

B-SIDE 2004 BEST OF THE YEAR

You Wanted The Best...by Alex

>>FAVES:
ELLIOTT SMITH: From A Basement on the Hill
IRON & WINE: Our Endless Numbered Days
NEKO CASE: The Tigers Have Spoken
THE DECEMBERISTS: The Tain (vinyl)
 >>OTHERS (random order):
KINGS OF CONVENIENCE: Riot On An Empty Street
LUNA: Rendezvous
AIR: Talkie Walkie
EUGENE CHADBOURNE & NOAHJOHN: Country Protest Anew
JAPANCAKES: Waking Hours
LORETTA LYNN: Van Lear Rose
INTERPOL: Antics
HIS & HER VANITIES: A Thought Process
SHANNON WRIGHT: Over the Sun
EARLIMART: Treble & Tremble
LE TIGRE: This Island
ROGUE WAVE: Out of the Shadow
CAMPER VAN BEETHOVEN: New Roman Times
EXPLOSIONS IN THE SKY: The Earth Is Not A Cold Dead Place
PJ HARVEY: Uh Huh Her
SHEARWATER: Winged Life
PINBACK: Summer In Abaddon
JESSE SYKES & The Sweet Hereafter: Oh, My Girl
A.C. NEWMAN: The Slow Wonder
CAT POWER: Speaking For Trees (dvd & cd)
CAMERA OBSCURA: Underachievers Please Try Harder)
SONIC YOUTH: Sonic Nurse
50 FOOT WAVE: s/t
CALEXICO: Convict Pool
BJORK: Medulla
TV ON THE RADIO: Desperate Youth, Bloodthirsty Babes
RICHARD BUCKNER: Dents & Shells
RILO KILEY: More Adventurous
 >>SHOWS (chronological order)...
 Old 97's @ Luther's
 Jeff Hanson @ Catacombs
 The Arge @ Mickey's
 Mae Rae (cd release) @ Corral Room
 Damien Jurado @ Catacombs
 Eugene Chadbourne/NoahJohn @ Crystal Corner
 Scout Niblett @ The Rathskellar
 50 Foot Wave @ Luther's
 High Noon Saloon Grand Opening!
 Okkervil River/Shearwater @ Catacombs
 The Gemma Ray Ritual @ 12 Bar (London)
 Spoon @ the Annex
 Iron & Wine @ the Abbey Pub (Chicago)
 AC Newman/Rogue Wave @ High Noon Saloon
 His & Her Vanities (cd release) @ High Noon Saloon
 Yo La Tengo & friends @ the Terrace
 Camper Van Beethoven @ Luther's
 LE TIGRE/THE GOSSIP @ The Vic (Chicago)
 Luna @ High Noon Saloon
 George Jones @ Crystal Grand (Wisconsin Dells)

B-Side
COMPACT DISCS
436 State Street
Madison, Wisconsin
608.255.1977

Customer's Choice (Best Sellers at B-Side 2004) :

Wilco: A Ghost Is Born
 Iron & Wine: Our Endless Numbered Days
 Modest Mouse: Good News For People Who Love Bad News
 Franz Ferdinand: s/t
 Los Lonely Boys: s/t
 TV On The Radio: Desperate Youth, Bloodthirsty Babes
 Yeah Yeah Yeahs: Fever To Tell
 The Roots: The Tipping Point
 Elliott Smith: From A Basement On The Hill
 Loretta Lynn: Van Lear Rose
 Norah Jones: Feels Like Home
 PJ Harvey: Uh Huh Her
 The Arcade Fire: Funeral
 (& still selling like fresh delicious pancakes):
 Postal Service: Give Up (2003)
 The Shins: Chutes Too Narrow (2003)

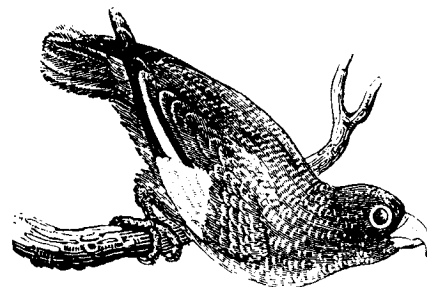


I'm Jimmy and I Approved This List:

