



WINK PLANET

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NOAM CHOMSKY

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COMMUNICATION NETWORK

FROM BUBBLEGUM TO SKY - ME AND AMY AND THE TWO FRENCH BOYS, CD

This was something I thought I wasn't going to like because of the fact that it mentioned French people in the title. But after putting it on highlight scan, I noticed some good things coming out of my old stereo. The band uses handclaps like the best of them. The female vocals are very cool (girls sound so neat-o) and help bring a soothing feel over the rocking sounds played by the band. But lets not dwell on the female, as the brainchild of the band is this lad named Mario Hernandez. And there are some decent male vocals on here as well. There really is nothing more cool, than a band that can take the easy to play but so hard to do it well pop style and make it interesting to hear. We are bombarded with poppy forms of music all day, and for a band to make it all a pleasure to hear is really a task. These 11 songs cover the realm of the pop world from the Beatles to sounding a little like Liz Phair. But the band has its own definite texture to it for sure. Must be all that California sun that makes them so happy. If you like your music as sweet as candy, then you should give this a definite listen. (BC)



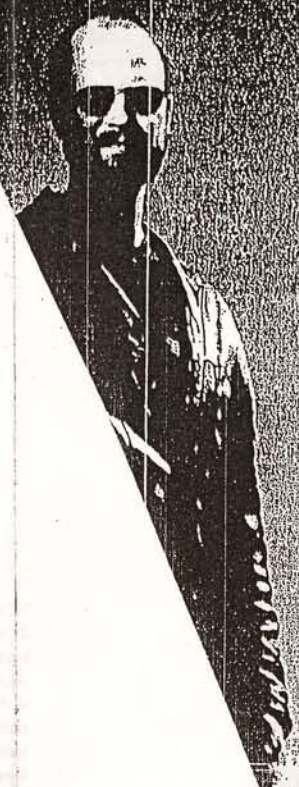
NEW LEFT

plus: HIP-HOP FINDS ITS ACTIVIST ROOTS

MAGNET

REAL MUSIC ALTE

HANDSOME FAMILY



FROM BUBBLEGUM TO SKY

Me And Amy And The Two French Boys
Doesn't it bother you that throughout pop's great tenure, some of the most venerated male vocalists have sounded just like women? Frankie Valli, Eric Carmen (as a Raspberry) and Billy Corgan are all guilty of acting the castrato, singing wing-high and nancy-like, elucidating and enunciating like Marilyn Monroe after the sixth Drambule settled in. This is what Mario Hernandez does all over From Bubblemum To Sky's ring-ring-ringing, long and winding road. As with his last act, Ciao Bella, Hernandez riffs quickly through all 40 flavors: the sugary new wave of "Hello Hello Hi" and "I Wanna Be An American Boy"; the minty, magical-mystery brass of "You Of Summer"; the tart, lemon-drop glam of "Major J"; the cinnamon funk of "Don't Let The Day Go Mistreating You"; the cocoa folk of "She Floats." While he's lining his lips with cherry lip gloss, making dopey pronouncements, Hernandez's chorus kids keep hoot-hooting, like Cats exiled on Main Street. If it wasn't for the fact that he's so sincere, this music would be loathsome. But he is. And it's good. Besides, I can't hit a girl. [Enile Meenie, POB 691397, Los Angeles CA 90069] —a.d. amorosi

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POP & ROCK

Last of the Juanitas, Excelsior

Like the heavy gases that create angry young suns, Last of the Juanitas keep recombining to beam their astronomical math-metal into the universe. More luck for us tiny Earth people. The Juanitas' instrumental elements--equal parts Black Sabbath's density, Black Flag's glare and Drive Like Jehu's flares of brilliance--all radiate enough heat to burn. (JG)

Berbat's Pan, 231 SW Ankeny St., 248-4579. 9:30 pm. Cover. 21+.

Broken Social Scene, Stars, Jason Collett

Broken Social Scene is simply one of the most adventurous guitar-based pop bands in some time--and at no expense to their songwriting chops. The band uses all 10 of its members to craft complicated pop songs that manage to remain tuneful and never disintegrate into muddled guitar wanking. (GL)



broken social scene

Dante's, 1 SW 3rd Ave., 226-6630. 9 pm. \$10 advance, \$12 door. 21+.

