

the JESUS LIZARD



TOUCH AND GO
RECORDS
P.O. BOX 25520 CHICAGO, IL 60625 USA

JESUS LIZARD down

"So the future of rock 'n' roll is **the Jesus Lizard** - a bunch of saddoes who light their farts, sing about their urine, show us their assholes, still believe that being generally unlistenable is "challenging", and who've already been around for years without making any impact. Makes you sad, doesn't it? Me, I'm off. I'll try to like techno. I guess I'll have to. If the best the biggest new hope has to offer is being better than Pearl Jam, then there is little hope for music fans. the Jesus Lizard, you are a hard act to swallow because you are a bucket of shit. Please decompose." **Melody Maker 1/15/94**

Back in the summer of 1989 at an all-you-can-eat Thai food buffet, **the Jesus Lizard** played a hell of a set that impressed the pants off of a bunch of Chicago yahoos. 5 years later they still put on quite a show. The media which tends to focus on alleged appalling stage antics must have been at another show. 100 moms say "the Jesus Lizard: I'd throw my panties at 'em"

Down was recorded in Chicago during January of 1994 and will be released on August 29th. It is their 4th full length release for Touch and Go Records.

"**the Jesus Lizard** were great. I can't say that I would love every piece of their music, but that one song ("**Destroy Before Reading**") was kind of catchy. I would definitely go to see them in concert." - **Nancy, age 53 and mother of 2.**

"My goodness, those boys sure do have a lot of energy." --**Doris, age 63 and mother of 2.**

"It's not so bad, but why does he (David Yow) have to scream all the time?"

--**Gloria, age 50 mother of 2.**

the Jesus Lizard

DUANE DENISON guitar
MAC McNEILLY drums
DAVID Wm. SIMS bass
DAVID YOW vocals

DISCOGRAPHY

Pure EP/CS Aug '89

"Chrome"/ "7 vs. 8"
7" single Feb '90

Head LP/CD/CS
Apr '90

"Mouthbreather" 7" single
Nov '90

Goat LP/CD/CS Feb '91

"Wheelchair Epidemic" 7" single
Jun '92

Liar LP/CD/CS Oct '92

"Puss" on split single w/Nirvana
Jan '93

"Lash" 3 x 7" single
Aug '93

"(Fly) on (the Wall)"/"White Hole" 7" single
Jan '94

Down LP/CD/CS Aug '94

All recordings released on
Touch and Go Records

Publicity:
Stacy Conde
ph: 312 463 8316
fax: 312 463 0849



P.O. BOX 25520 CHICAGO, IL 60625
312 463 8316 / 312 463 0849 FAX

the Jesus Lizard: a historical burp

the Jesus Lizard currently reside in Chicago where they all have very modest apartments on quiet, residential streets.

David Yow and **David Sims** relocated to Chicago from Austin, Texas; where they played in a band called **Scratch Acid** with 2 other guys: Brett Bradford and Rey Washam. **Scratch Acid** began sometime in 1982.

Scratch Acid released 3 records: a **self titled EP** [July '84/Rabid Cat]; **Just Keep Eating** LP [January '86/Rabid Cat]; **Berserker** LP [fall '86/Touch and Go] before making their last live appearance on May 5th, 1987 at the Cave Club in Austin. Touch and Go released **The Greatest Gift**, a compilation of Scratch Acid's works. For a more detailed accounting of the life and times of **Scratch Acid**, read **The Greatest Gift's** liner notes.

David Yow and **David Sims** moved to Chicago in 1988, but not before **David Sims** began working towards a Bachelors Degree in Accounting at the University of Texas.

Duane Denison moved to Chicago from Austin as well. Not a native Texan, Duane migrated to Austin from Michigan, where he received a degree in music from University of Michigan. Duane was a member of **Cargo Cult**. Randy "Biscuit" Turner (Big Boys) was also in that band. **Cargo Cult** released **Strange Men Bearing Gifts** LP on Touch and Go in 1986.

