



Photo courtesy of Atlantic Records

Saigon Kick is Phil Varone, Jason Bieler, Tom DeFile and Matt Kramer.

Saigon Kick's album 'worth a spin'

Saigon Kick
"The Lizard"
Atlantic Records

Saigon Kick's conglomeration of rock genres, otherwise known as "The Lizard," is nowhere near as rough as its reptilian name suggests.

This, Saigon Kick's second album, is not only well composed, but fresh as well. The boys from Miami managed to create a menagerie of tunes with enough range to capture a listener's interest and enough continuity to hold it.

Angry youth anthems such as "Hostile Youth," dark and cryptic metal-edged dirges such as "Body Bags," offbeat indulgences such as "My Dog," and the airplayed-to-death power ballad "Love is on the Way" are some of the hallmarks of "The Lizard."

Sometimes rude, other times sweetly melodic, the 16-track disc is one that doesn't allow the listener to become bored.

If nothing else, he or she can pass

the time picking out the sounds of the various influences within the music.

Although the band lists The Beatles, Queen, Cheap Trick and Kiss among its influences, there also seems to be a bit of U2, Metallica and folk influences as well.

The disc opens with "Cruelty," an almost tribal piece with indiscernible lyrics that run just under the meandering guitar.

"Hostile Youth" picks up the beat with a hard-edged rocker that musically portrays the belligerence and paradox of idealistic and ireful teenagers.

"We won't do what we're told/ Leave us all alone," typify the lyrics of "Hostile Youth."

"Hostile Youth," "Feel the Same Way," and "Freedom" seem to be cut from the same mold. At this point the disc seems to stagnate.

Thankfully, Saigon Kick pulls out of this with the almost folk-sounding "God of 42nd Street" before diving into the whimsical and morbid "My Dog."

"My Dog" tells the tale of a pet pooch who wanders into the street, "minding his own business," when a car runs him over. Cheery.

Side two begins with the title cut. Old western sound effects (among which is a less-than-appetizing loogy-hawking) lead the listener into the raw feel of the cut.

"All Alright," a track that truly conjures up images of U2, is one of the album's strongest. Although it becomes a bit repetitive toward the end, it is melodic and sweet.

"Body Bags" is the most political song on the album.

"Look into the eyes of the government liars/ Listen to the sound of the guilty choir," are among the most thought-provoking lyrics on "The Lizard." Not deep stuff.

Some of the songs are rough and rocking, others pretty-pretty, while others are just worth a chuckle. For the money though, Saigon Kick's reptilian recording is worth a spin.

—Shannon Uehling

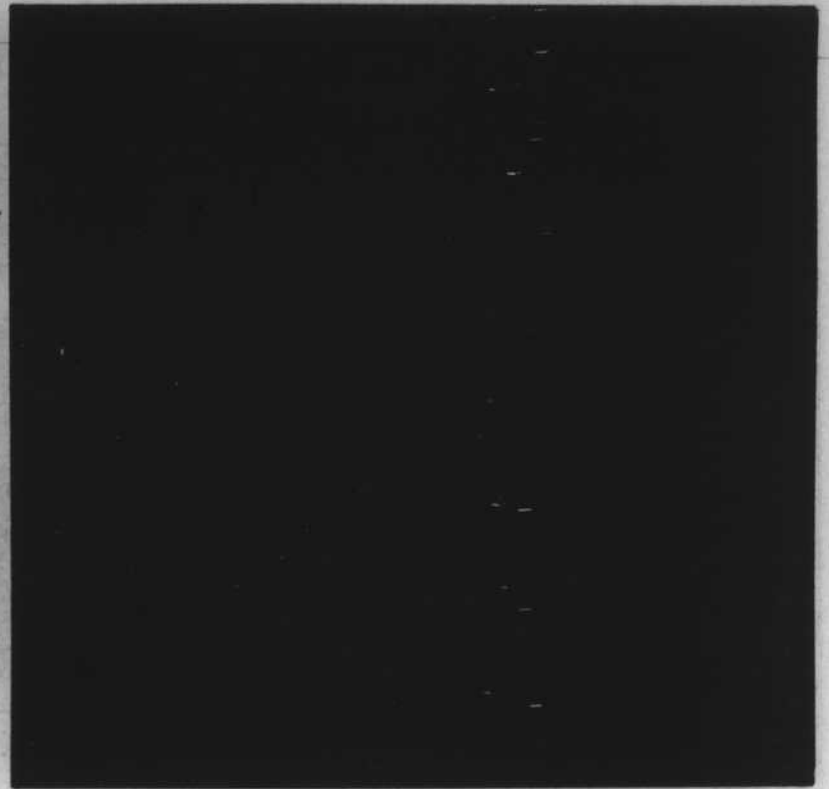


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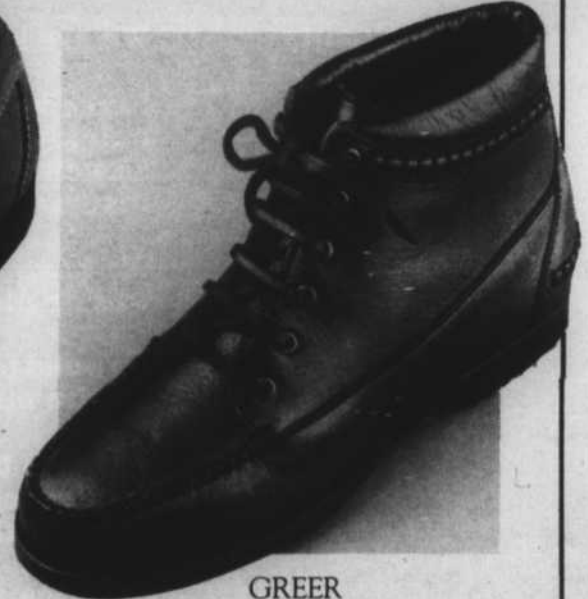
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