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King adds to royal line

Good day, and welcome to WXYC's weekly search for the most tastless, bland, boring music we can find. This week's search came up empty, but here are three great new discs. The 14th album out by Elvis Costello, *Blood and Chocolate*, demonstrates that he keeps getting better. The debut albums by **Timbuk 3** and **That Petrol Emotion** contain healthy servings of fresh, upbeat music.

The King is back, and he has reunited with his court. After a short solo bout called *King of America* last year, Costello returns to his former bandmates, the Attractions, for *Blood and Chocolate*. The album is one of his best. Costello poses as singer/songwriter Napoleon Dynamite and is rough, raunchy, angry, howling and in love.

Kevin Gottesman

Albums

The love of Costello's life is Pogue Cait O'Riordan, who is responsible for "parolis voco" (or vocals) on a pair of cuts. She also would appear to be the feature subject of at least a couple more songs. "I Want You" is a passionate love song in which he sings, "I don't think I can live without you/ and I know that I never will."

Love may have softened the old boy up a little bit, but he still has his wonderfully stinging wit on "Honey are You Straight or are You Blind?" a song that could easily fit on one of Costello's early albums.

My personal favorite is "Tokyo Storm Warning," a biting, bouncy tune. The chorus, complete with harmonies and a little psychedelic guitar asks, "What do we care if the world is a joke?/ We'll give it a big kiss/ We'll give it a poke."

With help from Nick Lowe on production and "akustika gitaro," the King is back in top form. Long live the King.

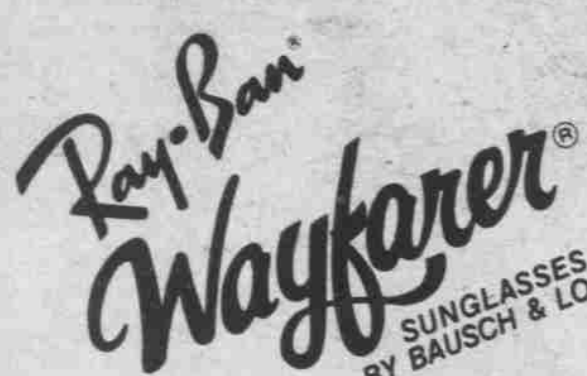
In the new and little-heard-of department, two albums definitely deserve a good spinning. *Manic Pop Thrill* from a band called That Petrol Emotion is the first. An aptly named album, it features former members of the Undertones. It's a wonderful blast of post-punk, hateful harmonies and manic pop. "It's a Good Thing" is a delightfully catchy sing-along that (God forbid) might even be a hit. The album is a very good debut from a band that promises to get even better.

Another excellent debut effort on the racks right now is from an Austin, Texas, band. The group is called Timbuk 3, and the album is *Greetings From*. It rocks, it twangs, and it sounds great. The first tune is the hilarious "The Future is So Bright I Gotta Wear Shades."


The work of this husband and wife team is similar to some of T-Bone Burnett's work, with its acoustic echoes and odd sense of humor like "Life is hard/ You can't get to heaven on roller skates." The rest of the songs are very strong. Poppy, acoustic, serious, up-beat and downright soulful American music, *Greetings From* is my pick for debut album of the month.

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