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Proceeds from this activity are not for the benefit of the Shriner's Hospitals for Crippled Children.

A few weeks ago, Toxic Reasons made their umpteenth Omaha concert appearance, accompanied by Germany's K.G.B. Toxic Reasons rocked as well as ever to their biggest local crowd yet, ripping through song after song with hardly a pause for introductions. Noticeably lacking was slower music from the band's "Within These Walls" album.

fifth by bryan column peterson

A similar absence hinders Toxic Reasons' new album, "Bullets For You." It's filled with their trademark stop 'n' start style — a synchronized blast of above-average hardcore backed by a good combination of personal and social lyrics. What's missing is an occasional departure from their usual sound.

There can be too much of a good thing. Toxic Reasons have a good sound that is used too often. "Within These Walls" proved that the band could depart from their usual punk sound and still create great material. Such variation would have added the extra touch their new album needs.

Nonetheless, there is an abundance of remarkable songs to be found on "Bullets For You." "Do What You Can" provides a little variation yet remains within the framework of the band's typical style. The blunt sarcasm of "God Bless America" is fueled by the band at their roaring best. The opening and closing numbers, "Tomorrow Night" and "You Got to Believe," are probably the most memorable songs from the album.

Some of the lyrics are lame ("Never Give In") but most are well-written and charged with emotion. An excerpt from "Killing the Future" provides a vague warning and an album theme — "Replace us with machines, give us nothing to do, we'll be standing outside with Avakians bullets for you."

K.G.B. — *Kein Grund Zur*

Beruhigung — means no reason not to panic. K.G.B. toured throughout Europe with Toxic Reasons and toured North America this spring. After six years of haunting German clubs and the release of three EPs, K.G.B. have released an album through California's Hardway Records.

K.G.B. as a group is involved in a number of political struggles (squatting, resisting the military, supporting political prisoners) but devote few songs to such topics. Their polished thrash style is used in songs about everything from witches' recipes to sex to Donald Duck to sex.

Hannes' vocals are a great boon to the "Letzte Bestellung" LP. The live version of "Ballroom Blitz" is one of the better songs musically, but Hannes' voice is wasted on silly lyrics. Most of the songs are speedier and allow Hannes to use his clear enunciation to its fullest extent. Yes, a thrash band with comprehensible lyrics.

Well, sort of. Only a few of the songs are sung in English; K.G.B. prefers their native language. The band was kind enough to translate some lyrics but more translation would have been appreciated.

Toxic Reasons and K.G.B. are prime examples of international cooperation among underground bands. Such cooperation is not limited to the hardcore punk scene by any means.

The animal-rights movement has seen phenomenal growth in recent years. Growing numbers of people are questioning man's use/abuse of animals, rallying behind such slogans as "Animals are not ours to eat, wear or experiment upon."

A wide variety of musicians are involved in the movement, creating songs and other messages concerned with the rights of animals. Dozens of peace-punk bands have performed such songs and have participated in benefit concerts for groups like the Animal Liberation Front (A.L.F.), yet the message has been too far separated from mainstream society. As awareness has grown, more popular groups have gotten involved.

The Smiths' "Meat is Murder" album brought the subject to a much wider audience, but I must wonder if a few songs can elicit such change in a listeners' lifestyle.

Chicago's Wax Trax Records has just released a compilation album of well-known American and European musicians. It's a fund-raiser for People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA, Box 42516, Washington, D.C. 20015).

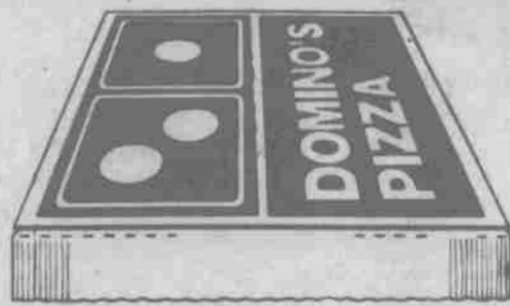
Unlike the earlier British "Devastate to Liberate" compilation album, Wax Trax' "Animal Liberation" LP comes with a poster and other information about such animal rights concerns as vivisection (the use of animals in laboratory experiments), factory farming and vegetarianism.

Four of the nine songs are unreleased, and most are enjoyable synth-dance stuff, typified by the excellent Chris and Cosey track. Luc Van Acker contributed another compelling song, "Hunt the Hunter."

There is only one bad song on the album, and it is *really* bad. Lene Lovich's "Supernature" is OK, but her collaboration with Nina Hagen in the corny "rescue version" of "Don't kill the Animals" is godawfully bad. It's a cheesy, synth rap attempt at . . . I'm not sure what. Despite the music, there are some lyrical gems here — "Life is worth living, the animals agree/if they were meant to be eaten they'd be growing on trees."

Aside from Nina's screechy voice, the words and music are quite good. Colour Field and Howard Jones present outstanding songs, rounding out what should be one of the year's better compilations.

Again, aside from Nina's screechy voice, my only complaint is that the enclosed info is mostly just a plug for PETA. Much more basic info about just what animal rights are and why people should get involved should have been provided. All in all, though, the message on the album should be enough motivation for those interested to investigate the concerns and alternatives of the animal-rights movement.



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