

Over&Out

The last word of the week

By Joel Reese

Poor Simi—she's in quite a bind. At her band Suffrajett's last concert, she spied a hot dude in the front row wearing a smokin' vintage Foghat T-shirt. She thinks he might be at the band's next gig at The Bottom Lounge, so she wants to rock her own vintage tee. But which one should she bust out to impress her would-be hipster beau?

AC/DC

Pros: Kick-ass design (not one, but two demons reaching to pull you into an eternal hellfire of rock damnation).

Cons: AC/DC shtick has been done many, many times.

Band's status: Still rocking. Hard.

Best nonmusical moment: Every time diminutive Aussie six-stringer Angus Young pulls down his schoolboy pants to moon the adoring crowd.

Dead cred: Gravel-voiced shrieker Bon Scott died the ignoble death of choking on vomit in 1980. It was presumably his own, but as Derek Smalls wisely notes in *This Is Spinal Tap*, "You can't really dust for vomit."

Irony factor: 5 (scale of 1 to 10)



Van Halen

Pros: The baseball sleeves rock, and any VH memorabilia with David Lee Roth rather than Sammy Hagar is killer. And whoa, is bassist Michael Anthony offering us a joint on the front? Duuuuude!

Cons: The colors? Not so pretty.

Band's status: VH booted Hagar in 1996, but they've since brought him back.

This leaves Diamond Dave doing his warmed-over shtick in Vegas while everyone pretends Hagar isn't so bad. But he is.

Best nonmusical moment: When the bespectacled schoolmarm unleashes the purring sex kitten within during the epic "Hot for Teacher" video.

Dead cred: No death yet (save Roth's career)

Irony factor: 6



Def Leppard

Pros: The sweet blue baseball T-shirt gives Simi the chance to cut off one sleeve in homage to DL's one-armed drummer, Rick Allen. (He lost his left arm in a 1984 New Year's Eve car crash, to those not versed in hair-metal appendage-losing mishaps.)

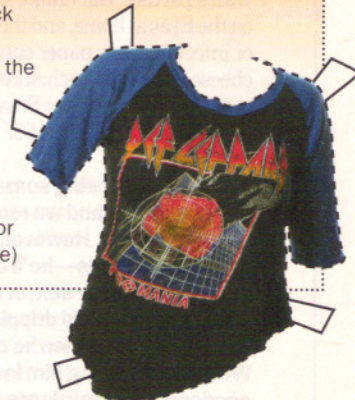
Cons: The album depicted, *Pyromania*, didn't give us Def Lepp's immortal tune, "Pour Some Sugar on Me."

Band's status: Recently released greatest-hits package, which means more money for singer Joe Elliott to spend on embarrassingly tight Union Jack running shorts.

Best nonmusical moment: Dude, the drummer totally has one arm!

Dead cred: Guitarist Steve Clark went to that big perm salon in the sky in 1991 after mixing alcohol and painkillers.

Irony factor: 8 (one point added for intentional [?] misspelling of name)



Ratt

Pros: Again, the blue baseball sleeves are awesome, and the caught-mid-smoke pic of heavily eye-lined singer Stephen Pearcy is oh-so rebellious.

Cons: Ratt never reached the hair-metal Mt. Olympus summit occupied by Mötley Crüe, Def Leppard, et al.

Band's status: An acrimonious parting means you can see Pearcy or a Pearcy-less Ratt at a ribfest near you.

Best nonmusical moment: The video for "Round and Round," which features a woman morphing into a rat and Milton Berle dressed as a woman. The tune itself boasts an incendiary guitar solo, which takes flight with Pearcy's feral "yeahhhhh!" and soars like a winged steed into the majestic heavens of dual-guitar ecstasy.

Dead cred: Guitarist Robbin Crosby died of AIDS in 2002.

Irony factor: 9



The winner: Ratt. The shirt boasts the holy trinity of blue sleeves, high irony and tragic death. Plus, some say "Ratt" is an anagram for Rock All The Time. And lest Lepp fans let any doubt linger, there's this tie-breaker: Uncle Miltie in drag. Godspeed, Simi. May this fashion advice help you find true love.

Suffrajett plays Friday 25 at The Bottom Lounge. For info, see www.suffrajett.com. Above T-shirts can be found at Land of the Lost, 614 W Belmont Ave.