MORRISSEY: You Are The Quarry The year belonged to the Moz, great album, great tour, props galore and quotes aplenty! Awesome comeback
FRANZ FERDINAND: s/t
The CARDIGANS: Long Before Daylight
BEASTIE BOYS: To The 5 Boroughs
MANIC STREET PREACHERS: Liveblood
NANCY SINATRA: s/t
GREEN DAY: American Idiot
JOHN CAGE: Hobosapiens
The DELGADOS: Universal Audio
FIERY FURNACES: Blueberry Boat
The DEARS: No Cities Left
JIM WHITE: Drill A Hole In The Substrate & Tell Me What You See
EARLIMART: Treble & Tremble
IRON & WINE: Our Endless Numbered Days
NEW YORK DOLLS: Pre Crash Condition
DOGS DIE IN HOT CARS: Please Describe Yourself
AMERICAN MUSIC CLUB: Love Songs For Patriots
ELVIS COSTELLO: The Delivery Man
KINGS OF CONVENIENCE: Riot On An Empty Street
INTERPOL: Antics
LORETTA LYNN: Van Lear Rose
MODEST MOUSE: Good News For People Who Love Bad News
KEANE: Hopes And Fears
GRAHAM COXON: Happiness In Magazines
The LIBERTINES: s/t
ROGUE WAVE: Out Of The Shadow
TRASH CAN SINATRAS: Weightlifting
DAVID KILGOUR: Frozen Orange
PJ HARVEY: Uh Huh Her
The FALL: The Real New Fall Album
DUNGEN: Ta Det Lugnt
SONIC YOUTH: Sonic Nurse
SNOW PATROL: Final Straw
REM: Around The Sun
HIS & HER VANITIES: A Thought Process
CHARLEMANGE: s/t
ELLIOTT SMITH: From A Basement On The Hill
ELBOW: Cast Of Thousands
A.C. NEWMAN: A Slow Wonder
MATTHEW SWEET: Living Things
DRIVE-BY TRUCKERS: The Dirty South
ARCADE FIRE: Funeral
PINBACK: Summer In Abaddon
The FUTUREHEADS: s/t
 >>Re-Issues...
TALKING HEADS: The Name Of This Band Is...
The CLASH: London Calling 25th Anniversary Edition
PAVEMENT: Crooked Rain Crooked Rain Deluxe
ECHO & The BUNNYMEN: (1st 4 albums)

Oh-Four These Soundwaves Doth Dave Rave:

>>(Rock Poppin Sphere) -
ESZTER BALINT: Mud
TOM WAITS: Real Gone
MARK LANEGAN BAND: Bubblegum & Meth. Blues e.p.
50 FOOT WAVE: s/t (e.p. in length, TSUNAMI intensity...)
ALEJANDRO ESCOVEDO: Por Vida
CHARLIE MUSSELWHITE: Sanctuary
GIANT SAND: All Over The Map
ROCKET FROM THE TOMBS: Rocket Redux
JIM WHITE: Drill A Hole In That Substrate And Tell Me What You See
SAM PHILLIPS: A Boot And A Shoe
PINBACK: Summer In Abaddon
JAY FARRAR: Stone, Steel & Bright Lights
DONOVAN: Beat Café
ROBYN HITCHCOCK: Spooked (with Gillian Welch & David Rawlings)
JON DEE GRAHAM: The Great Battle
DRIVE-BY TRUCKERS: The Dirty South
WILCO: A Ghost Is Born
GUITAR SHORTY: Watch Yr Back
MINDY SMITH: s/t
SALLY TIMMS: In The World Of Him
BUDDY MILLER: United House Of Prayer
JON LANGFORD: All The Fame Of Lofty Deeds
NEKO CASE: The Tigers Have Spoken
PJ HARVEY: Uh Huh Her
A.C. NEWMAN: The Slow Wonder
DAVE ALVIN: Ashgrove
ELIZA GILKYSON: Land Of Milk & Honey
MEKONS: Punk Rock
CHARLEMAGNE: s/t
 >>This vegan's S.O.Y. : Mark Lanegan "100 Days"
 (in a sphere apart: the treasure w/out measure)
 (Next World) - **ELLIOTT SMITH:** From A Basement On The Hill
 (This World) - **CHOYING DROLMA / STEVE TIBBETTS:** Selya
 (Comp / tribute Sphere) - "POR VIDA" : The Songs Of Alejandro Escovedo
 (They SHOW_{ed} me Sphere) - 50 Foot Wave @ Luther's 4/30
 >>(Vocal-less / Less Vocals Sphere) -
MIROSLAV VITOUS: Universal Syncopations
DAVE DOUGLAS: Strange Liberation
VIKTOR KRAUSS: Far From Enough
TORTOISE: It's All Around You
BIG SATAN: s/t
BANYAN: Live At Perkin's Palace
MEDESKI, MARTIN & WOOD: End Of World Party (i.t.c.)
 >>(DJ's Electro Acoustic-MIXTREMIX-Organix Sphere) -
AMON TOBIN: Recorded Live
MILES - GURTU: s/t
SKALPEL: s/t
MYLAB: s/t
DJ KRUSH: Jaku
BILL FRISSELL: UnsPEAKable
 (LAMB): Back To Mine (v/a)
EVAN PARKER ELECTRO / ACOUSTIC ENS.: Sound/Vision
THEEVERY CORP.: Richest Man In Babylon - Rewound: Dub
DADDY G: DJ Kicks
9 LIVES 9: Lazy Jones
 (Highs of VAULTAGE Sphere) -
TALKING HEADS: The Name Of This Band Is...
JOHNNY WINTER: (First and) Second Winter





