

SPECIAL: A-Z OF ALTERNATIVE CULTURE

SPIN

**8th
Anniversary
Issue**

Lemonheads

**Naughty By
Nature**

Ice Cube

**AIDS in Africa
Part Two**

**Evan Dando
and
Adrienne
Shelly**

**Plus:
Clinton
and
the New
Optimism**

**Pearl Jam
and
Soul Asylum
Live**

'S' Is for Sex in the '90s

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SPECIAL 8TH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

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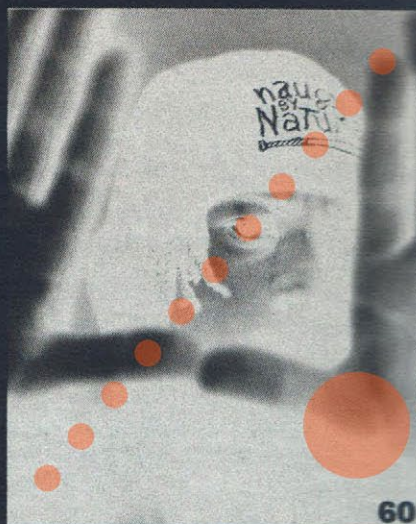
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Lemonheads, from left: Nic Dalton, Evan Dando, and David Ryan. 54



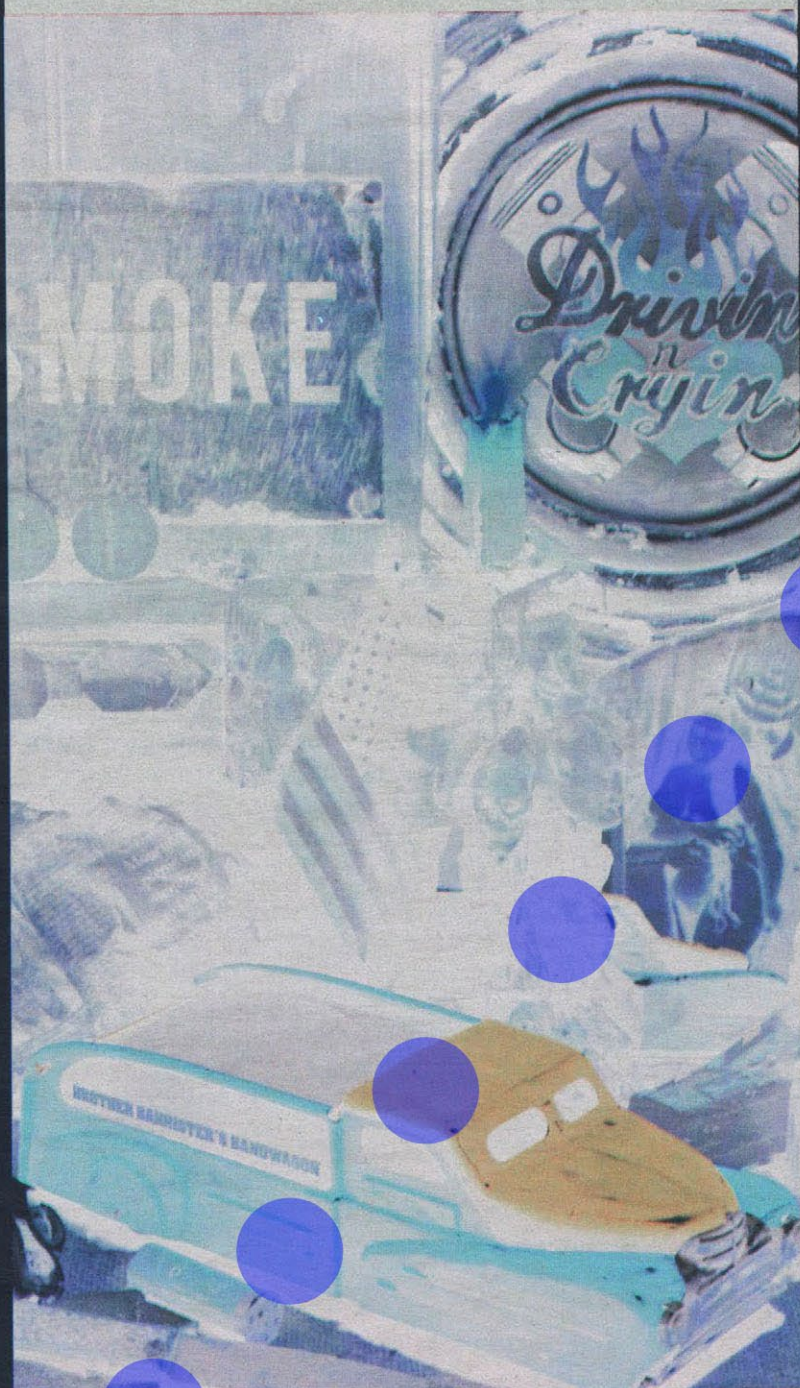
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Volume 9, Number 1
April 1993

This issue is dedicated
to Anthony Guccione,
1904-1993.

