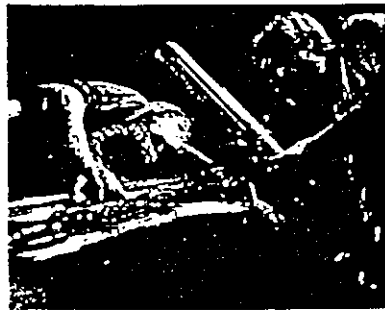


# UNDERGROUND



Clockwise from top left: The Minutemen, Chris D. of the Flesheaters, Borbetomagus, Sylvia Junco, and Game Theory.

garage band freak-out.

**Drunks With Guns, Drunks With Guns** (Chopper) The dirtiest, ugliest set of musical growls you'll ever hear.

**Eleventh Dream Day, Prairie School Freakout** (Amoeba) The disk with which these guys secured dominion over the field of guitar-pop-explosives.

**Embarrassment, Embarrassment** (Time to Develop) Super edgy pop that still sounds great even if it did set the stage for lotsa crummy college bands.

**Roky Erickson & the Aliens, The Evil One** (415) Corrosively weird horror-rock beautifully screamed by one of the 60s' best throats and backed by young guys wielding huge riffs.

**Johnny Fahey, I Remember Blind Joe Death** (Rounder) The founder of the American Primitive guitar school returns to form.

**Fish & Roses, Fish & Roses** mini-LP (Lost/Twin Tone) Euro-smart, New York art-rock that owes nothin' to that David Byrne asshole.

**Flesheaters, A Minute to Pray a Second to Die** (Ruby/Slash) Swamp fever metal punk roots nightmare. The decade's ruling disk.

**Frogs, It's Only Right and Natural** (Homestead) Hilarious, weird joke about homosexuality and drugs done up in truly obscure folk rock style.

**Galaxie 500, Today** (Aurora) Everything you ever sorta liked about mid-period J. Richman without any of the embarrassing jizz.

**Game Theory, Real Nightmare** (Enigma) Overwhelming swirl of post-Big Star heroin pop.

**Giant Sand, Storm** (What Goes On) The secret history of Neil Young written on the inside of your eyelid with a blowtorch.

**Gibson Brothers, Big Pine Boogie** (Homestead) Crazy hillbillies with glowing pineal glands and keys to the liquor cabinet.

**Great Plains, Naked at the Buy, Sell & Trade** (Homestead) The definitive study of intellectual bums in suburbia.

**Green on Red, "Green on Red" EP** (Down There/Restless) Arizona's contribution to the Paisley Underground still drunk enough to belly-wrestle alligators.

## Column by Byron Coley

### 30 Excellent Records of the 80s

Here's a shopping guide for a core library, a list of 80 excellent American "rock" records from the 80s. They aren't necessarily "the best," but an almost infinite number of good sounds can be found in these grooves. In alphabetical order:

**A-Bones, Free Beer for Life** (Norton) Crazy-ass roots rock played with recomb fury and loose, drunk muscle.

**Beat Happening, Beat Happening** (K) The sweetest, non-cliched boy/girl shit ever recorded.

**Black Flag, Damaged** (SST) Still the definitive yowl of suburban psychosis.

**Black Sun Ensemble, Black Sun Ensemble** (Reckless) Stunning and elegant psych instrumentals.

**Borbetomagus, Seven Reasons for**

**Tears** (Purge) Balls-on-the-line improvisation by a combo with enough energy to flatten buildings.

**Butthole Surfers, Cream Corn From the Socket of Davis** (Touch & Go) The most concisely fucked example of extant of post-acid jungle hunch.

**Eugene Chadbourne, Eddie Chatterbox Double Trio Love Album** (Fundamental) Six aspects of my generations' reigning guitar giant displayed for all to see.

**Chain Gang, Mondo Manhattan** (Lost/Twin Tone) A guided tour through the deranged gutters of Times Square.

**Copernicus, Deeper** (Nevermore) Free-ranging rants by the finest philosopher to ever own land in Brooklyn.

**Couch Flambeau, The Day the Music Dred** (Couch Flambeau) Truly funny joke punk sung through a very talented nose.

**Crystallized Movement, Mind Disaster** (Twisted Village) Totally over-the-edge guitar damage with no redeeming social content.

**Death of Samantha, Laughing in the Face of a Dead Man** (Homestead) A slab of bombastic, Brit-tinged hammering that tries to infer that punk never happened.

**Demo Moe, Demolish New York** (Maldoron) Three guys trying to blow each other off stage with the force of their improvs.

**Die Kreuzen, Die Kreuzen** (Touch & Go) Hardcore at its most knife-sharp and controlled.

**Divine Horsemen, Snake Handler** (SST) An addictive mix of beauty and grit by a band that should have been huge.

**DOS, DOS** (New Alliance) An album of bass duets containing more subtle, supple beauty than any disk since Coltrane's *Interstellar Space*.

**Dream Syndicate, Days of Wine & Roses** (Ruby/Slash) THE destructo guitar pop record of the early 80s.

**Dredd Foole & the Din, Eat My Dust, Cleanse My Soul** (Homestead) Blaring emotional discharge posing as "mere"