Steve's Boatload:

>> (5 sorta-famous artists I cannot ignore) ...
WILCO: A Ghost Is Born Ever-evolving, restlessly creative, this band deserves its mountain of accolades
DONOVAN: Beat Café Empathic veteran players boost this return to classic form for the 'sixties legend.
ELLIOTT SMITH: From A Basement On The Hill The bittersweet final chapter from one of the best ever
LUNA: Rendezvous Speaking of bittersweet finalities...Luna exits with a cosmic bang...long live Dean & Britta...
ROBYN HITCHCOCK: Spooked One of my top songsmith heroes asks Gillian Welch over for tea and scones.
>> (5 not-very-famous artists who deserve emphasis) ...
ROGUE WAVE: Out Of The Shadow Sub Pop unleashes yet another richly melodic band that's a cut above.
ESZTER BALINT: Mud 2nd & best yet by a compelling, adventurous singer/songwriter. She's not to be missed.
DAVID KILGOUR: Frozen Orange After 25 years, the Clean guitarist/songster keeps zooming at a high level.
NORA O'CONNOR: 'Til The Dawn Bloodshot unveils a goosebump-raising singer for Americana enthusiasts.
MOSQUITOS: Sunshine Barato Irresistible girl / boy indie-pop bossa nova. A remedy for most sour moods.
>> (One lost treasure resurfacing from 20 years ago) ...
CRIPPLED PILGRIMS: Down Here (1983-'85) Head-turningly intricate guitar jangle rock from DC obscuro.

>> (Loads more that sounded good to me ... random order) ...
SAM PHILLIPS: A Boot And A Shoe
KNIFE IN THE WATER: Cut The Cord
MARY LOU LORD: Baby Blue
IRON & WINE: Our Endless Numbered Days
PJ HARVEY: Uh Huh Her
AC NEWMAN: The Slow Wonder
AIR: Talkie Walkie
MASCOTT: Dreamer's Book
SONIC YOUTH: Sonic Nurse
BLANCHE: If We Can't Trust The Doctors
MINDY SMITH: One Moment More
P.G.SIX: The Well Of Memory
ELF POWER: Walking With The Beggar Boys
ARCHITECTURE IN HELSINKI: Fingers Crossed
KEREN ANN: Not Going Anywhere
MUM: Summer Make Good
JON LANGFORD: All The Fame Of Lofty Deeds
PATTI SMITH: Trampin'
ADEM: Homesongs
NORAH JONES: Feels Like Home
MOUNTAIN GOATS: We Shall All Be Healed
MEKONS: Punk Rock
JON RAUHOUSE'S: Steel Guitar Rodeo
ELECTRELANE: The Power Out
MANISHEVITZ: City Life
EUGENE CHADBOURNE & NoahJohn: Country Protest Anew
CAMERA OBSCURA: Underachievers Please Try Harder
RILO KILEY: More Adventurous
TV ON THE RADIO: Desperate Youth, Blood Thirsty Babes
JOLIE HOLLAND: Catspa
AUTUMN DEFENSE: Circles
LAURIE & JOHN: Arabella
ELBOW: Cast Of Thousands
BLONDE REDHEAD: Misery Is A Butterfly
SODASTREAM: A Minor Revival
LAMBCHOP: Aw, C'mon / No, You C'mon
THE NEW YEAR: The End Is Near
LOS LOBOS: The Ride / Ride This
SNOW PATROL: Final Straw
JOANNA NEWSOM: The Milk-Eyed Mender
MARK LANEGAN: Bubblegum
ALISON KRAUSS & Union Station: Lonely Runs Both Ways
THE TRANSGRESSORS: s/t
BEBEL GILBERTO: s/t
KASEY CHAMBERS: Wayward Angel
THE SUNSHINE FIX: Green Imagination
PINBACK: Summer In Abaddon
JEFF KELLY: For The Swan In The Hallway
ELVIS COSTELLO & The Imposters: The Delivery Man
JESSE SYKES & The Sweet Hereafter: Oh, My Girl
THE SILOS: When The Telephone Rings
SATURDAY LOOKS GOOD TO ME: Every Night
THE CONCRETES: s/t
LIBERTINES: s/t
NICK CAVE: Abattoir Blues / The Lyre Of Orpheus
INSOMNIACS: Switched On!
50 FOOT WAVE: s/t
GREEN DAY: American Idiot
BLACK KEYS: Rubber Factory
SALLY TIMMS: In The World Of Him
KINGS OF CONVENIENCE: Riot On An Empty Street
HEM: Eveningland
RICHARD BUCKNER: Dents & Shells
THE ALBUM LEAF: In A Safe Place
CASTANETS: Cathedral
VAN HUNT: s/t
CHUCK PROPHET: Age Of Miracles
JIM WHITE: Drill A Hole...
LORETTA LYNN: Van Lear Rose
THE DELGADOS: Universal Audio
DAVE ALVIN: Ashgrove
AMERICAN MUSIC CLUB: Love Songs For Patriots
ELENI MANDELL: Afternoon
TANYA DONNELLY: Whiskey Tango Ghosts
JOE TURNER: Between Two Seconds
THE COMAS: Conductor
TOM WAITS: Real Gone
NEKO CASE: The Tigers Have Spoken
SADIES: Favourite Colours
MYSTIC CHORDS OF MEMORY: s/t
GIANT SAND: Is All Over
EARLIMART: Tremble & Tremble
SONDRE LERCHE: Two Way Monologue
BRIAN WILSON: Smile
...local treats)
CHARLEMAGNE: s/t
MAE RAE: Yes Please
HIS & HER VANITIES: A Thought Process
CAPTAIN YONDER: Mad Country Love Songs

