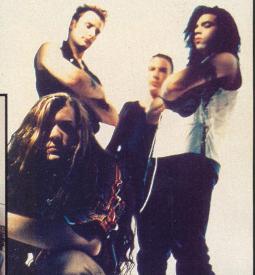




Non-Fiction: Hard rock played with passion and purpose.

PHOTO: JOE GIRON/PHOTOFEATURES

Gruntruck: A pedal to the metal unit.



Warrior Soul: Big egos, big talent!



Blind Melon: The breakthrough band for '93?

Corrosion Of Conformity (with Glenn Danzig): Heavy duty!



HIT PARADER 43



ach month the **Hit Parader** staff gathers together to play the latest rock releases on the trusty company CD player. With our keenly trained ears we instantly know which albums are destined for a future at the top of the charts—and which ones are destined for the cut-out bins. We call this aural exercise *Hit Or Miss*.

BON JOVI, KEEP THE FAITH

It's been a long time between Bon Jovi albums—and judging by the material contained on Keep The Faith, it's been worth the wait. This isn't really the same band that recorded such mid-80s rock radio icons as You Give Love A Bad Name and Livin' On A Prayer. The players may be the same, but there's been a lot of growin' up goin' on among Jon and his band of onceagain merry men. Such tracks as I'll Sleep When I'm Dead and Blame It On The Love Of Rock & Roll capture the classic Bon Jovi up-tempo rock spirit, while Bed Of Roses and the epic Dry County present new and exciting aspects of the Bon Jovi music profile. There's something for everybody on Keep The Faith, unquestionably this band's most challenging and complex album ever. But while they've added these new elements to their sound, they've managed to keep all of the high-spirited fun that's always been Bon Jovi's calling card.

BLIND MELON, BLIND MELON

Big things were predicated for this eclectic, exciting and somewhat eccentric new band—and on their self-titled debut LP they deliver. Vocalist Shannon Hoon, guitarists Christopher Thorn and Thomas Rogers Stevens drummer Glen Graham and bassist Brad Smith have constructed a series of tight, hard hitting tunes that possess an earthy, eerie quality that instantly distinguishes it from anything else current-

ly on the market. Such songs as Soak The Sin, Seed To A Tree and Tones Of Home are, quite simply, unique in both style and substance. While the attitude of their first album may make Blind Melon miss mass commercial acceptance this time around, they've laid some solid groundwork for a long and successful career.

LIFE SEX & DEATH, THE SILENT MAJORITY

Wow! In the long history of Hit Or Miss, never have our brilliant panel of reviewers been more divided than on Life Sex & Death's album, **The Silent Majority**. Some view this album as representing the

true rebellious attitude of rock and roll, attacking social issues with a straight-ahead ferocity that virtually obliterates them in the process. Others view such tunes as Asshole and Big Black Bush as nothing more than gutter caterwauling hiding under the guise of "art." There's no doubt that vocalist Stanley (who is a well-known vagrant in the Los Angeles area) has caused quite a stir with his band's debut, but whether that response is a positive one remains to be be seen. It's hard to predict what the world's attitude will be towards LS&D, but our bet is that it will be as divided as ours.

HIT/MISS

ENUFF Z'NUFF, ANIMALS WITH HUMAN INTELLIGENCE

Life hasn't been easy for Enuff Z'Nuff. Universally acclaimed for their Beatlesque harmonies and pop/metal craftsmanship, it seems that the rock and roll gods have conspired against this Chicago-based outfit. While their debut album firmly established a foothold for these boys, their second failed to live up to its predecessor on either artistic or commercial levels. Then guitarist Derek Frigo, and then drummer Vicki Foxx, split from Donnie Vie and Chip Z'Nuff. Frigo eventually returned to the fold, while Foxx joined Vince Neil's new outfit. But despite all their apparent problems, on their latest album, Animals With Human Intelligence, Enuff Z'Nuff have roared back with their most entertaining music to date. It's hard not to instantly like such songs as Superstitious and Black Rain, and the band can only hope that all the bad vibes that have followed them around in recent months have finally been left behind. HIT

EVERY MOTHER'S NIGHTMARE, WAKE UP SCREAMING

Hey, in case you had any doubts, here's proof that there are bands outside of Seattle making good, adventurous hard rock. Every Mother's Nightmare hail from Tennessee, and on their second album, **Wake Up Screaming**, these wild eyed southern boys have put the pedal to the metal big time. Tracks like *House of Pain* and *Buried Half Alive* seem destined to lead them directly to the top of the metal charts.

