

BECOME an INSTANT VIXEN, see PAGE 54

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# the list

# Music

All the new stuff you need to add to your dance-party playlists, right now



## Stephen Marley Got Music?

This reggae pop is the perfect go-to fix—good for curing a headache, planning a protest or moving your hips on the dance floor. You know, just like that other Jamaican export. —Tina

### Also check out:

Supercat *Don Dada*; Bob Marley *Legend*

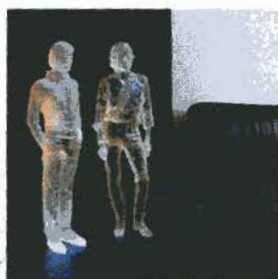


## Our new favorite record (this month)

### Arcade Fire *NEON BIBLE*

Not even trying to shy away from the David Bowie connection, Arcade Fire blow a "Suffragette City"-riffing kiss to their famous, biggest fan with first track "Black Mirror"—which then slip-slides into something that sounds like the Pixies, X and, most of all, Arcade Fire. Dark and sexy in a way that makes you wanna dress like Winona Ryder in *Beetlejuice*, songs like "Keep the Car Running" also beg to be listened to at that magical, messy hour of 3 a.m., when you're delirious with excitement (you're going home with the cute boy dancing across from you) or heartache (you're not going home with the cute boy dancing across from you). —Shelly

**Also check out:** *Pretty in Pink* soundtrack; Lone Justice *Lone Justice*



### Air *POCKET SYMPHONY*

From the start, this record glides along like pretty background music. I didn't hear the intricate, soar-to-the-heavens stuff I love and expect from Air until eight songs in. But "Mer du Japon," "Lost Message" and "Redhead Girl" all make me want to do heavy drugs so I can watch the music come to life. Pink elephants on parade! —Joshua

**Also check out:** Aphex Twin *Selected Ambient Works 85-92*; Huskiesque *Green Blue Fire*

### Macromantics

#### MOMENTS IN MOVEMENT

Romy Hoffman, aka Miss Macro, sounds so meant to be a rap diva, it's hard to believe she was once in fellow Aussie Ben Lee's band Noise Addict. From the downtempo "Love Thyself" to the danceable title track, she tosses around lyrics like a tongue-twister champion. The name? Macro = huge; mantic = possessing divine powers. Clever. —Liza

**Also check out:** Lady Sovereign *Public Warning*; Tricky *Maxinquaye*



### Modest Mouse

#### WE WERE DEAD BEFORE THE SHIP EVEN SANK

This album is fine. Not as in "He so fine!" but like when your bss says, "It'll do, it's fine." 'Cause even with guest star Johnny Marr's ragged guitar, the songs are too polished. I want raw from Modest Mouse, not clean. Still, no other singer sounds like Isaac Brock (who's raw no matter what), so I'll keep coming back for more. —Esther

**Also check out:** The Pixies *Doolittle*; The Flaming Lips *The Soft Bulletin*

### Ted Leo and the Pharmacists

#### LIVING WITH THE LIVING

Ted is more than capable of writing solid, jangly pop rock with smart lyrics. But for the most part, this music won't change your life. And that's kinda what it should do, you know? You'll end up ripping the obsession-worthy "Who Do You Love" and "The Sons of Cain" and leaving the rest of the songs behind. —Steph

**Also check out:** Spoon *Girls Can Tell*; Rick Springfield *Working Class Dog*



## I love trouble

I'm head over heels for U.K. singer Amy Winehouse's *Back to Black*, a knock-you-off-your-feet soul/R&B album that evokes Dusty Springfield. But next to Amy, Paris Hilton is an amateur brat. Not only does Amy sing about refusing rehab (she dumped the manager who tried to force it), she brawls with fans, shows up drunk as a skunk for appearances and heckles Bono at awards shows (okay, that's funny). I'm no prude—just wary of having to defend talent against trashiness. I mean, I'm still bruised from my years as a Courtney Love fan. Amy, don't abuse my love! —Shelly



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world looked down upon female staff writers, the men at African-American papers helped women like Ida B. Wells rise to power.

Lutes wrote her master's thesis on the same topic. Unfortunately, she didn't shake the academese for this important history: the tales of Bly and Wells drag in places where they should be completely engaging. But most of the information here is newly studied and rarely taught and, given the chance, could be as inspiring and exciting as the daring women discussed within. [MELYNDA FULLER]



**HOW SASSY CHANGED MY LIFE:**  
A Love Letter to the Greatest Teen Magazine of All Time  
By Kara Jesella and Marisa Meltzer (Faber and Faber)

In this well-researched book, authors Jesella and Meltzer illustrate how Sassy was more than just a teen magazine—it was a movement. In a time before social-networking Web sites existed, Sassy allowed like-minded progressive girls (and boys) to connect with a culture that mainstream publications were ignoring.

Jesella and Meltzer chronicle the rise, apex, and demise of Sassy, revealing inside details from extensive interviews with fans and former staffers like the magazine's outspoken Christina Kelly, whose column "What Now" was the ultimate alt-culture guide, and Spike Jonze. From Sassy's frank coverage of then controversial subjects like teen sex to the famous Kurt and Courtney cover and the failure of Jane Pratt's talk show, this is one juicy "love letter."

*How Sassy Changed My Life* emphasizes that while the publication may have been gone for 10 years, its influence still runs deep. "All teen magazines can thank Sassy for providing them with a new way to cover celebrities, mixing mainstream and indie culture," write the authors, who also reveal the magazine's influence on blogs like Defamer and Gawker.

Those who came of age loving the magazine along with younger generations who want to learn how it influenced their favorite publications (like *BUST*) will be equally absorbed in this pop-culture history as seen through Sassy's eyes. [LUZA MONROY]



**LET'S GET PRIMITIVE:** The Urban Girl's Guide to Camping  
By Heather Menicucci  
(Ten Speed Press)

I have to admit I expected a camping guidebook written for "urban girls" to smack of chick lit. Menicucci does compare the discomforts found outdoors to the pain of wearing stilettos, but *Let's Get Primitive* doesn't pander to gender clichés. It is truly written for those of us who never went to summer camp and whose parents made martini instead of trail mix.

For the author, camping is the ultimate "reset button," the only thing that will "cleanse her crazies." And as she puts it, the experience has to be pretty darn special to endure days without plumbing. After a chapter on how to pack efficiently and lightly, Menicucci admits to carting along bottles of wine, despite their weight—which is a relief, because some of the camping games she procures from a Boy Scout Handbook could only be entertaining if seriously drunk (for instance, "What Fell?" where someone outside the tent drops something and everyone inside has to guess what fell). She encourages silliness and rampant nudity; what happens in the woods stays in the woods.

Menicucci not only makes the case for why to camp, but her call to the wild is matched with truckloads of practical advice—even campfire recipes good enough to try at home. *Let's Get Primitive* will certainly empower you to handle bees and bears, but what makes this book a winner is that it will also make you feel better about pooping outside. [AMANDA MCCORQUODALE]

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