Peter's Songs to Soothe Our Savage Republic:

>>Top 5 records (X2)...
NEKO CASE: The Tigers Have Spoken Ah, Neko, how I love her. It's great to hear her with the best live band there is, The Sadies, playing a mixture of covers and classics from Blacklisted and Canadian Amp. Not to mention the new songs which are phenomenal. Not since The Darkness have I had a record that I wanted to play over and over. A fun record for unfun times.
BOBBY BARE JR.: From The End Of Your Leash Speaking of fun records. My favorite songwriter these days, a modern Shel Silverstein. I saw him in Chicago recently and he blew me away.
DRIVE-BY TRUCKERS: The Dirty South What can I say about this bunch that I haven't said before. They're still my favorite band and this time, Jason Isbell and Mike Cooley turn out my favorite songs on the album. TDS marks the recording debut of Stonna Isbell on bass, a great player and a balance to the hairiness of all those boys.
TRES CHICAS: Sweetwater A modern update of the great female country vocal albums of the past. Former Whiskeytown members Caitlin Cary and Skillet Gilmore along with Lynn Blakely & Tonya Lamm, mix pretty harmonies and sparse instrumentation to make one of this year's most understated albums.
TWO COW GARAGE: The Wall Against Our Backs It had to happen. A band influenced by my favorite stuff, a modern Shel Silverstein. I saw him in Chicago recently and he blew me away.
The INSOMNIACS: Switched On! A pretty mellow record for an Estrus label release, but rockin' just the same. It reads the same ground as the Long Ryders' more poppy stuff. Paisley with a touch of country, that's what I like.
MARK LANEGAN: Bubblegum I've never had gum that tasted like this. Another triumph from a grunge survivor. He draws his influences and blends them out in a cloud of smoke so thick, you'd think you were at Mickey's Tavern.
The BLACK KEYS: Rubber Factory Two man powerhouse from Ohio...a tippy balance between slop and skill. Another one of the better live acts I saw this year.
ROGUE WAVE: Out Of The Shadow Shiny pop record of the year. It has a strange undercurrent that reminds me of another Sub Pop band from years ago. I sometimes think this is the kind of music Nirvana would be making these days. The former grunge label has miraculously transformed itself into one of the savviest pop labels around.
DANIELE LUPPI: The Italian Story My favorite instrumental record this year. Luppi put together a band of players from the original Sergio Leone "Spaghetti Western" soundtracks and wrote new compositions in the styles of those originals. The result is more than satisfying, especially if you're a film buff.
>>The Rest Of The Best...
RICHARD BUCKNER: Dents and Shells
ELF POWER: Walking With The Beggar Boys
JON DEE GRAHAM: The Great Battle
PJ HARVEY: Uh Huh Her
PATTERSON HOOD: Killers and Stars
IRON & WINE: Our Endless Numbered Days
LIBERTINES: s/t
MAGNETIC FIELDS: i
OLD 97's: Dig It Up
JASON RINGENBERG: Empire Building
The SADIES: Favourite Colours
SATURDAY LOOKS GOOD TO ME: Every Night
SHEARWATER: Winged Life
ELLIOTT SMITH: From A Basement On The Hill
JESSE SYKES & The Sweet Hereafter: Oh My Girl
SALLY TIMMS: In The World Of Him
THE TRANSGRESSORS: s/t
JIM WHITE: Drill A Hole In The Substrate and Tell Me What You See
WILCO: A Ghost Is Born
>>E.P.s...
HEM / AUTUMN DEFENSE: Birds, Beasts and Flowers
CALEXICO: Convict Pool
OKKERVIL RIVER: Sleep and Awake Song (first one w/ Travis Nelson on drums)
>>Tribute Of The Year...
HARD HEADED WOMAN: A Celebration of Wanda Jackson (Bloodshot Records)
>>Local...
AWESOME CAR FUNMAKER: Green Means Go



