

The Magnolias burst with musical blossoms of raw, unbridled energy

By Troy Falk
Staff Reporter

Twin/Tone Records

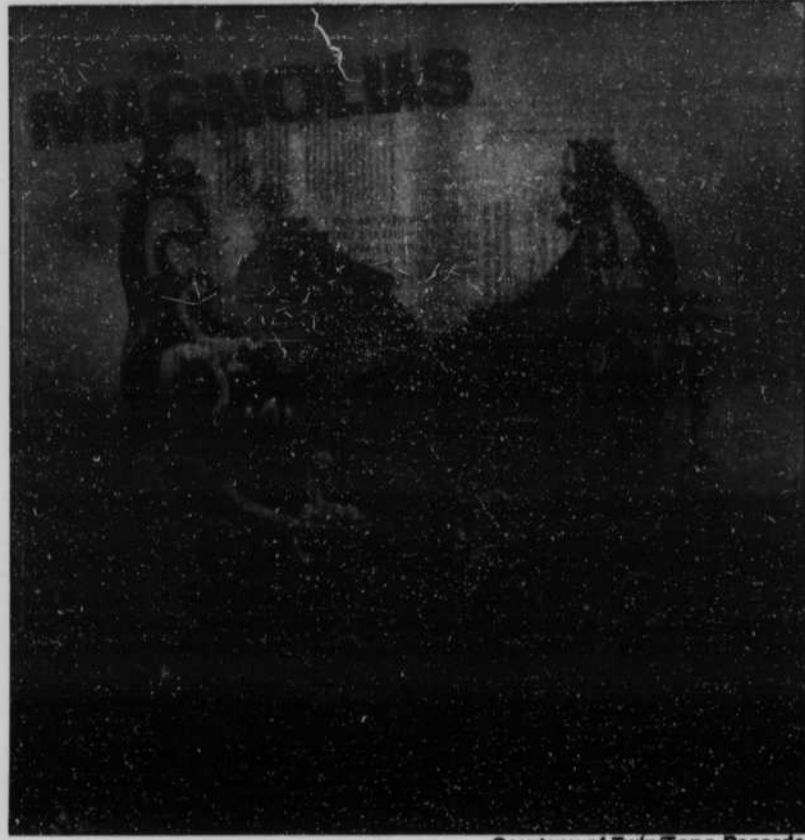
The Magnolias
"Dime Store Dream"

With a name like The Magnolias, one could expect to get a bunch of bozos singing about '60s love for all,

flower-power and Greenpeace. Sorry for the disappointment, but these guys rock.

John Freeman leads the band on rhythm guitar and vocals, and belts out the lyrics in a raspy, hoarse voice. Don't misunderstand; this fits in perfectly with the music. He makes the listener want to sing along.

The music is hard to put into one category. It is reminiscent of early 1980s punk -- a pre-headbanging, thrashing type of music. The only way to attempt to categorize The



Courtesy of Twin/Tone Records



Magnolias is to make a collage of The Cult, Rush, the Replacements and Soul Asylum.

The songs are raw and seemingly uninfluenced. The only exception is Tom Lischmann, lead guitar. He plays with a fervor that needs a stage to be captured completely. His riffs are clean and clear, and the resulting sound is incredibly intense.

"Dime Store Dream" starts off with "Asking the Time." From the moment this song starts, it is obvious that the listener is in for a rockin' good time. The lyrics are simple but not stupid. The music also is fired up enough for dancing and partying.

Other notable songs include "Pardon Me," "Shirley's Looking Down" and "Coming on Too Strong."

The Magnolias are even able to sing a ballad, "I've Been Gone." They pull it off while maintaining their raw, powerful edge.

Drummer Tom Cook gives a fantastic performance -- his fills are breathtaking, and his songs are full and dynamic. The music pulses with his beat.

One of the great things about The Magnolias is their raw, untempered sound. Listening to "Dime Store Dream" will leave the listener hungry for more.

Let this be a warning: Don't listen to The Magnolias' "Dime Store Dream" if you don't want to rock.

Eat

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On "Things I Need," the band strays from its usual sound, while the vocalist breaks into a voice-enhanced rap, which makes no sense but sounds really neat.

Overall, "Sell Me A God" is a thoroughly enjoyable and creative album. It has the ability to cater to the musical tastes of almost anyone.



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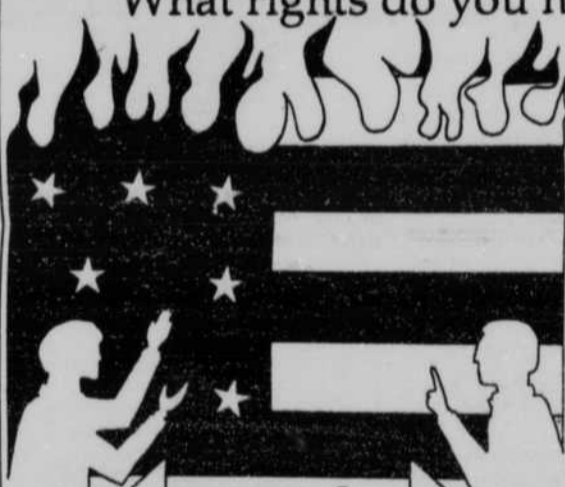
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