David Sims and Rey Washam did time in **Rapeman** before **David Sims**, **David Yow** and **Duane** got together with a drum machine and a Steve Albini to record **the Jesus Lizard's** first EP, "**Pure**", for Touch and Go Records in the winter of 1988.

Meanwhile, **Mac McNeilly** was down in Atlanta playing in several bands: 86, Phantom 309, Pygmy Twirl Arounds and Sexy Up. Mac received a degree from Texas Christian University. He moved to Chicago just in time to replace the drum machine and record **the Jesus Lizard's** first full length album, **Head**, for Touch and Go in April of '90.

the Jesus Lizard have toured with lots of good bands including, but not restricted to: Helmet, Sonic Youth and The Jon Spencer Blues Explosion; as well as playing lots of family style gigs with their label mates on Touch and Go and Quarterstick Records.

5 seven inches and 2 albums after they released their very first album, **the Jesus Lizard** are still here in Chicago with no plans to move anywhere anytime soon.

David Sims recently completed his Accounting degree at Depaul University.

David Yow never finished art school.



FEBRUARY '94

the JESUS LIZARD

1000
11 Minneapolis, MN
12 Iowa City, IA
13 Des Moines, IA
14 Lawrence, KS
15 Manhattan, KS
16 Denver, CO
17 Albuquerque, NM
18 Phoenix, AZ
19 Los Angeles, CA
20 San Diego, CA
21 Long Beach, CA
22 Sacramento, CA

23 Atlanta, GA
24 Knoxville, TN
25 Atlanta, GA
26 Tallahassee, FL
27 Fort Worth, TX
28 Dallas, TX
29 New York, NY
30 Boston, MA
31 Chicago, IL
32 Austin, TX
33 Greenville, SC
34 Dallas, TX



nd MELODY-MAKER

What is the **NEW MUSIC SEMINAR**? Is it an excuse to catch the best new bands around, make contact with like-minded souls and discover what's going on in the music world 1993? Or is it just an excuse to have a good time? **EVERETT TRUE** thinks both. City lights: **STEPHEN SWEET**

Someone informs us we should see **RODAN** at the Knitting Factory. A little shamefacedly (cos, after all, we do exist in the heart of indie cred-land), we inform him we can't. We have to go see **NIRVANA** and **THE JESUS LIZARD** at Roseland. We can't even go watch singer/songstress **LIZ PHAIR** (think Lois, think someone who's nothing like PJ Harvey) over at Irving Plaza.

Man, The Jesus Lizard. Man oh man. Of course we'd been told by about 5,000 scenesters and music lovers that the Lizard are the best f***ing

rock'n'roll band in the world today, that frontman David Yow is touched, blessed with some indefinable presence or demon which makes him the finest frontman since Nick Cave in his prime with The Birthday Party, that the Lizard exude a magnetic attraction you just can't catch from the photos and records, but frankly... we didn't believe them. No one's that good. Okay, so Yow has been known to flaunt his phallus onstage, but that alone does not a great band make.

