

lovelycrash

Local band rocks the Zen on its debut CD, 'Buddha Car'



Lovely Crash, from left to right: Bill Folop, Jen Wesenberg, Beth Cheek and Brett Moses. The band releases a new album, *Buddha Car*, this week.

JUST THE FACTS

WHAT: Lovely Crash CD release party for *Buddha Car*

WHEN: 7 p.m. to 2 a.m. Saturday, June 23

WHERE: The Gypsy Hut, 4231 Spring Grove Ave., Northside

PRICE: Free (CD available for the special price of \$7 at the release party only)

CONTACT: 513-541-0999 or www.myspace.com/thegypsyhut, www.myspace.com/lovelycrash and www.myspace.com/uncledavelewis



RODNEY WILSON | CIN WEEKLY CONTRIBUTOR

Rock 'n' roll is party music. It should get feet moving, heads bobbing and booties shaking. It should make listeners smile, laugh and get too close to complete strangers. It should get you sweaty and exhilarated.

Beth Cheek, of local band Lovely Crash, knows that rock 'n' roll is celebration music, and she and her bandmates are ready to party. "It's going to be fun!" exclaims Cheek of Lovely Crash's upcoming CD release party. "Jen and I love to throw parties!"

Lovely Crash - Cheek (bass, vocals), Jen Wesenberg (guitar, vocals), Bill Folop (guitar) and Brett Moses (drums) - has reason to celebrate.

"I think sometimes people don't celebrate enough what's going on, and we're really happy that we finished this CD," she says, referring to the band's debut album, *Buddha Car*. "It was one of our goals, and I think that you should celebrate when you reach a goal.

"It's going to be a party party, not just a couple of bands playing," she says. "We're going to decorate the Gypsy Hut and everything.

BEST FRIENDS, BIRTHDAY PARTIES

Lovely Crash's celebratory mood has roots in the band's inception, which was both a welcome return to form for Cheek and an outgrowth of an abiding friendship.

"I've been in music for a while, and I had taken a break when my daughter was born and I really missed it a lot, she said.

"I talked to Jen, who's one of my best friends in the whole wide world, and I kept telling her, 'You should learn how to play guitar, and we'll start a band.'

"Finally one day, she said, 'Are you really serious about that?' and I said, 'Yeah.' And she said, 'OK,' and she did - she learned how to play guitar in like a few months. It was amazing. Within two or three months, we played out."

Cheek and her bandmates knew that they had something special to offer when their very first show ended in a prepubescent dance party. "Our first gig was my daughter's birthday party - we played for a bunch of 9-year-olds, who are a very tough audience, by the way," she explains. "But they were up dancing by the end of the set - so we thought, 'OK, I guess we can go public with this.'"

BUDDHA CAR

Buddha Car will be the guest of honor. Mixing lo-fi punk energy and perfectly blended harmonies, the album is an instantly likable listening experience - all edge and melody, a fitting output for a band that joins such disparate terms as "lovely" and "crash."

The recording process also represented a blending of different possibilities.

"We wanted to do a not-overly-produced album, something that captured what we do live a little bit more," Cheek says.

The 11 songs taken as a whole can be seen as a meditation on the basic truism of the album's title.

"They're all kind of ministories, some personal and some not," she says.

"When we looked at what the album is saying thematically, it was like, 'OK, these are a bunch of stories (that) really come back to - whatever you put out, either positively or negatively, will come back your way.'

The whole idea of how your actions in the world affect other people and, in turn, affect you. So *Buddha Car* seemed like the obvious choice for a name."

PARTY PEOPLE

Lovely Crash's release party for *Buddha Car* will be a true party, complete with Asian delicacies, an Eastern theme and plenty of friends, a few of whom will be performing as well. Taking the stage will be new band Magdalena Cruz, with former members of the Woos, and Cincinnati legend and Hospital Records artist Uncle Dave Lewis with the Lookout Boys.