All Girl Summer Fun Band, From Bubblegum to Sky

If ever there were a concert in which lightheaded, bouncy music could threaten to blow the roof off the joint, this is the one. AGSFB combines an ironic peppiness with moments of lo-fi fuzz and distortion that indicate there is some bitch behind the bop. From Bubblegum to Sky, on the other hand, sounds all things feminine and doo-woppy but is actually the brainchild of San Antonio native Mario Hernandez. (KC)



all girl summer fun band

Meow Meow, 527 SE Pine St., 230-2111. 8 pm. \$6. All ages.

**FEATURE NEWS CALENDAR COLUMNS ARTS CLASSIFIEDS PERSONALS SEARCH****UP & COMING: this week's music picks****SUNDAY 11/16****DEGREES, JODY HATES THE WORLD, FROM BUBBLEGUM TO SKY**

(Ballard Firehouse) I'm not being ironic when I say From Bubblegum to Sky is HAUGE in Japan, thanks to the member's former band, Ciao Bella. If you hate that clappy, doo-doo, hey-hey girl-vocal (except I think it's actually a boy here) kind of stuff you might want to shy away from this San Francisco band. But I personally hate clappy, doo-doo, hey-hey girl-vocal kinda stuff and after sticking it out for a couple of tracks, I found a lot to like in the 2000 release, *Me and Amy and the Two French Boys*. As the name suggests, this is pop, but the songs are aching for comparisons as bold as to the Beatles and Big Star, and the album sounds amazing turned up loud, as the CD packaging suggests. Damn, looks like I'll be venturing to the Ballard Firehouse again.

KATHLEEN WILSON



FROM BUBBLEGUM TO SKY

All Music Guide: Jason Ankeny

From Bubblegum to Sky was the solo project of indie-pop mastermind Mario Hernandez, born in El Paso, TX in 1967. While attending high school in Alameda, CA, he began learning guitar, and with classmate Jamie McCormick formed the duo Teeny Records (later Teeny Hi-Fi), issuing their debut single "Weekend Go" in 1992. Later re-christened Ciao Bella, the duo scored a major pop underground favorite in 1997 with the LP 1, only to dissolve soon after; seeking to further fuse his twin obsessions -- American pop and Japanese kitsch -- Hernandez mounted From Bubblegum to Sky, releasing the single "My Thousand Years with Robots" in 1999. The full-length Me and Amy and the Two French Boys followed in early 2000.

SXSW: Lisa Brandt

Seeing From Bubblegum to Sky perform live is confusing. Do you watch the sole man on stage, Mario Hernandez, or the videos (which accompany every song) on the screen behind him? Both are **energetic and entertaining**; if you concentrate on Mario too long you might miss a great video bit, and vice versa. From Bubblegum to Sky writes and performs **pure, lush pop gems**. You can hear hints of glam, rock, new wave and power pop in any given song, with no shortage of harmonies and handclaps. After forming FBTS in 1999, Mario released "Me and Amy and Two French Boys" on Eenie Meenie Records. His eagerly awaited second record is due to be released in 2004.

Insound: Evan Ellis

One would think that the Beatles would be pretty well exhausted as source material at this point in music history. After all, there are only so many ways that a musician can reconfigure classic chord structures, instrumentation and time signatures before "influenced" music becomes simply plagiarism. Perhaps the best way to imitate ones heroes is by taking a second hand approach (a Xerox of a Xerox if you will). That way, with enough distance, the new product becomes something unique of its source. From Bubblegum's sole member Mario Hernandez does just that on this, his first full length. Though he claims allegiance to not only the Fab Four but to Bowie, Big Star and Japanese pop groups The Candies and Pink Lady, his work bears a striking resemblance to such Liverpool-by-way-of-America groups as Cheap Trick, Red Kross, Enuff Z'Nuff ("Hello Hello Hi" could pass for "Fly High Michelle"), and Perry Farrell fronting The Three O'clock. This is not to suggest that Mr. Hernandez is trying to jump on the same bandwagon as these bands. Quite the contrary, by bypassing his primary heroes sounds directly, he actually gets very close to the spirit of whimsy and experimentation that marked many of the Mop Tops and glam rock's greatest moments. He also manages to forgo the fey trap of the recent Brit-pop movement and so much of the recent plague of Elephant Sickness sideline projects (The Gerbils, The Music Tapes, The Frosted Ambassador). By getting at the heart of the 60's best psychedelipop by way of the chilly synthetic 80's, he **injects a healthy dose of irony into an otherwise overly reverent genre.**