

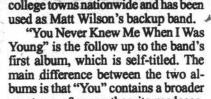
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## September 17th • 7:00 P.M.

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bums is that "You" contains a broader spectrum of songs than its predecessor. "The Wonsers" has slower songs, while "You" displays a harder edge to John Van Dyke's guitar playing with such songs as "Skyline Bridge" and "Mess.

"You" flows like it belongs on R.E.M.'s fourth album, "Life's Rich makes "You Never Knew Me When I Pageant." The first song, "Skyline Was Young" a winner. The Wonsers Bridge," is reminiscent of R.E.M.'s can become as big as they want to, if "What If We Give It Away," and the they continue touring hard and start rest of the album has a very Peter Buckshouldn't take anything away from The Wonsers

bum would have to be "Mess." John Van Dyke shows that he is an incredible lyricist, and Matt Van Dyke excollege towns nationwide and has been hibits tremendous talent as a bassist. "Montana" is also a great song, with "You Never Knew Me When I Was John Van Dyke stealing the show. Young" is the follow up to the band's However, with a running time of less than three minutes, the song is definitely too short.

Only a few things are not superb about this album. First of all, these guys took two years between albums and all. they came out with was a five-song, 16minute EP. Also, the last song, "Nobody," seems to drag on, even though it's just 3 1/2 minutes long.

Nevertheless, the blend of styles coming out with some longer albums.

-Patrick Miner

Probably the best song on the al-

Their last album, "Frosting On The while. Beater," was chock-full of powerful melodies, catchy tunes, well-formed hard-to-forget "Dream All Day."

Well, that was three years ago, and The Posies almost vanished from sight, touring everywhere they could find a place to play. Now, they have a new it's no "Frosting On The Beater," it's no bottom of the barrel, either.

"Amazing Disgrace" lacks the sticking power of their last album the songs don't stick in the head for weeks after putting the album away.

"Ontario" clings desperately to a listener's ears, but it eventually fades, unlike "Dream All Day." It doesn't grate the ears, though, which is what a lot of their self-titled debut album did.

'Daily Mutilation" is a good song day, but after about seven or eight listens, it warrants putting away for a

breathes life into the bass and brings it hot shower - the end is difficult to into the spotlight, something that is al- bear. most unheard of in rock bands. He's practically reinventing the instrument. song, where Les uses bass harmonics within those confines.

"Highball With The Devil" shows much more of a jazz influence than the tripped out funk-rock that Primus produces. The album even contains a cover of a Redding song, "The Awak-

playing over Henry Rollins reading a section from his upcoming book. It comes across as part urban backbeat, sings vocals over it to a melody that part beatnik flashback, part psychopathic nightmare.

"Holy Mackerel" is pure funk, though. The song bobs and weaves, with Les's classic over-twanged voice drawing out syllables, like "mack-er-EL" instead of "mackerel."

Many of the songs on this album just can't jump off the disc and snag lyrics and great songs, including the the ears. It's nondescript. From "Broken Record" to "Fight It (If You Want)," the album remains a little bit too flat to be an essential buy.

Still, The Posies have always been a band whose strength lies in live peralbum, "Amazing Disgrace," and while formances, and when looked at in that context, the album takes on a whole new light.

Most of "Amazing Disgrace" is full of places for loud jam fests and blaring guitar solos to be inserted gleefully. This is material that was meant to be live, not recorded.

If "Amazing Disgrace" had all been recorded live in concerts, all of the energy that is The Posies' trademark would've been present. Instead, it just doesn't plug in to the listeners.

-Cliff Hicks

"The Awakening" is a fantastic jazz (not actually holding a string down, but

just sort of putting your finger on it, to get a very high pitched note) to come up with a bedazzling blast of smooth grooves.

ening." The other really good standout "Delicate Tendrils" is basically Les track is "Precipitation," which has Les and Adam Gates chanting "rain, rain, rain" in the background, while Les sort of weaves and jives around the listeners without actually clubbing them over the head.

Les is on tour with The Holy Mackerel (Jay Lane on drums and Mark "Mirv" Haggard on guitar) and if you get the chance to see them, do. But don't worry, it's a side project. Primus The title track, "Highball With The is still well and kicking. And as Les Devil," lets Les meander around with himself will tell you, "Primus sucks.



Les Claypool and The Holy Mackerel

"Highball With the Devil" Interscope Records/Prawn Songs Grade: A-

Les Claypool is the Jimi Hendrix of bass.

Whether or not you like Primus, or even this side project, the fact is irrerutable. Les does things with a bass that man just was not meant to do. He's a genius, honestly. Les

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meals, a pay

the bass, keeping the listener's attention without really any rush. It's like a

## -Cliff Hicks

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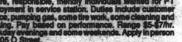
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