

# ROCK

## Rating System



Crack



Heroin



Angel Dust



Marijuana



Baywatch

## Pocket Band

Every month, we ask for and receive thousands, sometimes thousands, of unsolicited tapes from unrecognizable artists that would like us to "discover" them and recognize their unique "talent" in the Pocket Band section of the U. Rocks page. We'll pay attention, we don't want to have to repeat this: U. Suck! U. are lame! We are tired of listening to your shitty ass slacker droolings. Our editors think this column is a neat idea, but fuck them. They know that if they try to fire any of us, we'll tell the whole damn world the truth about how it is that this unreadable, unread magazine is still in print, and who it is that stands to gain from the all of the suffering. Trust us, the truth is as ugly as post-Star Wars Mark Hamill, and just as sleazy.

This being the last Pocket Band column that we will ever do, it is only appropriate that this month we have found the ultimate unrecognizable band. I was scared when I saw the photocopied stick figure "album cover" and I was worried when I read the label on the side of the tape. It was not until I actually began to listen to the tape that the sense of dread began to kick in. It wasn't music. It was something called the Zarch Fleps Experience, and frankly, it scared the shit out of us. The locks are being changed on Monday.

## Squba Gear bowling with the homies

Tank Records



I still remember the first time I ever heard Squba (pronounced Skwoo-bah) Gear. I was riding in my friend, a fellow hip music critic's car, Bob. The music critic that is, not the car. The song, a bootlegged version of "Groom with a view" (which is included on the album) left an impression that runs so deep that I feel the need to tell you about this now. The way the band pulled off the bizarre combination of the spacious grandeur and instrumentation of the best electronica bands with the intimate feel and poppy song craft of the best indie

artists took me by surprise. It wasn't a song that I instantly loved, (the singer's screaming and crying became increasingly irritating as the song went on) but it was one of those rare songs that stop you dead in your tracks if only because it's completely unlike anything you may have ever heard before.

Since then, the band has been written up in nearly every major national music magazine (as well as People and Better Homes and Gardens), appeared on the Conan O'Brien show, and become the subject of the most intense major label bidding war that I can ever remember. In a remarkably short period of time, this band has gone from being unknown to overhyped.

The music itself on this, their first full length album is always interesting stylistically and musically but generally a little bit disappointing. There are a number of strong songs here; "spitting on a wall," "midrange booster," "monkey's reel" and "nose job earring" are commercial enough to become big mainstream hits without compromising the band's trademark sound. The cover of "Dust In the Wind" makes Kansas look like a bunch of untalented hacks (hicks?) by comparison.

It's true that every song is memorable, a

## RADIO, RADIO

These are currently the top ten albums being played at a randomly selected college radio station. It might actually be broadcast over closed circuit TV; we're not entirely sure.

10. The Singing Sisters of Syracuse (eponymous debut)
9. Mr. Spock's Music From Outer Space
8. Sesame Street Presents: The Count Counts
7. Christmas on Death Row (compilation)
6. Squba Gear, Bowling For The League EP
5. The Simpsons Sing The Blues
4. anything by Kansas
3. Guy Lombardo Sings Elton John
2. Music From The Motion Picture Dolemite, Volume 1: "Awwwww, Yeah..."
1. Fifty-Five Years of Ska: An Anthology (four song EP)

few are future classics, and a few others explore and define varied musical genres in an unpredictable and shockingly effective manner (the flute and harpsichord solos on "bad-dasssss songs," the album's only rap track, will make you wonder why no one ever thought of the idea before), but really, doesn't it seem like Rolling Stone, Spin, and Details give perfect scores to just anyone lately? It's true that this is an album that will be looked back on as the defining (or beginning) moment of our musical generation, but is President Clinton really justified in suggesting that it be mandatory for every library in the country to stock multiple copies of this album? I don't know. Buy the album and judge for yourself.

## Our Picks

### Prodigy

The singer looks like an asshole.

### Bush

Razorblade Suitcase  
If you have to ask, you'll just never get it.

### No Doubt

Tragic Kingdom  
I doubt it .

### Aerosmith

Nine Lives  
This is their tenth "comeback album."  
You do the math.

### U2

Pop  
fly to the second baseman. Rock and roll needs an infield fly rule.

### Collective Soul

<whatever it is that the new album is called>  
YEAH! New Collective Soul album! WOO HOO! Guess what? No one gives a shit!

### Morphine

Like Swimming

The song remains the same. Again.

### Bjork

Telegram  
Sjucks. Gjet ojver ijt.

### Pearl Jam

Washed Up (live)  
Still struggling to capitalize on one good album and one good video from half a decade ago.

### 3 Weeks, 2 Days

Amount of time that ramen remains have

been sitting unwashed in my mug, waiting for this precise moment to strike. (Editor's Note: We only mention this because we've been told that ramen is a symbol of the college culture that we are supposed to represent and yet in reality have nothing to with. The official home page of this Editor's Note can be found at: [www.urag.generationxasamarket.com](http://www.urag.generationxasamarket.com).)