

THE BIG TAKE- OVER

Issue 58

umhrey's mcgee

SAFETY IN NUMBERS

(SCI FIDELITY)

This is a must for fans of melodic noodling, and anyone who felt Phish's final show was the day the music died. Skeptical readers note; that's a compliment. Songs such as the deceptively-titled "Rocker" begin with solid melodies, establishing mood with folk-style harmonies before embarking upon tightly composed instrumentals. The choppy rhythm of "Believe the Lie" suggests the influence of later Police material, its skittery motion underpinning an undulating guitar jam that remains surprisingly tuneful. "Liquid" is less satisfying when its benign reggae-pop verse disintegrates into cacophony. And "Ocean Billy" showcases drummer **ANDY FARAG**'s range: following a tribal, Zeppelin-ish intro, a restrained passage with complicated hi-hat work offers a lighter touch. Guests include saxophonist **JOSHUA REDMAN** on "Intentions Clear" and **HUEY LEWIS** on harmonica during "Intentions Clear." (www.umhpreys.com)