B-Side Best of the Year 2004



>>Peter's Do-It Tape - Top Songs In Order...
"St. Charlene" - Hem
"Visit Me in Music City" - Bobby Bare Jr.
"If You Knew" - Neko Case & the Sadies
(TIE) "God Damn Lonely Love" (Isbell);
"Carl Perkins' Cadillac" (Cooley) - Drive-By Truckers
"Coahuila" - Old 97's (Ken's first offering)
"King's Crossing" - Elliott Smith (bye bye baby, bye bye)
"1-35" - Two Cow Garage
"it's Gone" - The Insomniacs
"Miracle Drug" - A.C. Newman
"Merican" - Descendents (best protest song in a year of questionable ones)

B-SIDE UNCOMMON CD SHOP

Smile-inducing Shows (chronological order):
Eugene Chadbourne + Peter Kaesberg + Stephanie Rearick @ Mother Foo's
ROVA Saxophone Quartet @ 1st Congregational Church
Richard Thompson @ Luther's
The Mountain Goats / Manishevitz / Charlemagne @ Catacombs
Plasticland / Hollywood Autopsy / The Apologists @ Stage Door
50 Foot Wave @ Luther's
Eugene Chadbourne + NoahJohn @ Crystal Corner
Wolfgang Fuohs + Jerome Bryerton @ In the Company of Thieves
Steve Earle + The Progressive 95th Party @ Orpheum
Patti Smith @ Barrymore
Rebecca Gates / Wendy Bugatti @ Café Montmarbe
The Handsome Family / Scotland Yard Gospel Choir / Charlemagne @ High Noon
Chuck Prophet / Slaid Cleaves @ High Noon Saloon
The Decemberists @ Luther's
Jesse Sykes & The Sweet Hereafter / Aaron Scholz @ Café Montmarbe
Yo La Tengo + David Kilgour + Eugene Mirman + friends @ Union Terrace
Malaichi Thompson Quartet @ Madison Center for Creative Cultural Arts
Richard Thompson Trio (1500 years of popular music) @ Barrymore
Old 97's @ Barrymore
Camper Van Beethoven @ Luther's
Drive-By Truckers / Centro-matic @ High Noon Saloon
Dave Alvin Band / Anne McCue @ High Noon Saloon
Matthew Sweet + Velvet Crush @ High Noon Saloon
Luna / Palomar @ High Noon Saloon
Sally Timms + Johnny Dowd @ Café Montmarbe
...local shout-outs: The Arge Charlemagne, Drug Induced Nightmare #4, His & Her Vanities, Mae Rae, Aaron Scholz, The Silvers, Theramones...



>>Shows...
Let's start with a warm thanks to Cathy Dethmers for opening The High Noon Saloon.
(Opening Night) Bottle Rockets, MaeRae, etc.
Drive-By Truckers
Dave Alvin
Crunk Drivers / Bob Log III
Black Keys
Chuck Prophet
Luna
Ladybeard (welcome back!)
Dirtombs
Elf Power
Jonathan Richman
Ben Weaver / Graham Lindsay
Café Montmarbe:
Oh Susanna / Graham Lindsay (Friendly Productions)
Jesse Sykes & The Sweet Hereafter
Sally Timms / Johnny Dowd
Other Venues:
Drug Induced Nightmare #4 / The Arge @ Mickey's
Wilco @ Orpheum
Old 97's @ Barrymore
Road Trips:
Oh Susanna - W. Lafayette, IN, & Ann Arbor, MI.
The Darkness - Eagles Club & Summerfest, Milw.
Old 97's - The Rave, Milw.
Wilco - Eagles Club
Bloodshot 10th Anniversary - The Hideout, Chi.
...all these shows were winners but my Top Show Of The Year:
The American Music Fest - Fitzgeralds, Chi.
Dollar Store, Jon Dee Graham, Marcia Ball, Dave Alvin and The most kick-ass Drive-By Truckers show I've seen. Phew!



