

GLASS PENGUINS

...direct from the Rocket's
local tape issue

A year or so ago, I got a tape to review for *The Rocket's* local tape issue, by a "band" called The Crisp. I don't recall my exact words, but my critique went something like this: "Great songs. Get a real band to play them."

On the new tape *raspberry* by the Glass Penguins, ex-Crisper Michael Cox has a "real band" and more—a veritable Northwest All-Star Rock 'n' Roll Team, including members of the Young Fresh Fellows, Green Pajamas, Fastbacks, Power Mowers, Dynette Set and many more. Apparently, Green Monkey Records head honcho Tom Dyer read about the Crisp in a *Rocket* local tape issue, thought they sounded interesting, and contacted Cox, eventually producing this cassette.

The resulting collaboration fulfills much of the promise shown in the Crisp tape. The improvement is most obvious from one song, the Robyn Hitchcock-like "Shadow Of A Fish," included in both tapes. Most of the songs were written by Cox himself; they feature a subtle, quirky pop wit that grows on you with repeated hearings. Also included are songs by the Knack (!) and Neil Diamond (?!), both well-interpreted. This tape reminds me of the first Young Fresh Fellows album in style, if a bit less manic. Fellows fans take note. This is a *good* tape. (*Green Monkey Records*)

• Wendi A. K. Dunlap