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Obscure music genres provide relief from radio pop

By **Jon Waldbauer**
The Duquesne Duke

There's a lot of bad music out there. Fortunately, there are alternatives; you just need to dig a little bit to find them. Well, because you're in college and obviously prefer Cliffs Notes to an entire book, here's a short list of artists you should be listening to.

Kill Hannah

With several EPs, two full length independent releases, an album released on a major label and over ten years of experience since the band's inception, it would be foolish to call Kill Hannah a new band. On the other hand, the band only solidified their lineup and began building an extensive nation-wide fan base within the last five years. Kill Hannah has shared the stage with bands that encompass a variety of genres, including Chevelle, Jane's Addiction, the All American Rejects and P.O.D.

Their popularity began to spread outward from their hometown of Chicago following 2003's For Never and Ever, when the nation was exposed to their energy-charged live show. Kill Hannah earned a spot on Bam Margera's (Jackass, "Viva La Bam") compilation album, Viva La Bands, and performed for a national audience on "Last Call with Carson Daily." Fans can expect to see continued growth on the band's currently untitled sophomore release due in stores this summer.

Where are they from: Chicago, Illinois

What do they sound like: Smashing Pumpkins + The Cure + Depeche Mode

Songs to check out: "Kennedy," "Boys & Girls," "Unwanted"

When will they be here next: Kill Hannah will play at the Rex Theater on the South Side in early April (date TBA) with Shiny Toy Guns and Clear Static.

The inevitable question - Who is Hannah?: The "completely insane" ex-girlfriend of lead singer Mat Devine.

Further information: www.killhannah.com, www.myspace.com/killhannah
Paranoid Social Club

Paranoid Social Club has chosen not to attempt to define their style; they let the music speak for itself. The trio from Maine seems to be comfortable with landing somewhere between "psychedelic dirt-rock" and "garage band with a soul." However you want to describe them, the dynamic songs of the band's self-titled 2005 release, provide a great soundtrack to the world.

Fans recognize Paranoid Social Club for incredibly personal performances and an undeniable consistency in the quality and creativity of their music, both lyrically and melodically. The band's current touring schedule is limited, but Paranoid Social Club is available in the iTunes Music Store and at several national music retailers.

Where are they from: Portland, Maine



What do they sound like: Sublime + Maroon 5's pop-funk + Andrew WK's love of partying

Songs to check out: "Two Girls," "Wasted," "Theme Song"

About the Club: "Just look at us for who we are and what we do, and decide for yourself if you want to join the Club."

Defining lyrics: "See I'm that type of guy who can't save a cent / I have to rob my landlord so I can pay my rent"

Further information: www.pscmusic.com,
www.myspace.com/paranoidsocialclub Matisyahu

Matisyahu has been gaining momentum on the national front in recent months, from rotation of his new music video "King Without a Crown" on MTV to an article in Rolling Stone magazine. There has been an emphasis placed on the role Matisyahu's religious background as a Hasidic Jew on the reggae/hip-hop scene by national media. Yes, his faith plays into his music and fan interaction, but the truth is that his rise in the music scene is due to his ability to connect with an uplifting message without infringing on other belief systems.

Oh yeah, and the music is really good, too. Matisyahu's music translates well from the studio to a live show; both his band and his vocals make 2005's Live at Stubb's album as intriguing and crisp as 2004's studio album, Shake Off the Dust...Arise. His second studio album, Youth, will be released on March 7.

Where is he from?: Born in West Chester, Pa, raised in Berkeley, Ca, and settled in White Plains, NY

What does he sound like?: Bob Marley + Nas

Songs to check out: "King Without a Crown," "Chop 'Em Down," "Close My Eyes"

Recommendation: Overplay his music for yourself before MTV does it for you.

Further information: www.matisyahu.org, www.myspace.com/matisyahu The Motorpsychos

Winning Rolling Rock's Hard and Heavy Rock War in 2004, being crowned Best Rock Band in Pittsburgh in the K-Rock Hard Rock Challenge, participating in the Vans Warped Tour and sharing the bill with Disturbed at X-Fest this past September are achievements that should not go unnoticed, and neither should the Motorpsychos.

While material off of both full-length albums (available at select Pittsburgh retailers) is substantial and impressive, the band's live experience is where the Motorpsychos define themselves. The three front-women, including Duquesne alumnus Abby Krizner, share vocal duties and ferocity to strong drum work. The Motorpsychos' brand of metal-punk infusion is a refreshing alternative to the recycled mainstream "punk."

Where are they from: Pittsburgh, Pa

What do they sound like: Kittie + The Misfits' energy + Pantera's intensity

Songs to check out: "Bullsh*t," "Primer," "Under the Knife"

Catch them live: 10 p.m. Saturday, at RPMs in Bridgeville; ages 21 and over

Further information: www.motorpsychosrock.com,
www.myspace.com/themotorpsychos

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