B-Side Alumni Page

Some Fine Folks Who Used To Work Here...



Ralph's Endorsements: (random order)

ROCK

The FLATLANDERS: Wheels Of Fortune
 MEKONS: Punk Rock
 The EX: Turn
 NICK CAVE & The Bad Seeds: Abattoir Blues/The Lyre Of Orpheus
 PJ HARVEY: Uh Huh Her
 EUGENE CHADBOURNE & NOAHJOHN: Country Protest Anew
 HIS & HER VANITIES: A Thought Process
 SALLY TIMMS: In The World Of Him
 PAUL WESTERBERG: Folker
 DALE WATSON: Dreamland

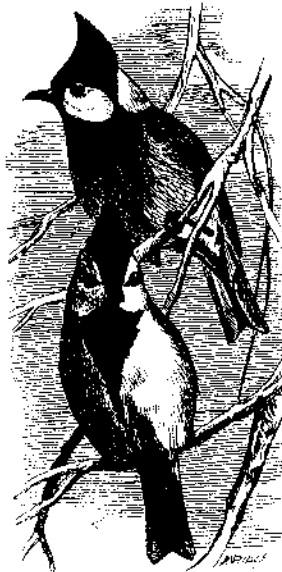
JAZZ

MILES DAVIS: Complete Seven Steps Box
 MARILYN CRISPELL TRIO: Storyteller
 VON FREEMAN: The Great Divide
 BARRY GUY/MARILYN CRISPELL/PAUL LYTTON: Ithaca
 ALICE COLTRANE: Translinear Light
 EVAN PARKER/PETER BROTZMAN: The Bishops Move
 DAVE DOUGLAS: Strange Liberation

James Oigs:

Surely not the so-called 'best', but rather a sample of what I've enjoyed this year. heyheyjames@mac.com

LOU REED: The Raven
 EUGENE CHADBOURNE: Bach
 BRIAN WILSON: Smile
 DEVENDRA BANHART: Nino Rojo & Rejoicing In The Hands
 The FACES: Five Guys Walk Into A Bar (box)
 The KINKS: Village Green (reissue)
 MAHER SHALAL HASH BAZ: Blues du Jour
 TOM WAITS: Real Gone
 MATMOS: Met Life 6
 SUNN O))) : White 2
 BJORK: Medulla
 LUKE VIBERT: Yoseph
 TOD DOCKSTADER: Eight Electronic Pieces
 DEERHOOF: Milk Man
 SUNBURNED HAND OF MAN: Rare Wood
 All the KING TUBBY reissues
 p.s. George W. Bush you are a small man.
 And you are wrong. Karl



Elise's Top 10 Indie Rock CDs of 2004:

FRANZ FERDINAND: s/t I don't think I need to say anything about this one, except that they're from Glasgow.
 INTERPOL: Antics I was a little disappointed at first, but then it grew on me. A lot. For everyone who loved Joy Division, The Chameleons (UK), The Cure, etc.
 The DELGADOS: Universal Audio What's the deal with Glasgow? All the great bands seem to be coming from there these days, including the Delgados. Why more people haven't heard of this band, I cannot figure out. Fantastic, shimmering indie pop goodness with alternating/fantastic male/female vocals.
 CAMERA OBSCURA: Underachievers Please Try Harder Yet another band from Glasgow. Camera Obscura definitely takes more of their cues from fellow Scots Belle & Sebastian than, say, Franz Ferdinand. Soft, pretty, mostly female-fronted indie pop with a flair for especially engaging lyrics.
 PINBACK: Summer In Abaddon Rob Crow-fronted Pinback writes interesting songs with weird time/key changes, and their new record shows that they can even make it poppier than their previous discs.
 ELLIOTT SMITH: From A Basement On The Hill This is definitely not the best Elliott Smith record, but who cares. The poor guy is dead, and yet, we magically got another record from him. Some of the songs are really great, the rest are good. Thanks, Elliott.
 MAGNETIC FIELDS: I Gothy synth rock with depressing, self-defeating lyrics will never be dead as long as Stephin Merritt is making records. 'I Thought You Were My Boyfriend' is my favorite song with "I Don't Really Love You Anymore" at a close second.
 ARCADE FIRE: Funeral I've been addicted to this record since it came out. From Montreal, the Arcade Fire is a band that's actually been living up to the hype. They sound a bit "epic", with strings and sweeping ballads, but yet they write rock songs, too.
 BASEMENT APARTMENT: Transistor! A friend of mine from Minneapolis came to visit, and brought me this CD of boy-fronted indie pop perfection. You can get MP3s at www.basementapartment.net
 LIONHEART BROTHERS: Colour Contrast Context I really like that old British shoegazer stuff. You remember the Stone Roses and My Bloody Valentine? So do the Lionheart Brothers. From Norway, these guys are producing new swirly shoegazer pop, bringing back memories of the first time you heard Ride. I think you can only get their record through their website: www.theionheartbrothers.com

