

## JEAN CAFFEINE'S ALL-NITE-TRUCKSTOP

I first came across Jean Caffeine on a compilation disc featuring singles released by a New York label, Diesel Only Records, entitled **Rig Rock Truckstop**. [Slight digression: Diesel Only specialized in this type of "New Country" that they coined "Rig Rock" - they pressed 7" singles which went out to jukeboxes in truckstops & dives across America. Two CD compilations, **Rig Rock Jukebox** and the aforementioned **Truckstop** present most of these bands and both are worth seeking out.] Her cut was "Hoedown In The Sky", a raucous uptempo stomp. Several months later, I came across her CD, on the German label Blue Million Miles Records (look in the import sections) and last August, got a chance to see her perform a solo set at Bottom of the Hill, opening for locals Stephen Yerkey, and Naked Barbies. Quite a progression from finding one CD. Even though Jean now lives in Austin, TX, she's a local San Franciscan - I ended up sitting at the same table as her parents. Most of Jean Caffeine's background can be found in Gina Arnold's book, *ROUTE 66* but here's the short, abridged version : originally a SF punker, she moves to New York and achieves cult fame by being in a band alongside Ann Magnuson (Pulsallama), then moves to Austin, where she becomes... well, you know.

I expected most of the CD to be like the cut on **Rig Rock**, and had this mental image of her being like early k. d. lang as far as material goes. I was wrong slightly. Instead of high energy barn-stompers, most the material is more on the folksy side - which was rather pleasant. You have songs such as "That Was The Liquor Talkin' ", "What's So Happy About Happy Hour?" & "Jesus Is Coming Soon (To A Theatre Near You)" which are as humorous as "Hoedown", but Caffeine can be genuinely affecting with "Tears Away", "Pack Those Dreams Away" & "Hole In My Heart".

If you can't find the CD's, you may still be able to get tapes; **Hard Work & A Lot Of Hairspray**, was her second release (from which "Hoedown" was taken, and she had a third tape of material that may see wider release. When she's in town, go down & give her a listen. You can also purchase directly from her : 719 West Monroe, Austin, TX 78704.