



The Dismemberment Plan - The Ice of Boston +3
Interscope Records

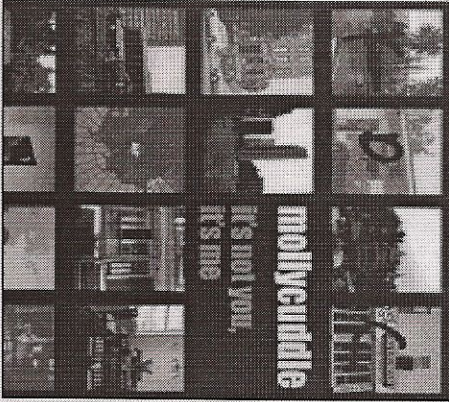
The *Ice of Boston +3* is a four song CD designed to keep fans of The Dismemberment Plan content until early '99, when their third album is scheduled to be released. However, the +3 on this CD are not the loud, fast and jumpy rock we remember from their first two albums. The CD starts with a re-recorded version of my favorite song from *Is Terrified*, "The Ice of Boston." It sounds exactly the same as the album version. Two other songs, "The First Anniversary of Your First Phone Call" and "Just Like You," are substantially toned down, almost poppy at times. Everyone knows The Dismemberment Plan aren't an emo band, but they come close on the fourth track, "Spider in the Sun." It's a sweet song, but it's about as quiet as I've heard them get. Where's the screaming, boys? *The Ice of Boston +3* is a good CD overall, but it displays a new direction that I'm not so happy about. Hopefully, their coming album will sound a bit more like their older, more raw stuff.

-Katie Simmons

Mollycuddle
It's Not You, It's Me
Guit Ridden Pop

Mollycuddle are a fabulous indie pop band out of Minneapolis. They recently released their greatly anticipated (by me, at least) full length debut album, *It's Not You, It's Me*. This album is said to display more confidence and maturity than their first EP, *Nonfiction*, and I guess I agree with that. Mollycuddle's basic style is boy/girl vocals backed by melodic guitars and upbeat drums. The boy singer, Tommy, sounds better and he harmonizes well with Sara. The songs are more complex as well, so yeah, I guess it's more mature. But maturity aside, it's good pop and you'll love it. Highlights? "King Me" is pretty poppy and well constructed. "Jersey Boot" reminds me of good old "Exit 152" on *Nonfiction*, and I think it's one of their better songs. All in all, I'm very pleased.

-Katie Simmons



Howe Gelb
Hisser
V2

Hisser is the kind of record you listen to late at night, stumbling around tipsy in your room. I think. I don't really ever get tipsy, so I'm just guessing.

This record makes me want to drink alone and get sad. Have you ever heard Neil Young's *Sleeps With Angels* or old Lou Reed ballads? That's what this album reminds me of. Cowboy music made by men who have been to the city and decided to come back home.

Every song was recorded to four-track. As Howe says, "the hiss is good." These 19 songs don't hiss in a playful or pretentious way. They hiss like a rattler.

I'm tired. I want to stop thinking. Howe plays in Giant Sand and Calexico. Howe goes solo. Howe makes a really good record. -Matt Ryan

Ed Gray
Sore Eyes
SKAM

Ed Gray is Iowa City's superstar of sad. Yes, he's a singer-songwriter and he plays acoustic guitar. That doesn't make him a protest singer. His songs are even more sinister; with a plaintive delivery, he coos listeners with distressing late night lullabies. Songs you just can't fall asleep to. His latest release, *Sore Eyes*, is just one more reason to believe Ed is rare gem among the plethora of lo-fi folkies recording these days. His jagged and varied approach may seem disorienting at first, but it is also engaging. It doesn't take long to find comfort in this honest and unpretentious batch of songs.

I'd write more, but I'm tired.

-Matt Ryan