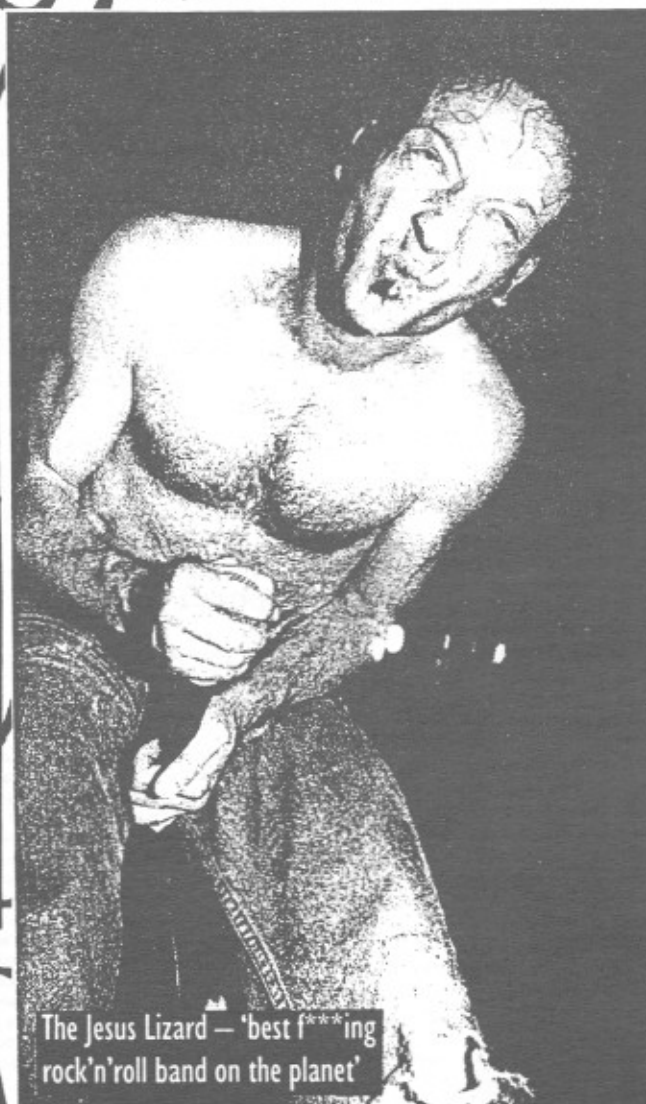
Man oh man.

Even before the music's f***ing started, the crowd's gone berserk. Yow leaps head-over-heels into the crowd and from there on in, everything's chaos. (Where Mr Fricke got the impression that the Lizard flopped last week, we just don't understand. Was he even at the same show as us?... etc.) The band wrench varying shades of torture and grime from their guitars, the songs shudder and judder along quite fearsomely, the vocals rip and rant, seemingly at random... but never quite. Every belch, every snort and gasp and high-pitched squeal is absolutely, brilliantly timed. Or maybe it's just us...

Nirvana were pretty good, too.

THE JESUS LIZARD
CHROME (Touch And Go)

I think the Lizard are a conglomerate of various hip Yank punk rock dudes. Find out for yourself if you care. "Chrome" gets the standard E.T. recommendation of the week for kicking-ass-and-that's-all-you-need-to-know. F***ing alright



The Jesus Lizard — 'best f***ing rock'n'roll band on the planet'

MELODY-MAKER



REPTILE RIOT

JESUS LIZARD fans caused thousands of pounds worth of damage at the London Highbury Garage last Saturday (September 11). A reinforced steel crash barrier, designed to keep the audience off the stage, was bent out of shape, monitors were smashed when the crowd subsequently invaded the stage, and the mixing desk was badly damaged.

A ceiling section immediately above the stage was also damaged when singer David Yow repeatedly kicked it while being held upside down.

A spokeswoman for the Garage told *The Maker*: "It was a brilliant show. We don't have any problems with the damage. Nobody was hurt.

"We'd definitely have them back again."

THE JESUS LIZARD

MOUTH BREATHER (Touch And Go)

The Jesus Lizard put a lid on their guitars, and force them to exist within short, static spaces. This means their energy has a real edge. The B-side is a cover of a Trio song (no, not "Dah Dah Dah"). Don't bother with it. The A-side is from their forthcoming LP, "Goat", and you can most certainly bother with that. If it doesn't bother you, ha ha. Thought I'd slip in a little Victorian humour there.

THE JESUS LIZARD

LASH EP (Touch & Go)
IMAGINE The Birthday Party doing The Cult's "Love Removal Machine", calling it "Glamorous", admitting "this is a job for a stoopid man", then spitting out trad Caveisms about "homosexual gangster men on my living room floor". If The Liz really are yawn — the next Nirvana (I doubt it: David Yow isn't pretty enough), I won't complain.



