

# Have A Very Minty Christmas

Dec 05 2007

Young and Sexy and Vancougar rep two nights of Mint Records madness

**N**egotiating a band name is a tricky business that can result in a severe headache. If you're not careful, you might be shouted down by more vocal bandmates and have to live with something like Laser Shark Wolf. In the case of Vancouver pop purveyors Young And Sexy, a time constraint led to their moniker. "It was just Lucy [Brain, vocalist] and myself at the time, and we had a show coming up, so . . ." the band's guitarist and vocalist, Paul Hixon Pittman, trails off when referring to their rather goofy choice. "I mean, I don't love it, but whatever."

Since those early days, the band has expanded to include Andre Lagace on guitar, Brent McDonald on bass and Alex Brain on drums, but the beating heart of their whimsical, dramatic pop songs remains the vocal dynamics between Pittman and Brain. "I think the way our voices blend is sort of unique, and that's the key to our sound," Pittman verifies. "If she left, it wouldn't be that way anymore; as long as she and I are [playing music together], it'll be under this name." Not bad for a former romance turned rewarding musical partnership.

Vocals are a focal point for the group and not just the boy/girl harmonies. Known for his biting lyrics, Pittman has had to clarify his intentions more than once. On the group's debut, *Stand Up For Your Mother*, the song "The City You Live In Is Ugly," seems self-explanatory, citing some of Vancouver's eye-sores, but Pittman denies that it's a jab and talks about how moving to Vancouver influenced

his writing. "When I moved, to me, my world was ugly," he reflects, saying the song is "really more about my own state of mind and feeling alienated-being in a big city and not knowing anybody. That's why it's the city you live in is ugly, not the city we live in. It's a personal thing."

Having lived in Vancouver for the past decade and a half, it's obvious Pittman has dug in and held fast. As part of the Mint Records stable, Young And Sexy belongs to a complementary musical community of bands that has helped put Vancouver on the map. "Destroyer is one of my favorite acts period, Vancouver or internationally, and Carl Newman [of the New Pornographers] is an amazing songwriter," enthuses Pittman of his label-mates, while denying any unifying musical aesthetic in the scene. "We tend not to be as poppy as the Pornographers or as impenetrable as Destroyer, [but] you're going to be influenced by these really great people who are around you-in that sense, I feel like we're definitely a Vancouver band."

Forget Quatchi, Sumi, Mukmuk and Miga, the recently unveiled Vancouver 2010 Olympic mascots; as adorable as they are, that honour should have gone to the energetic and fun Vancougar, a quartet who could have easily provided a rollicking soundtrack to the games as well.

Although the likelihood of that is pretty darn slim, back in reality things are still medal-winning for Vancougar, who have recently signed on with

Vancouver powerhouse, Mint Records. Guitarist-vocalist Eden Fineday is beside herself, as she just got some great news. "We just got into South by Southwest," Fineday explains. "I'm so excited, as it's always been my dream." One of the music industry's biggest parties, Fineday says Vancougar will do as much as they can there. She's also hoping there will be chances for in-store performances and other options in addition to the planned Mint showcase.

**A**s for Vancougar finding themselves in the Mint stable, it was a long time coming. The band won *Shindig* (a Vancouver battle of the bands) back in 2004, which enabled them to record their first album, *Losin' It*. Mint co-owner "Randy [Iwata] was on the judging panel when we played *Shindig* and I think he'd always been a fan," Fineday says. When *Losin' It* came out, the band met with Mint, but at the time, Mint was busy with the New Pornographers' latest album. "They said the timing was bad for them, but we ended up going with Scratch to put it out," Fineday says. "Randy always stayed in touch with me through e-mail and he came and saw us a couple of times. Finally, this spring, he initiated the talking and asked if we had plans for a second album. At that point, the New Pornographers had gone to different label and Mint received a grant from Heritage Canada and they were able to take on more. We always wanted to be on Mint, as it's a really good fit for us, so it seemed to make sense that we were finally together."

