job you like better, and go with that.

SAD CONTINUED FROM PG. 6

of depression you should contact a doctor for diagnosis and treatment.

- Common symptoms of SAD:**
- *Feeling depressed only in the Fall and Winter.
 - *Extreme fatigue and lack of energy
 - *Sleeping more or still feeling sleepy after several hours of rest.
 - *Increased cravings for carbohydrates
 - *Increased appetite
 - *Weight gain
 - *Moodiness
 - *Reduced concentration

Tips for preventing SAD:

- *Take action when you notice a change in your moods and energy levels.

- *Stay physically active
- *Socialize with your friends, don't hibernate.
- *Expose yourself to as much natural outside light as possible, use as much light indoors as you can.
- *Eat a balanced diet
- *Take a multivitamin



X: saviors from decadence

played with X.

However, "X: Beyond and Back" proves that their musical appeal is by no means limited to the West Coast.

It covers the history of X from their 1980 debut album "Los Angeles" to 1995's "Unclogged." We also have live tracks and one from their critically acclaimed album "Wild Gift."

There is even a song from their rockabilly alter-ego the Knitters. It wouldn't be completely incongruous to hear them playing with the Cramps.

Some tracks I particularly enjoyed were "We're Desperate," "In This House that I Call Home," and "Los Angeles."

One thing that kept X a step



The Misfits: decadent saviors.

Moments," "Angelf**k," and "Attitude" have planet-sized hooks that hint at the fact that they probably listened to some 60's pop before '77 rolled around.

"Come Back," "Hollywood Babylon," and "Theme For A Jackal" all land on terrain somewhere be-

Courtesy of Elektra Entertainment

Courtesy Caroline Records