Tribune photos by John Bartley

David Yow throws himself into a song—and into the crowd—at the Vic. Yow ends up upside down as he is passed around.

Leapin' Lizard

Local band can keep up with Yow's antics

By Greg Kot

TRIBUNE ROCK CRITIC

There are torch singers and then there is David Yow, a torched singer.

With the Jesus Lizard, the Chicago band that is among the very best live acts in the country, Yow has occasionally acted out the nursery rhyme, "Liar, liar, pants on fire" with the help of lighter fluid and matches. This is not something the kids—or anyone else, for that matter—should try at home.

Although the singer didn't light up Saturday at the Vic, Yow's desire to go down in flames can't be quenched. The singer brought new meaning to the phrase "in your face," hurling himself into the audience numerous times to slobber lines like, "If you had lips, I'd kiss ya."

Time and again, the shirtless one was swallowed up, only to emerge Lazarus-like retching into the microphone, singing entire songs in the maw of the mosh pit. Once, he was tackled on stage by an audience member and dragged back into the whirlpool of sweat and beer. "I can't swim," Yow bellowed during "Seasick" as he flailed above the waves of clutching hands.

Yow's lyrics are rooted in the disturbing dreamscapes of movies such as "Blue Velvet," "The Shining" and "The River's Edge," and if the singer is the show, then his band mates are the soundtrack. This is

Rock

cinematic music, which makes dramatic use of silence, interlocking riffs and abrupt tempo shifts. There's a delicious sense of groove, but it's spasmodic rather than danceable.

Brutally spare yet indelibly melodic, the riffing of guitarist Duane Denison stamped him as a postpunk Jimmy Page. David Wm. Sims is so proficient on bass that his rhythmic lines often implied melodies of their own. Mac McNeilly simply hit the drums harder than anyone this side of Nirvana's Dave Grohl, and yet he was capable of bringing things down to a malevolent, low rumble.

It takes a great band to stand up to the freak show that is David Yow. There's the trifling matter that Yow can't actually sing. On record, however, songs like "Puss," "Gladiator," "Monkey Trick" and "Mouth Breather" are so strong that it almost doesn't matter. And on stage, Yow's limitations—and how he gleefully mutilates them—make the Jesus Lizard a particularly strange but peerless brand of entertainment.



the JESUS
LIZARD
GOAT

CHICAGO TRIBUNE 2/15/93

AP

THE JESUS LIZARD "(Fly) On (The Wall)"

Propelled by a riff creepily similar to the one in that Stone Temple Pilots rock hit, "(Fly) On (the Wall)" is nonetheless another monster single for the Jesus Lizard, who, five years old now, remain undefeated. Can these guys do no wrong? Not as to the-point as much of *Liar*, "(Fly) On (the Wall)" starts out slow but sticks with you like MSG-dosed sesame chicken. As the bass chases its spiny, treble tail, singer David Yow holds forth in a John Lydon yowl—what else?—while the

rest of the band hulks around in a grotesque parody of "Kashmir." Inspiring. (Touch and Go, POB 25520, Chicago IL 60625)

—Wm. Ferguson

STOOL #3

JESUS LIZARD LASH CD EP

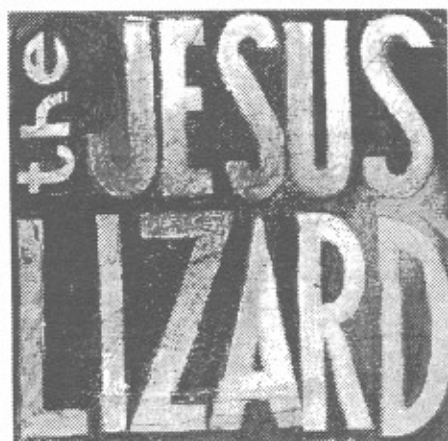
I will never say no to a Jesus Lizard release. They could fart in my face and I would love it. Two new studio tracks and four live cuts, all brilliant in their uniquely scuzzy way. Sick, sick puppies - The Birthday Party we never had. (Touch & Go Records) -Ned