The only downside to all this Mint business is Vancougar won't be releasing their follow up to Losin' It until halfway through 2008.

"We've recorded a new album called Canadian Tuxedo," Fineday says. "It's coming out, but not until July unfortunately, because we won't be able to tour to support it in the fall. Unfortunately we've all got day jobs. If we were younger and/or came from more middle-class families, we could just live with our parents, but we're not and we've always been supporting ourselves and it's hard to be in a rock band and do all the things you should do in a rock band, like hit the road all the time and pay the bills at home. Not until we make the big time!"

Judging from the power of their first record, Vancougar won't have to wait until 2010 for some gold medal big time.

Mint Records' "Happy Ho Ho, Victoria!" Party!

(with Young And Sexy, The Choir Practice, Bella and The Pack A.D)  
10pm Saturday, December 8  
Logan's Pub, 1821 Cook  
Tickets \$10 - 360-2803

Mint Records' "Happy Ho Ho, Victoria!" Party!

(with Vancougar, Carolyn Mark, the Buttless Chaps and the Awkward Stage)  
10pm Friday December 7  
Logan's Pub, 1821 Cook  
Tickets \$10 - 360-2803

Monday Magazine, Victoria, BC

# Vancougar Signs With Mint Records

Posted by Jennifer Van Evra on Sep 26, 2007

Vancouver pop group Vancougar has just signed with Mint Records.

Singer and guitarist Eden Fineday says the all-girl band, which released its debut album, Losin' It, last year, has always wanted to sign to the Vancouver record label, which is also home to Neko Case, Immaculate Machine, Nardwuar, the Awkward Stage, the Buttless Chaps and many more.

"They're associated with pop, and they're well known for a Canadian independent record label. I just really like the bands on Mint. So we're really thrilled," she says, adding that part of the draw is the people at the label.

"They're really nice. And we like it when they take us out for dinner," she says with a laugh. "Although now that we're signed all that wooing might be over."

Mint Records co-founder Randy Iwata says he has wanted to sign the group ever since he saw them perform at CiTR's Shindig, a local battle-of-the-bands competition. "I like the insidious manner in which their songs get stuck in your head," he says. "I don't dance but they make me wanna."

Vancougar just finished recording their sophomore album, Canadian Tuxedo, which they expect to release early next year. According to Fineday, their infectiously catchy pop and sweet harmonies are still there, but several of the songs are more driving.

"Some of the rough mixes are sounding amazing. I think the songs are better than on the first album, so we're all really excited about it."

[www.cbcradio3.com](http://www.cbcradio3.com)

# Vancouver Interview with Eden in support of signing with Mint Records

by Dixon Christie

**P**unkTV.ca: We are about to talk to Eden from Vancouver. How's it going? Well.

PunkTV.ca: I just got a message that you guys just got signed to Mint records so congratulations. Thank you so much.

PunkTV.ca: How did that come about? We had been pursuing them ever since we formed pretty much. With our first album we went to them too and they said they were too busy promoting the New Pornographers and other stuff. They just had too much on their plate so we went through Scratch instead but they have stayed in touch with us pretty much since our first album came out. Randy has been emailing me regularly and he started asking about a second album so we did a demo for them and they liked it.

PunkTV.ca: Ok so when you talk about the first one on Scratch you are talking about Losing It. So is Mint records the perfect label for kind of a garagey 60s style pop punk with some Joan Jett influences in there and you got some great harmonies, well crafter songs, is Mint the perfect label for you guys?

I think they might be. What I love about them is they are known for being associated for pop which is really important to me because I think pop is sort of the core of what we do. I mean its filtered through maybe garage rock or 60s style guitar rock, girl group stuff and there is a lot of things we get called but the heart of it is pop music and I think Mint is really well known in the indie rock/pop community and that makes me feel like we are going to reach the right audience.

