VARIOUS ARTISTS
Sounds like: The sounds of the street when EPMD, Uncle L, The Geto Boys, and The Biz ruled the block
Why we like it: Modern hip-hop is hair metal
Cover art: 7

BETTYE LAVETTE
I've Got My Own Hell to Raise, Epitaph
Sounds like: Epic, deep, dark-blue soul from a nearly-forgotten '60s R&B howler
Why we like it: Hats off to Epitaph for having the vision to put the record out
Cover art: 8, by Kevin Estrada

FOETUS
Love, Birdman
Sounds like: An intense new offering from pioneering industrial legend Jim Thirlwell
Why we like it: Jim breaks new ground on Love, avoiding a strict hardcore or electro sound for a new, eclectic approach
Cover art: 7, by IG Thirlwell

JELLO BIAFRA WITH THE MELVINS
Sieg Howdy!, Alternative Tentacles
Sounds like: Jello's best post-DK offering to date
Why we like it: The 'supergroup's' cover of Alice Cooper's Halo of Flies is a nice touch
Cover art: 10, by Camille Rose Garcia

VAUX
Beyond Virtue, Beyond Vice, Lava
Sounds like: Strained, screaming rock from the Denver 6 piece we love to love
Why we like it: Three records in, Vaux has hit the nail on the head
Cover art: 5

SUPERGRASS
Road To Rouen, Capitol
Sounds like: Epic, focused acoustic and electric Brit rock
Why we like it: Rouen is the English trio's finest record to date
Cover art: 6, by P Wilson

BECK
Guero, Interscope
Sounds like: Fourteen producers (Air, Ad Rock, Subtle, and Mario C, to name a few) reinventing tracks from Beck's recent ode to gringoism, Guero
Why we like it: Most remix albums suck ass, but white boy's on the money this time
Cover art: 9, by Marcel Dzama (Royal Art Lodge)