

Music Corner

Gov't Mule

Capricorn Records

by Stephen McQuaid

My first exposure to Gov't Mule was on the *HEMPilation 2* CD with a song called "Thirty Days in the Hole," at the suggestion of Big Sugar's Gordie Johnson. It really rocked. On this CD, Warren Haynes (who also appears on Big Sugar's latest CD, *Heated*, on the excellent cover of "Let it Ride") provides extremely "real" and raspy vocals

which matched the Mule's down & dirty sound. On *Dose*, it's more of the same, but the music is a little more eclectic than I thought it would be. There are some heavier songs, but many lighter blues/jazz songs as well as some folksy stuff (like "light" Led Zeppelin) like on the song "Raven Black Night". Another couple of highlights are the songs

"John the Revelator," and the seven-minute cover of the Beatles' "She Said, She Said." For all its varied styles, Gov't Mule doesn't stray much from its basic sound, mostly due to Haynes' vocals, and the fact that they record the songs together, "live," to analog tape. All of the songs are fairly long, averaging at about six min-

utes... but who cares? They rock! I'd recommend this disc, but not at the inflated prices asked by the CD stores around here that have it. Don't encourage them. If you're like me, and not rich, ask for it special-order from my fave CD shop in town (hint: it's in an alley). You'll probably save some money that way.

Big Rude Jake

Roadrunner/Attic

by Stephen McQuaid

If swing is "dead" once again, which I doubt, I'd feel really bad for Big Rude Jake. He's been doing the swing thing for years in Toronto, way before its popularity exploded. He used to bust his butt to get gigs and try to land a record deal. After about seven years, I think, he moved to New York City. In less than a year, he got a record deal.

How sad is that? Even sadder, BRJ seems to have

been Americanized. The band's logo includes an eagle and some US flags, like a certain US symbol. Stars and stripes are all over this thing. Not only is that disgusting in itself, it's another sad case of a good Canadian entertainer being claimed and thought of as American. It makes me nauseous.

How's the music? Just fine, thank you. It is swing, but with a ragtime and jazz feel. It's great. Some songs

are very swingy, and others are slow and raunchy. His lyrics are distinct and perhaps better than most swingers. He has a rough quality to his voice, and sings of partying and... other things; like dining with the devil... or the subject matter of the song called "Queer for Cat." In this, he finds his gal and the gal of his dreams... together. And he likes it! Also, there's a hilarious punky song called "Let's Kill all the Rock

Stars." The lyrics go a bit like, "...Let's line the f***ckers up and shoot the f***ckers down/ I'm pissed off and annoyed at all these coporates whores/ and the radio plays the same old sh*t, over and over and over and over..." This CD is a bit cleaner than I am letting on, so don't be afraid. If swing's your thing, you'll love this disc.

Sky

When listening to *Piece of Paradise*, one can get a sense of the broad variety of musical styles in which Sky falls. Officially classified as an R&B group, it is surprising that all three of their hit songs have been pop

music. Although their first single, "America," received more coverage in Québec than nationally; to listen to their two latest hits all one has to do is turn on MuchMusic. Both "Some

Kinda Wonderful" and "Love Song" have remained on the Top 40 for quite a time now.

Although both songs are classified as pop music, one would have a hard time

believing that both these songs are from the same group. This is because each song has its own distinct style. This CD is the perfect addition to any CD collection. Sky is a Canadian band from Montréal.

All City

All City is propped as a Onyx protégée, but they sound nothing like Onyx. This is a good thing because they don't try to sound like Onyx and come

through with their own sound. The weakest part of *Metropolis Gold* is the frequent mention of money that gets real old. Other than that the disc is

ahhight. Some of the best joints are "the Actual," "Stay Awake" and "Priceless." All City manage to make every song flow and

not fill the CD with meaningless skits and featured artists. Overall, it's a good album and hopefully it won't get slept on.

M.C.A.

by Marc MacDonald