the JESUS LIZARD GOAT



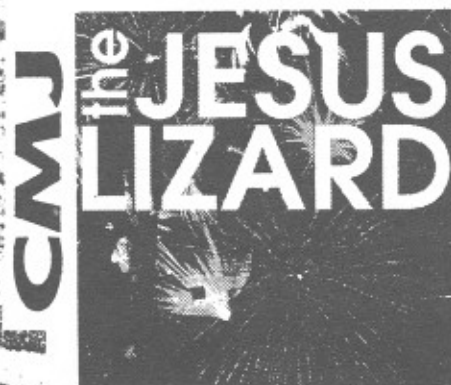
CMJ



THE ROCKET

THE JESUS LIZARD Lash (CD-EP) Touch and Go

LIKE THE SON OF GOD HIMSELF, THIS Chicago-based group keeps coming back at you, year in and year out, with their hauntings. Since the inception of the band in the late '80s, they've kicked out a piece of music in some form or another every few months. This EP is probably a bridge to their next apocalyptic LP. It starts off with two new songs recorded in the spring of this year. Both cuts are a bit of a departure from previous dark and foreboding work. Rock 'n' roll guitar riffs, upbeat and punchy, accentuate the music. Of course frontman David Yow is doing his trademark mouthful of dry crackers vocals. The lyrics are actually decipherable at times, and the pain he seems perpetually to be in is softened. The CD also takes a look back at earlier days (November '90) with two songs from a live performance in Boston. "Killer McHann," a stellar song from the first LP, really rocks live. They finish the brief tour of their career with two more live songs recorded in London in '92. Short and sweet, it gives you something to look back at and something to look forward to. —SCOTT GRIGGS



JESUS LIZARD "(Fly) On (The Wall)" (7") (Touch And Go, P.O. Box 25520, Chicago, IL 60625/312-463-4446)—The somewhat evil-spirited Jesus Lizard dangles small pieces of work in front of us, a few songs on *Lash* and now this 7", taunting fans with the possibilities of a new album. "(Fly) On (The Wall)" is a languid tune compared to the regular raucous rhythms the band produces—a tune of ramblings, both musically and lyrically, as David Yow complains incessantly of never getting any (sleep), the guitars returning to the groove but never reaching any sort of climax. The B-side, "White Hole," continues the torture—the instrumental contains a repeating pitch that has the same effect as scraping fingernails down a chalkboard. With enticing bits like this, we can't wait to hear an entire album of new songs, which could be nothing but just plain mean. —Dawn Sutter

JESUS LIZARD Lash (EP) (Touch And Go)

Well, you talk about the Midnight Rambler... Forget what's been said about so many other imitative bands: Jesus Lizard is the only true Rolling Stones of the '90s, the only truly daring re-take on blues-rock. What that means, I don't know. But once upon a time, the Stones released *Got Live If You Want It*, a live EP (in its original form) which stood as a testament of live rock's pure power, showing both that some songs deserved to be recorded on stage and that some bands knew how to perfect a song in that spontaneous forum. *Lash* is the same kind of thing, collecting two studio cuts and four more from Boston and London gigs—all sheer bottom-heavy, chrome-plated, Texas-bred, Chicago-fed groovers that manage to highlight the performances of all four members concurrently, a method perfected on the last Lizard LP, *Liar*. For those who first tuned in to the JL with that disc or, heaven forbid, their more recent split single with Nirvana, *Lash* offers a history lesson of sorts, with two selections from *Goat* and one each from *Head* and *Pure*, while the spanking-new studio tunes cruise ever forward through their anarchic art lowlife soundscape. "Thank you very goddamn much," singer David Yow says at the end, and announces the next band, Fugazi, in a way that sounds like "hah, let's see 'em top that."

—Eric Gladstone