

Melvins

The Crybaby (Ipecac)

To complete their yearlong trilogy of albums that started with *The Maggot* and *The Bootlicker*, the Melvins realized that it was a good time to enlist some reinforcements—and then subsequently realized that it would take a lot less time to find all of their friends than all of their enemies. The Washington State sludge buddies got on the horn and the result is *The Crybaby*, a ragtag, conspiratorial conquest over the evil forces of musical mass production that the Melvins steadfastly oppose.

An all-non-star cast proudly supports King Buzzo, Dale Crover and Kevin Rutmanis as the 11 tracks unwind, cloaked in dark oddities and played out in every conceivable combination—originals and covers played with an array of guests. There are straight-up covers such as the album's opener, an unexpectedly accurate rendition of "Smells Like Teen Spirit" that draws its only added drama from the vocal, sung by the king of covers and ex-teen heartthrob Leif Garrett. Then there are collaborations such as "Mine Is No Disgrace," copenned by Buzzo and Jim Thirlwell, which turns out to be among the most threatening, self-pitying and honest ballads ever; the slow tones are broken up nicely by bursts of hideous fuzz and an unrelent-



ing pound. But then, what manner of song is "Ramblin' Man," a new version of the Hank Williams number sung in fine, spine-chilling form by grandson Hank Williams III? And "Spineless" makes an impression courtesy of the thin meanness lent by Skeleton Key vocalist Erik Sanko.

The only time things get a little tired is toward the end, during the relatively unimaginative "The Man with the Laughing Hand Is Dead," with Bliss Blood. But the multidirectional thrusts of the Melvins and Tool in "Divorced" is a thick mix of mentalities and textures on the level of creamy joined with crunchy, especially appropriate since hearing Mike Patton's "GI Joe" is like having your ears and skull chewed by a ravenous robot. Hey! This isn't just an album—it's a sludge-rock *Love Boat!* So come aboard.—David Weiss

THE VILLAGE VANGUARD

www.villagevanguard.net

★ MARCH 28TH - APRIL 2ND ★

LOU DONALDSON

★ ★ ★ QUARTET ★ ★ ★

★ FEATURING DR. LONNIE SMITH ★
PETER BERNSTEIN - FUKUSHI TAINAKA

★ APRIL 4TH - APRIL 9TH ★

STANLEY TURRENTINE

★ ★ ★ QUINTET ★ ★ ★

★ APRIL 11TH - APRIL 16TH ★

TERENCE BLANCHARD

★ ★ ★ SEXTET ★ ★ ★

MONDAY NIGHTS

THE VANGUARD JAZZ ORCHESTRA
SETS: MON THRU THURS & SUN 9:30 & 11:30
FRI & SAT 9:30, 11:30 & 1:00AM Baldwin
178 7TH AVE. SOUTH AT 11TH ST. 255-4037

NEW ARTISTS RECORDS

an evening of improvised music

BIRDLAND

Wednesday

April 5, 2000

315 West 44th St.

212.581.3080

Sets at 9 & 11pm

special guest

MAX ROACH

(9pm set)

CONNIE CROTHERS

VIRG DZURINKO

BOB FIELD

ANDY FITE

LIZ GORRILL

CHARLEY KRACHY

DORI LEVINE

MICHAEL LEVY

CAROL LIEBOWITZ

MAX ROACH

LINDA SATIN

HARRY SCHULZ

RICHARD TABNIK

ACE YAMASHITA

a complimentary copy of our CD sampler
"Notes from New York" will be available