To hear this stuff and more, listen to Elise's radio station: Indie Pop Rocks! on SomaFM. www.somafm.com, or via iTunes radio Winamp, or shoutcast.com

Betty Brings You 10:

TV ON THE RADIO: Desperate Youth, Bloodthirsty Babes & The New Health Rock e.p.
 The STREETS: A Grand Don't Come For Free
 DIZZEE RASCAL: Showtime
 KANYE WEST: The College Dropout
 DANGER MOUSE: The Grey Album
 PJ HARVEY: Uh Huh Her
 The SINISTER QUARTER: Pink Guillotine
 SAUL WILLIAMS: s/t
 LE TIGRE: This Island
 NEKO CASE: The Tigers Have Spoken

B-Side

Locally Owned
& Independent
...Since 1982...



Ellen's Listening Hints:

MARIANNE FAITHFULL: Before The Poison (import)
 PJ HARVEY: Uh Huh Her
 KILL THE DJ Volume 2
 BRIAN WILSON: Smile
 TELEFON TEVAVIV: Map Of What Is Effortless
 NIRVANA: (box)
 SAVATH & SAVALAS: Apropa't
 AIR: Talkie Walkie
 LOST IN TRANSLATION: soundtrack

Lesley's Picks for 2004:

Something good happened in the world this year, and it was music.
 JOANNA NEWSOM: The Milk-Eyed Mender
 ANIMAL COLLECTIVE: Sung Tongs
 DEVENDRA BANHART: Rejoicing In The Hands
 SUFJAN STEVENS: Seven Swans
 ELLIOTT SMITH: From A Basement On The Hill
 SIX ORGANS OF ADMITTANCE: For Octavio Paz
 RICHARD BISHOP: Improvika
 BRIAN WILSON: Smile
 IRON & WINE: Our Endless Numbered Days
 LITTLE WINGS: Magic Wand
 PLUSH: Underfed
 DUNGEN: Ta Det Lugnt
 GHOST: Hypnotic Underworld
 LORETTA LYNN: Van Lear Rose
 MORRISSEY: You Are The Quarry
 Reissues, etc...
 ARTHUR RUSSELL: World Of Echo: Calling Out Of Context
 VASHTI BUNYAN: Just Another Diamond Day
 KATHY AND CAROL: s/t
 ELIZABETH COTTON: Shake Sugaree
 CANDI STATON: s/t
 HARRY NILSSON: Nilsson Schmilsson
 BERGEN WHITE: For Women Only
 NEIL YOUNG: Greatest Hits (any excuse to put him on my list)
 And all BRIAN ENO and CAN reissues...

Javo's Sonic Narcotics For 2004: Resurrection of the Virgin Prunes

- >>>Discs:
 1. DANIEL LANOIS: Rockets (daniellanois.com)
 2. U2: How To Dismantle An Atomic Bomb (Interscope)
 3. VIRGIN PRUNES: ...If I Die, I Die (The Grey Area)
 4. VIRGIN PRUNES: The Moon Looked Down and Laughed (?)
 5. VIRGIN PRUNES: Heresie (?)
 6. VIRGIN PRUNES: A New Form Of Beauty (?)
 7. VIRGIN PRUNES: Over The Rainbow (?)
 8. EIVIND AARSET: Connected (Jazzland Recordings)
 9. HECTOR ZAZOU: L'Absence (Tactic Music)
 10. DHAFAER YOUSSEF: Digital Prophecy (Justin Time)
 >>>Tracks:
 1. Daniel Lanois: Another Silver Morning (1983)
 2. Daniel Lanois: Pour Ton Sourier (2001)
 3. Bambi Lee Savage: Darlin' (1996)
 4. Zebulun: The Marriage... (2004)
 5. Chandra Clark: Walk You Home (2003)
 6. Lanterna: Grey (2002)
 7. U2: Bass Trap (Full Version) (1984)
 8. U2: Sixty Seconds In Kingdom Come (1984)
 9. Violante Corradi: El Pendulo (2003)
 10. Hawke (and the Lady): Sad and Blue (2003)
 >>>Shows:
 1. Jon Hassell, Paolo Fresu & Erik Truffaz @ Spectrum, Montreal
 2. Dhafer Youssef, Eivind Aarset & Paolo Fresu @ Sales de Gesu, Montreal
 3. Zakir Hussain & The Masters of Percussion @ Vic Theatre, Chicago
 4. Wibutee & Eivind Aarset @ Spectrum, Montreal
 5. Zebulun, Chandra Clark & Mason Jiller @ Jason's Montgomery, IL