DRIVIN·N·CRYIN SMOKE

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Advertising Offices: New York — 6 West 18th Street, New York, NY 10011; (212) 633-8200; fax (212) 633-9041; **West Coast** — 11950 San Vicente Blvd., Suite 216, Los Angeles, CA 90049; (310) 820-8183; **Midwest** — Christopher Schuba & Company, 22 West Erie Street, Chicago, IL 60610; (312) 482-8099; **Detroit** — The Fitzgerald Company, 2685 Lapeer Road, Suite 100, Auburn Hills, MI 48326; (313) 373-1505

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NEWS

Live From Seattle, It's...

To some people, the Seattle scene is one big joke. But nowhere is it more evident than on *Almost Live!*, a half-hour comedy show based out of Grungeville that regularly employs local musicians in its sketches. Members of Soundgarden, Gruntruck, War Babies, My Sister's Machine, Forced Entry, Panic, Love Battery, and Willard are among those recently seen fumbling their way through bits such as "Faces, Places & Beer," "How To Be a Video Store Clerk," and "The Lame List."

ALMOST LIVE!

"There's a certain innocence to heavy-metal guys," explains *Almost Live!* host John Keister. "Innocence in discovering the world and destroying themselves at the same time—which is a combination I find carries a lot of comic potential." "I think it's good for everyone to be self-deprecating and have a sense of humor," says Soundgarden's Kim Thayil. "It's both parody and homage, which allows us to not take it all too seriously." *Almost Live!* was picked up for syndication by Comedy Central last September and turns up twice a day (except Saturday).

Funk Force

When Eddie Hazel, longtime guitarist for Funkadelic, died December 23 at age 42, pop music lost not only its foremost funk guitarist but one of its finest rockers. Hazel was instrumental in Funkadelic's rise from backup band to George Clinton's doo-wop act, the Parliaments, to the

exhilarating and experimental early '70s acid rock outfit, Parliament-Funkadelic. Much of Hazel's best work was recently reissued on the Westbound label. Although he laid the foundation for heavy metal, as well as funk, Hazel was deprived of his rightful place in the pantheon of ax heroes by the twin demons of racism and record scarcity (itself abetted by racism). Among the best: "Maggot Brain" and "Super Stupid" from *Maggot Brain*; the title song on *Free Your Mind and Your Ass Will Follow*; "Alice in My Fantasies" from *Standing on the Verge of Getting It On*; and "Red Hot Momma" / "Vital Juice," released on the 45s compilation, *Music for Your Mother*.

Music Biz, Texas Style

The South by Southwest Music and Media Conference, held in Austin, Texas, from March 17 to 21, puts a new spin on the music-biz convention. As we went to press, the 1993 session planned to feature a "mock negotiation," where lawyers and record execs simulate an hour of wrangling over music, money, and fine print and a panel with Colonel Tom Parker and Elvis Presley (as portrayed by Memphis producer Jim Dickinson). Other panel topics include barbecue, label dilemmas, techno and trance, and a spoken-word panel featuring Exene Cervenka. A charity golf tournament with R.E.M.'s Mike Mills and Asleep at the Wheel's Ray Benson is also planned.

"South by Southwest is designed for people in what I call the 'decentralized music industry,'" Roland Swenson, conference managing director, says. "Bands are in the music business, even if they don't live in Los Angeles, Nashville, New York, or London." Among the national and international acts scheduled to perform are Eleventh Dream Day, Medicine, Meat Puppets, King Missile, the Shams, the Dentists, Paul Kelly, Sister Double Happiness, Green Day, 22 Pistepirkko, Boo-Yaa T.R.I.B.E., Band of Susans, Cowboy Mouth, Sand Rubies, and Blind Melon.

SOUND BITES

Solar-Powered Benefit: An all-star lineup including R.E.M., U2, and Sonic Youth is scheduled for an as-yet-untitled live album to benefit Greenpeace's Atmosphere and Energy Campaigns. Set for a summer release, the project is the first to be recorded exclusively with solar power and no environmentally destructive, nonrenewable power sources. Scheduled to appear are the Jesus and Mary Chain, James, Arrested Development, EMF, and the Soup Dragons. Spearheaded by former English Beat-General Public member Dave Wakeling, the album will also feature exclusive live tracks from Yothu Yindi, the Fluid, and Boo-Yaa T.R.I.B.E. **Nasty Beats:** "There were no lights, no sirens, no PA system saying, 'Pull the car over,'" says John "Ecstasy" Fletcher, leader of the now-defunct rap group Whodini. Fletcher alleges he and four associates, including his producer, Ross "Spyderman" Sloan, were pulled over and beaten brutally by a group of police officers this past January in Harlem. "We kept asking them what the charges were," Fletcher claims. "The only comment they made was, 'Just shut the fuck up.'" Fletcher, who is working on a solo album titled *Voices Inside My Head*, says the officers

