

by KIRBYFERGUSON

***Good as I Been to You***  
**Bob Dylan**  
 (Sony)

***Harvest Moon***  
**Neil Young**  
 (Warner)

***Pocket Full of Kryptonite***  
**Spin Doctors**  
 (Sony)

***Main Offender***  
**Keith Richards**  
 (Virgin)

***Izzy Stradlin and the Ju Ju Hounds***  
 (MCA)

***Neptune***  
**The Northern Pikes**  
 (Virgin)

I am about to lose the respect of my reader(s): I'm not a big Dylan fan. The man is certainly one of the greatest songwriters ever, rivalled only by Lennon/McCartney, but I've always had a hard time getting off on his ramshackle arrangements and that... voice. Dylan was once quoted as saying he didn't care what his band did with the music, he just cared about the words. And I rest my case. 'Sides, I've heard his interviews, not to mention *Self Portrait*, so he can't be that great, right?

Having said that, I also think his new album, entitled --get this-- *Good as I Been to You* (10), is nothing short of a masterpiece, his best album since *Blood on the Tracks*, topping the formidable *Oh Mercy*. Indeed, for once Bob has been good to us, following up the nostalgia of the *Bootlegs* box and Dylan tribute with a work that harks back to *Freewheelin'* days. *Good as I Been to You* is a collection of solo performed traditionals ranging from charming nonsense like "Froggie Went a Courtin'" to chilling blues like "You're Gonna Quit Me." What's to say about a great Dylan album? Nuthin'. Check it out, it could be Bob's last creative breath... but you never know.

Never let it be said that Neil Young doesn't give the people what they want. A mere twenty years after the fact, in traditionally schizoid manner, Young has released a "sequel" to *Harvest*, his most successful album. If you've actually been waiting for a *Harvest* follow-up, *Harvest Moon* (4) probably won't disappoint. For the rest of us, *Harvest Moon* is as empty of feeling as any country music. The back-up vocalist pairing of James Taylor and Linda Rondstadt is more white bread than all but the yippiest of us can stomach. The songwriting is decent and may have flowered in more fertile ground, but instead we're left with a remarkably dull album. But fear not, at this blistering pace we can expect *Ragged Glory II* around 2010.

Actually released last year, the Spin Doctors are just getting spun now. *Pocket Full of Kryptonite* (6) is a retro funk 'n' roll set that'll bring back memories of loads of seventies bands too mediocre to dedicate to memory. Still, the album exudes good vibes and the concoction of Stonesey riffs, Zep thunder and JB funk works memorably well on a trio of lean, infectious, lazy rockers: "Little Miss Can't Be Wrong," "Jimmy Olsen's Blues," and

