

Divinity Three

Any ambiguity that might surround the possible sound of Neurosis on their latest opus **SOULS AT ZERO** (Alternative Tentacles LP) is cleared up before you get around to spinning the disc. Even if the Wicker Man cover and the song titles (**TO CRAWL UNDER ONE'S SKIN; A CHRONOLOGY FOR SURVIVAL**) don't give the game away, the lyrics will: "Destroy the eyes of the world/wish for invisibility/God damn your eyes I say from the gallows"...yes, we're in the hellbound horror world of screaming, scowling vocals backed by a thunderous onslaught of apocalypse guitar riffs. And as such, this is reasonable stuff, I suppose, with a mild spirit of musical adventure penetrating the death rattle soundtrack at opportune moments, and a full blooded, straight-faced performance by the boys. And there are plenty of sad souls who take this sort of thing very seriously indeed, and who will no doubt be 666-ing their way to the records stores to purchase this morbid effort. Personally, though, I find the theatrics and apocalyptic fervour of death metal somewhat difficult to take seriously, and this record seemed very long at times. There are a few moments of musical magnificence, but the vocals and bludgeoning riffola constantly drowns them out. Fans of such stuff will doubtless adore it, though.

As a preview of their forthcoming album **STUPID PEOPLE SHOULDN'T BREED**, raucous American band Skatenigs offer **LOUDSPEAKER** (Alternative Tentacles, 12"), a damn fine slice of dancecore rap-metal that you should all own a copy of. This loud, fast and spunky piece of music wipes the floor with the output of funk rockers like Faith No More and the Red Hot Chili Peppers, and certainly set the Divine toes a-tappin'! On the B-side, we have a couple of rude cuts - **FIST FUNK** lacks the inspiration of the main number, but **DAMAGE 43** is a snarling, bullet-in-the-head assault that will have you punching the air (or your neighbours) with indignation. If we were cliched and crass enough to have "Record of the Month", then this would probably be it. A classic!

From Alice Donut comes the double A side single **MAGDALENE/ ONLY THE GOOD DIE YOUNG** (Alternative Tentacles CD). The first track is a fast, furious and deliciously nasty piece of work that bounds along like a gleefully delinquent schoolboy... and so is the second, which shafts Billy Joel with a twelve inch aural dildo. Damn fine donuts these are...and this single is worth buying for the sleeve alone.