in question also broke a window and tore up the inside of the 1992 Nissan Pathfinder they were driving. **Masters Plan:** Ian Masters—singer, bassist, and guiding spirit of the Pale Saints—has officially left the band. Masters recently formed a new group, the Long Lost, with AC Temple's Chris Trout. The remaining Pale Saints plan to proceed under the same moniker, with singer-guitarist Meriel Barham fronting, and Colleen Browne (formerly of Heart Throbs and Parachute Men) on bass. **Kris Cross:** Kris Kristofferson claims he lost his recording contract due to the radical left-wing politics chronicled on his last

album, 1989's *Third World Warrior*. Many will remember Kristofferson's muttering, "Don't let the bastards wear you down," to Sinéad O'Connor during the Dylan tribute in New York last fall. According to Kristofferson, he has political problems of his own. "I run into the same thing on the road when I talk about stuff," says Kristofferson. The 56-year-old singer-songwriter is planning a Don Was-produced follow-up. **Cobain To Produce:** Nirvana frontman Kurt Cobain is producing the Melvins' new album. Former Big Black leader Steve Albini will produce the new Nirvana album. **Harvey Rides Again:** Rid



Blind Melon is one of the bands scheduled to perform at this year's South by Southwest Music and Media Conference in Austin.

DANNY CLINCH

The late Eddie Hazel.





Blind Melon

"Blind Melon has a loose, jammy feel that is refreshingly genuine... a stunning debut."
-Rolling Stone

"This LP breathes with intense energy."
-Reflex Magazine

"Believe the hype. This is great stuff for guitar fans who like their music cliché-free."
-Entertainment Weekly

Featuring: **I WONDER • TONES OF HOME • DEAR OL' DAD**
and ten more songs that cross the line between sanity and insanity.

On Capitol compact discs and cassettes
Produced by Rick Parasher and Blind Melon

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nix, but instead they may get a sputtering bald eagle, hoping it can stay in the air.

Clinton is also much to blame for his predicament. As a candidate, he was an everyman, appealing to diverse and even conflicting constituencies and telling them what they wanted to hear—so effectively, in fact, that he was elected. And though he maintained throughout the campaign, and even in his inaugural address, that the future would be tough and we would have to sacrifice together, Clinton was, and is, by nature, so unabashedly idealistic that people believe he can part the seas and take everyone to the promised land. (That he was born in a town called Hope contributes to the myth-making.) Clinton needs to admit that he cannot be all things to all people.

But the new President cannot fix his overload problem alone. Sensing his flexibility, individuals and groups of various stripes have foisted their own disparate visions of who Clinton the President will be on Clinton the man. So the new optimists, too, need to lower their expectations. Especially when our country is facing four years that may make the last four look like pie, exaggerated hopes must be reined in by reality. Foreign policy crises are increasing rather than diminishing, deficit projections are growing even without the investment spending that Clinton promised, and an all-out banking crisis may await us. During the weeks following the inauguration, pundits hemmed and hawed over whether Clinton was breaking promises and getting off to a poor start, and they will continue to do so—what else can they discuss? But this is fairly useless patter. Let the man find his office, his jogging route, the nearest McDonald's! Give him a break for a few months. Although criticism can be as legitimate and necessary as optimism, we should realize that the more inhuman we make him with false expectations, the more likely President Clinton will be to disappoint us all.

Third, and most importantly, the new optimism, despite its flaws, is ultimately warranted, worth believing in, and potentially instrumental to real progressive change. It is not ridiculous for a 21-year-old art student to think that he and Bill Clinton might share some interests. Natalie Merchant was right to feel that these are days we'll remember. Who would have thought one year ago that in America the right to an abortion would be almost absolutely safeguarded? That our President would pledge in his inaugural address to fight AIDS, poverty, and environmental destruction? That our national dialogue would focus on the right to health care, family leave, an affordable college education, and service in the military regardless of sexual orientation? That we would be calling on foreign companies and the rich to sacrifice by paying more taxes? This is change—not revolution, but incremental change is better than no change at all. If President Clinton stays true to his principles, even if he must modify goals or delay some plans because of economic conditions, he deserves the new optimism.

But now you're saying, "So he deserves it. Why should I really believe in this new optimism or do anything about it?" The answer is because there is a real opportunity at hand for young people to make a difference in their lives and the lives of others. This is not just rhetoric: If all goes as planned, President Clinton's national service pro-



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