

Since I mentioned Slow River Records, there is another tie-in to the last issue Ed's Redeeming Qualities was also featured, and I'd be remiss in not mentioning their album that came out in Spring 1995 (after about 3 years - problems with their old label & the usual impediments) - **Big Grapefruit Cleanup Job** is the name of it & it's a double-live album! Recorded in late 1994, this is 4 whole sides of ERQ new songs and a guest appearance by previous member, Neno Perrotta. Best of all, they finally have their version of "Drivin' On 9" on album, if you remember, that was the song that The Breeders covered on their album. **Last Splash**, ironic because since then, most people assume that it's a Breeders song, even those - BAM Magazine, say (just to pick a random example) - who should know better.

## Ed's Redeeming Qualities



Finally, the winner for my overall choice pick -- I know absolutely nothing about the group Schlong; never been to any of their shows or heard any of their songs (not true now, but this was back in 1994), until I went to a **IDIOT FLESH** show at the late, lamented Merchant's in Oakland. The club booker was playing this tape in between sets, and after bugging her trying to find out what the hell it was & thanks to Wendy Chien at Aquarius Records, I now have Schlong's **Punk Side Story**, "the original drunk punk play." Basically, this is an extremely thorough parody of **WEST SIDE STORY**, done punk. It's truly one of the most demented, annoying & hilarious things I've heard - Yeah, it's a novelty

Let's face it - most will probably find the concept of **WSS** performed as a punk love story featuring warring factions of drunken punks in Oakland a bit less than profound and starting to wear a bit thin after hearing Andrew Asp & Melissa MacArthur (Tony & Maria) screech out their version of "Tonight" [and I do mean screech!] If, however, this type of thing strikes you as funny, you won't be disappointed in this record.

It's an affectionate parody - check out the album graphics & cover which ape the original soundtrack record. At a distance, you wouldn't be able to tell them apart - except for the front graphic of a punk couple moshing on the fire escape and the back photo of "Tony" & "Maria" engrossed in song, clutching beer cans. It's on Hopeless Records (Encino, CA) & it's the perfect antidote for anyone who overdosed on Andrew Lloyd Webber albums.