B-Side

Best of the Year

2004

Carlito's Weigh: (special guest tunesmith)

BELLE & SEBASTIAN: Dear Catastrophe Waitress
 BLONDE REDHEAD: Misery Is A Butterfly
 ELLIOTT SMITH: From A Basement On The Hill
 THE FIERY FURNACES: Blueberry Boat
 HIS & HER VANITIES: A Thought Process
 ELECTRELANE: The Power Out
 INTERPOL: Antics
 LE TIGRE: This Island
 LORETTA LYNN: Van Lear Rose
 MORRISSEY: You Are The Quarry
 SUFJAN STEVENS: Seven Swans



Lindsay's Platters:

LE TIGRE: This Island
 TOM WAITS: Real Gone
 PJ HARVEY: Uh Huh Her
 ELLIOTT SMITH: From A Basement On The Hill
 BJORK: Medulla
 SAILOR HARLETTE: s/t
 MAKE BELIEVE: s/t
 LORETTA LYNN: Van Lear Rose
 MORRISSEY: You Are The Quarry
 MINUS THE BEAR: They Make Beer Commercials Like This
 HOT SNAKES: Audit In Progress
 Q AND NOT U: Power
 TV ON THE RADIO: Desperate Youth, Bloodthirsty Babes
 "Hard Headed Woman" - A Celebration Of Wanda Jackson

DJ Mix:

RYUICHI SAKAMOTO: Chasm
 MOSQUITOS: Sunshine Barato
 DADDY G: DJ-Kicks
 DJ KRUSH: Jaku
 LUCIANO: Lessons Of Life
 WILCO: A Ghost Is Born
 HOOD: The Lost You
 (LAMB): Back To Mine (v/a)
 JUANA MOLINA: Tres Cosas
 SKALPEL: s/t
 JOHN CALE: Hobo Sapiens
 PHIL MANZANERA: 6PM

Voiceless Vacations by Steve:

The BAD PLUS: Give
 VIKTOR KRAUSS: Far From Enough
 TORTOISE: It's All Around You
 BILL FRISELL: Unspeakable
 JAPANCAKES: Waking Hours
 DANIELE LUPPI: An Italian Story
 MATTHEW SHIPP: Harmony & Abyss
 BIG SATAN: Souls Saved Hear
 SHARK QUEST: gods and devils
 ON FILLMORE: Sleeps With Fishes
 KAKI KING: Legs To Make Us Longer
 DON BYRON: Ivey-Divey
 NELS CLINE SINGERS: The Giant Pin
 FRED ANDERSON/HAMID DRAKE:
 Back... Together Again
 JACOB FRED JAZZ ODYSSEY:
 Walking With Giants



Some of us can agree: These are a good listen...

NINE VOTES EACH forces a TIE FOR FIRST by B-Siders in 2004 :

PJ Harvey... Elliott Smith

SIX VOTES gives a deserving cowgirl SECOND PLACE:

Loretta Lynn

FIVE VOTES EACH means these four must share THIRD PLACE:

Neko Case... His & Her Vanities

Iron & Wine... Pinback

FOUR VOTES EACH should make these FOURTH PLACERS proud:

Interpol... Le Tigre... Morrissey... AC Newman

Rogue Wave... Sally Timms... TV On The Radio

Tom Waits... Jim White... Wilco... Brian Wilson

THREE VOTES EACH still carries quite a lot of prestige:

Air... Bjork... Richard Buckner... Camera Obscura

Eugene Chadbourne & NoahJohn... Charlemagne

The Delgados... Drive-By Truckers... Earlimart... 50 Foot Wave

Kings Of Convenience... Mark Lanegan... Libertines

Mekons... Sonic Youth... Jesse Sykes & the Sweet Hereafter

Notice: This summary presents a gathering of the personal opinions of all employees of B-Side Compact Discs, several Alumni, and one invited guest. Ballots were kept private. We did not share our decisions beforehand, in order to keep the voting fair and independent. Free and fair elections are still considered important here at B-Side. Even if the stakes are somewhat lower than they were for, say, THE WORLD back in November. This is just about MUSIC, after all. Not life or death stuff, we admit. Still. This is a quality of life issue. You care about quality music, right? Of course you do. You shop at the CD store that cares. And we won't take you for granted: HEY, THANKS B-SIDE CUSTOMERS! YOU RULE!! We also pledge to never convert to those evil touch-screen voting machines.

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