PunkTV.ca: They have a couple of pretty good bands now I guess with The New Pornographers and bands like the Sadies

and Neko Case.

Yeah they have had a lot of good stuff on the label so its really nice to be a part of that.

PunkTV.ca: So what does this mean for you guys as a band the difference between Scratch and Mint and what are the immediate plans for you?

Well I think it feels like a legitimization of sorts having someone like Mint tell us that they believe in us and see things in our future just kind of help us believe in ourselves more because we have been at this for 4 years and it just seems like things are getting better with each passing year.

PunkTV.ca: Is the scene getting better with each passing year?

I don't know. I just feel like we are getting more attention and that feels really good. We are getting more opportunities to play. We went on tour in June and that was really fun. It feels like we have been meeting more people and getting more exposure. I don't know about the "scene" but for us personally it has been growing.

PunkTV.ca: So how does the writing process work? I know that you sing all you also play guitar in the band. How does the process work for you guys as a group or are you the main lyric and music writer for the band?

Yeah I write all the songs and lyrics.

PunkTV.ca: I like this song "Naughty", tell us about writing that and what that kind of kitschy girl approach is about for you?

You know I don't even remember writing that song. I think I probably just thought it was funny or something. It is really just a reflection on probably my personal struggle with monogamy or my personal struggle with being satisfied in relationships and basically being like randy and trying to come to terms to that or whatever. Its just

sort of vocalizing thoughts that I don't act on or the bad girl side of me I guess.

PunkTV.ca: That's something you don't normally hear from women and that is the monogamous caveman kind of hunter vs. gatherer mentality. That's something you generally hear from men.

I think that's weird because I can't be the only person. I know I'm not the only woman who feels this way but there are definitely times where I feel like a teenage boy in the way I feel about the opposite sex or the way I think about sex in general. I can't be the only 33 year old woman who has these feelings so I don't know why it is rare.

PunkTV.ca: Maybe you are going through that period in a woman's life, not the change but before the change. Fuck I hope not that's pretty soon man.

PunkTV.ca: They say that a man is in his sexual prime at 15 and a woman at 35 I believe. But you have been like this all your life?

I think I have gotten more comfortable with it and I think that's why women get to that at a later age because it takes a long time for us to get over the social things like having big tits gives you a sexual identity. So it took me a long time to feel comfortable with my sexuality and now I'm in my 30s and I am finally there. That's probably exactly what it is. Of course boys are encouraged to be like that at the age of 12 or whatever.

PunkTV.ca: It is perfectly acceptable for men to go to strip clubs and there is probably 10 or 20 in a city so that display of one sided relationship with the other sex and that is completely not acceptable with women as much is it?

Yeah we definitely have to fight against more of feeling badly about things at a

younger age.

PunkTV.ca: Then the line in the song is "I'm a really good girl with a really bad body". That's totally 60s. I think you were channeling some old school rockabilly on that one for sure.

Until Losing It came out that never crossed my mind once, I didn't realize we would be so compared to, and we get that a lot, like girl groups. But it makes sense I mean I grew up listening to a lot of 50s kind of top 40 pop. I loved that as a child so maybe there is part of that.

PunkTV.ca: But you guys have also combined that really dirty ass bass. Yeah and see that is more like the other girls they love garage rock. I write the songs, I bring them to the girls and they do whatever they want to the songs so they make it as dirty as it needs to be for them to like it. But at the core of it is just a pop song. You're right they make it dirty and that's awesome.

PunkTV.ca: I really like the dirty and obviously with the girl band that sexuality is a big part of it. Just because we are on the subject one of my heroes growing up was always Joan Jett, did it surprise you to learn that entire sexuality that she had been cultivating was based on her being a lesbian?

Yeah I was a little bit surprised. I think I got over it rather quickly because I was very open minded about stuff like that and never really thought much about people's sexuality or orientation.

