This summer's singles scene

Mission of Burma
Academy Fight Song
Max Ernst
Ace of Hearts Records

Finally, the single from Boston's best band has arrived, and Mission of Burma is out to prove the world. This record can't capture the overwhelming energy they radiate on stage, but the range and creativity of all their music. But, shit, I'll wait for the album for that.

Meanwhile, this single stands up very well. The recording is clean and bright, though the guitar is a bit low in the mix. The Acid is about a student who feels like an outsider in his military academy. It's been getting lots of airplay on commercial stations as well as college radio. "Max Ernst" is a fantastic flip side, with an organic ending.

Dead Kennedys
Holiday in Cambodia
Police Truck
Cherry Red Records

The only word for this single is fierce. The Kennedys pull out all the stops with these two violent songs. The A-side suggests that if you've become bored with your parasitized life in America, you'd work harder for a bowl of rice a day. The Kennedys mention it. You'd work harder for a bowl of rice a day. The A-side is a logical draft choice for President.

The Go-Go's
We Got the Beat
How Much More
Stiff Records

This is a really cute, catchy single which combines girl-group and ska. It's unfortunate that US bands like the Go-Go's and the Dead Kennedys have to go to England to get recorded. Not a lot of meaning in the words "We got the beat, We got the beat..." but plenty of fun to listen to or dance to, and a gorgeous picture sleeve.