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A few of Greg's favorite things

Full name: Gregory Edward Dulli **Band:** Afghan Whigs New album: Black Love (Elektra) Cute characteristics: sarcastic sense of humor and a big, hearty laugh Where you might have seen him sing before: in Beautiful Girls-

the Whigs are the jammin' bar band.

great and made from the best material. If I had my choice, that's all I would have and all I would wear.

Transportation: Rocket ship. [Big, hearty laugh] They're really fast, and I'm the only one I know who has ever driven one. [Another big, hearty laugh]

Sport: Baseball. It's a metaphor for

life. The object of baseball is "to get home," and that's what people from Dorothy on have kept trying do. Also, baseball symbolizes rebirm because it starts in the spring.

Animal: That's a tough one because I love all animals, but my favorite animal is the horse because it's the most magnificent-looking beast.

Movie: Jaws. It still scares me. Jaws has everything: great action, great dialogue and great camera work.

> Time of day: Any time after midnight-but it has to be before the sun comes up. I'm a nocturnal person. My brain kind of gets going at night. Usually I'm the only one awake and it feels like the whole world is mine.

> Food: Pretzels are the only thing I eat every day. so they must be my most favorite food.

> Drink: Iced tea. I drink it straight up with no sugar-'cause I'm sweet enough. -Amy Talkington

Color: Purple. It makes me calm and happy at the same time. Instrument: Piano. It's sad and beautiful and funky and everything. It encapsulates all emotions. Album: Prince's Purple Rain. It has my favorite

Song on the Whigs' new album: "Faded" means the most to me.

color and my favorite

instrument in it.

Clothes: Any suit made in Italy. They're always cut

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rating the discs

- O O O Love letter from a secret admirer
- Juicy note from your best friend
- Random chain letter
- College rejection



Spin Doctors You've Got to Believe in Something (Epic) Sounds like: The granolas crashed the jock

party: jam-band looseness with boyish energy. Song to tape for your crush: "I Can't Believe You're Still With Her." Think of it as a not-so-subliminal (but still cool) way to convince him he's going out with the wrong girl. FYI: The Doctors might have retired a few years ago if a Vermont radio station hadn't jump-started their career by playing Pocket Full of Kryptonite's "Little Miss Can't Be Wrong" ad nauseam. Final notes: If you crave noodly guitar licks cooked Grateful Dead-style plus a dash of pepper (like rapper Biz Markie helping out with a cover of the '70s classic "That's the Way I Like It," by K.C. and the Sunshine Band), then you'll think this album is delish. Warning: Simple lyrics prove that the Doctors aren't brain surgeons.



Dave **Matthews Band** Crash (RCA)

Sounds like: a dark cloud that explodes into a welcome down-

pour: an intense storm of horns, sax and fiddle. Song to put on your spring '96 mix tape: the Spanish-tinged tune "Two Step," about celebrating life. It'll have you driving with the top down before the weather gets warm. FYI: Dave is sick enough of his megahit, "What Would You Say" (from 1994's Under the Table and Dreaming), that he hasn't been playing it at recent shows. Final notes: The band's tight, heavily textured sound and Dave's from-the-gut voice give you your money's worth. But sometimes you might think your CD is skipping: Dave and the boys can repeat lyrics, harmonies and the same ol' guitar licks until they're yawnworthy.



Cranberries To the Faithful Departed (Island) Sounds like: U2 and

Sinéad O'Connor recorded an album together-a mix of in-your-face political messages and angelic shrieks. Song to play when you're feeling majorly pressured: "Free to Decide." FYI: The Cranberries were originally called Cranberry Saw Us. Get it? (Hint: Pass the turkey.) Final notes: The Irish foursome delivers lyrics that are as cheerful as front-page news (war, death and/or Bosnia are mentioned in every song). But, thankfully, The Cranberries' third album isn't total Gloomsville. Dolores O'Riordan and company make some melodies that'll grab you like Velcro.

Also listen up for: Tiny Music . . . Songs From the Vatican Gift Shop, from grungepowered gurus Stone Temple Pilots; Emperor Tomato Ketchup, from Stereolab; The Golden Age, Cracker's latest collection of hearty rock; 15-year-old hip-hopper I'son and his self-titled first album; Between the 1 & the 9, from new singer! songwriter Patty Rothberg. -Kim Ahearn