PunkTV.ca: I don't either but when its entrenched in your adulation. Same thing for me with Rob Halford and I just thought fuck how couldn't I have known? The guy is a big screaming fairy. I mean he's a leather boy and when you look at it you should have known but for whatever reason there is that need to have that person pigeon holed into you as the fan you have this perspective of what their persona is so its always just like ok wait a minute my paradigm has shifted here eh? Yeah totally.

PunkTV.ca: Well I saw her this year down at SXSW and she was as vital as ever. Yeah I've heard she puts on a really good live show.

PunkTV.ca: And she just finished touring with Warped and I tried so hard to get in with her but I wasn't able to. She has been doing it for like 25 years or something. That's awesome.

PunkTV.ca: Never slowed down to and now she is giving back, working with other bands and hopefully the momentum will continue to grow for her. What other female artists have influenced you? I think Blondie was a huge influence on me.

PunkTV.ca: You know she is touring again and she is 62 now. Fucking I love that woman and its weird because she was one of the people I worshipped when I was a 5 year old like honestly I worshipped her when I was a little kid. I put a little bangle around my upper arm and put my hand on my hit and they were like what are you doing and I'm like I'm Blondie. Everyone was horrified because I am native and she is like oh my God they want to be white and that's horrible and I didn't understand why they were so concerned. Its so funny because we just finished recording our new album called Canadian Tuxedo and I was listening to some of the vocals and there are parts of it that are so like the Blondie Ahs and Ohs. I do that too and I think I must have got that from here.

PunkTV.ca: She is big on tone. Holding notes and the Ahhs I do that too now and I love it.

PunkTV.ca: I was watching one of these midnight kind of video things where they are trying to sell you some kind of DVD package and they had a live show of hers on it and I couldn't believe it because I had never seen her in the middle of her prime in the 80s in the middle of the cocaine disco craze and she was vital, she was

dripping sex. She knew it too, it was so awesome.

PunkTV.ca: So there is some Blondie in there and what about these melodies? I mean obviously there is the songwriting and tell us about the importance of songwriting for you but also writing these wonderful, catchy gang vocals and do they come naturally?

I just hear stuff in my head and I have the girls to back me up so I think in the beginning we didn't work so much on the vocals they were just my songs but Beth is a natural singer so she would always chime in and now CC behind the drums is signing too and I love it. Now we work on stuff a little more because I know they are there to be utilized for that purpose. It has all been very natural. I can't even really get objective enough to think about the process or the thoughts behind it, its just what sort of comes out when I sit down with my guitar.

PunkTV.ca: And you are thinking multi dimensionally when that is happening? Oh yeah it kind of pisses them off sometimes because I will come in and I will be like I hear the drums doing this or sometimes I will hear a keyboard line or something but I never hear a bass line though. So I will come in with all these ideas and they will be like or you could just let us play what we want to play and I will be like I guess I could do that.

PunkTV.ca: I'm sure our pubescent stinky boys will love to hear about the cat fights and the pillow matches that go on late at night.

Its really not that exciting. We get along pretty darn well. We haven't had much fights but even the fights we have had haven't been very sexy. It doesn't involved lingerie or pillows unfortunately.

PunkTV.ca: That's the place you don't want to go with your best friends really. But we have finally come to a place where I think we are getting along really well and it is all very fun. We'll do things like we will all get together and have Vancouver

unplugged and we will all come over with a tambourine and a mini keyboard and an acoustic guitar and have a sing along with our own songs or play guitar hero or something and its really fun.

PunkTV.ca: We've got the new basement studios for PunkTV, will you come here and do Unplugged with us?  
We would love to.

PunkTV.ca: So you guys have the new CD then. When is that coming out?  
Probably February or March, I don't really know for sure but early next year.

PunkTV.ca: Are you a big fan of touring Canada in the winter?  
You know we have never toured Canada and I feel kind of bad. We always head south because everything is closer together down there and its easier to hit more cities in a shorter amount of time.

