Attack of the killer record reviewer

Even though my turntable was packed away during the three weeks I spent between residencies, the records continued to appear in my mailbox. My stereo set up again, so here are some reviews of discs that almost slipped by:

**Attack of the Killer Bs, various artists on Warner Brothers Records.**

There used to be a time when people bought single more often than they purchased LPs. The greatest benefit of this practice — besides not having to buy a whole album for your favorite tune — was the bonus track on the single's B-side, usually a cut that did not appear on the album. A non-LP B-side could be an extra track from the album's recording sessions, a piece of obvious filler, or a genuine masterpiece (Consider the long list of killer B-sides by the Beatles, for example).

What the compiler of this disc (one Bob Merlin) fails to understand is that tunes are left off albums for very good reasons — usually because they don't match up to the standards of the other material. Such is clearly the case with the Pretenders entry "In the Sticks," a lame pseudo-surf instrumental penned by drummer Martin Chambers. Every Pretenders fan knows Warner Brothers is saving all their good B-sides for an upcoming EP. "Babytalk" is hardly up to the standards of other Ramones material, especially the knock-em-dead rave-up version of "Do You Wanna Dance" that was the A-side.

There are a few clever bits included: Laurie Anderson's "Walk on Dog" with its Dadaistic lyrics and helium-fed-munchkin vocals is an oddity more people should get to hear. "Grace" by Minneapolis funksters The Time, is a bopping lesion on how to dress cool; in the fadeout it reverts The Time, is clearly the case with the Pretenders entry "In the Sticks." The vocals is an oddity more people should get to hear.

Hardly a compilation of "non-LP tracks that can stand on their own merits," Attack of the Killer Bs is a good idea turned sour — and a real pain in the ass for the genuine, dedicated B-side collector.

**AEIOU Sometimes Y. EBN/OZN on Elektra Records EP.**

This EP has been around for a while, but has only recently begun to receive play at dance clubs — a phenomenon due in part, no doubt, to video version that MTV has played in heavy rotation. EBN/OZN (pronounced eeb-en-noon) are a duo in which EBN plays all the instruments — mainly a Fairlight Computer-

Attack of the Killer Bs attempts to compile bonus gems from various Warner Brothers artists, but fails on many accounts. For starters, not all the tunes on the obscure B-sides: Talking Heads' "Love Goes to a Building on Fire," while not on any of their albums, is an A-side. "Shock the Monkey," the German version of Peter Gabriel's hit "Shock the Monkey," is lifted from Gabriel's and Dransch version of his Security album — the actual B-side to "Shock the Monkey," is an instrumental titled "Soft Dog." The Blasters' "What Will Lucy Do?" was an additional track included only on the cassette version of their Over There EP.

Even if one chooses not to be picky about what constitutes a B-side, it is still obvious that this compilation is a marketing device to get a few collectible singles onto a more expensive album. Some folks will almost certainly buy Killer Bs for the previously unavailable T-Bone Burnett cut "Amnesia and Jealousy (Oh Lana)," and the inclusion of Marshall Crenshaw's "You're My Favorite Waste of Time" is clearly timed to coincide with the release of Bette Midler's cover of the same tune.

Don't forget to take a chance to have a legitimate work of art for your very own room! Investigate the Art Loan Exhibition and Lottery at the Hayden Gallery!

**On the town**

The MIT Musical Theatre Guild presents The Robber Bridegroom, with performances on Fri. & Sat., Sept. 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, at 8:00 pm, and Sun., Sept. 10 at 3:30 pm, in the Kresge Little Theatre. Tickets are $5.50 with MIT ID. For reservations call 253-3833.

The Student Center Committee presents Attack of the Killer Bs, the Midnight Movie, on Saturday, September 10, on the second floor of the Student Center.

The Harvard Square Cinema continues its The Genius of Woody Allen series with a pair of double features: Sleeper and Manholin, showing Thu.-Sat., Sept. 9 & 10; and Annie Hall and Love and Death, showing Sun.-Mon., Sept. 10 & 11. For information call 864-4580.

The Harvard Square Cinema also continues its International Director's Festival with a pair of double features: Paolo and Victoria Taviani's Night of the Shooting Stars and Padre Padrone, Fri.-Sat., Sept. 9 & 10; and Jiri Menzel's Closely Watched Trains and Miloš Forman's Loves of a Blonde, Sun.-Mon., Sept. 11 & 12. For information call 864-4580.

Adrian Belew, god of gonso guitar, will be playing his own peculiar brand of crazed rock and roll with his band GaGa, at the Paradise on Tuesday, September 13 at 8:30 & 11 pm. Be there or be square!

This weekend's LSC movies:

Superman, Friday, 7 & 10 pm, Kress.

Free for freshmen.

The Graduate, Saturday, 7 & 9:30 pm, Kress.

Dr. Strangelove, Sunday, 6:30 & 9 pm, 26-100.

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