PunkTV.ca: Share the love.  
I know, we need to go east.

PunkTV.ca: Speaking of sharing the love then tell us about the boys on the road and is there a protocol when it comes to getting your ya yas out?  
We are all really like taken.

PunkTV.ca: So part of the monogamy battle that you are talking about is a real life battle for you?  
Yeah well except for CC, she is free to do all the loving she wants.

PunkTV.ca: Don't you know the first rule of being a pop star is no relationships. You relate to the road and your fans and sleeping in basements and that is it.  
You know girls don't get as much groupie love on the road.

PunkTV.ca: But they could.  
No boys are intimidated by us.

PunkTV.ca: Your website says "hot to trot". I wonder if maybe between the 2 of us we can try to bring out this old 50s saying

and truly age ourselves by doing that. Bring it back. I think we have already done that actually. Doesn't everyone say it now again?

PunkTV.ca: Nobody says it. Are you aging yourself with the name of your band? Everyone thinks we are but I just think it's a funny play on words. None of us are spring chickens. All of us are pretty much in our 30s except for Meghan so we could be considered Cougars but that's not why we called ourselves that. We just thought it was hilarious.

PunkTV.ca: So tell us about some of these 45s an splits that you have done and does vinyl still rule your world?  
We are so excited because Canadian Tuxedo is going to come out on vinyl and Losing It never did which was really sad for us. We did a split 7 inch called A Vancouver 4 Way with Ladies Night and Raised By Wolves and us. That was a couple years ago and that was great. Just now coming out next month is one on Cat Call records and it is just going to be a Vancougar 7 inch with 2 songs off of losing it and I heard the test pressing and it is incredible how much better it sounds on vinyl than it does on CD. It's the exact same recording and the exact same songs and it sounds so much better on the 7 inch.

PunkTV.ca: I'm just interviewed East Bay Ray from the Dead Kennedys and he was talking about why albums sound better on vinyl and we have heard obviously Neil Young talks about it a lot. I guess it has a lot to do with the amount of compression obviously that they put into the CD and the fact that on vinyl you don't have to compress that much and you can leave a lot of the natural analog warmth. Did you guys record on analog?  
With both records we did. We recorded onto tape and then we would dump it onto the computer for vocals and mixing.

PunkTV.ca: 2 inch tape?  
I think the first album was like inch and a

half and this one I didn't even ask.

PunkTV.ca: So obviously that is a part of the sound too then is getting those old tones that really work for you guys. Ok and I got 2 questions that we ask everybody and the first one is what would surprise kids most to learn about Vancougar? How old we are maybe.

PunkTV.ca: And the last question is which of the following experiences have you had: have you seen the face of God, have you had an alien encounter or have you seen a ghost?  
Ghost but I have no specific descriptive details.

PunkTV.ca: So any other message for the kids there?  
Keep on rocking.

# Vancougar Losin' It CD

Scratch Records

**S**lappy, ostensible punk-pop from an all-female band with the drummer from Pink Mountaintops and a sound featuring enough psychedelic organ gush to get a decent head rush going. This quartet is hard to pigeon-hole; it's as likely to do multi-voiced vocal blends over clunky keyboards as raunch-garage girl-group rewrites. Which means this is an altogether excellent post-generic slab of summer-oriented nonsense. Hey. Just in time.

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## ESSENTIAL TRACKS ROBERT EVERETT-GREEN Globe & Mail

### Kids at School

**T**he void left by the recent demise of Sleater-Kinney seems a little smaller when you're listening to this dark, driven song about knowledge and vulnerability. Vancouver's jangly girl-rock quartet has the logic of extremes down pat, pairing a fat and nasty keyboard bass line with Eden Fineday's knowing girlish vocals.

# Vancougar Losin' It CD

Scratch Records

**E**veryone agrees it's tough to find a good band name nowadays, but Vancougar's moniker is spot-on - and not just on account of the city they call home. Much like the predatory feline their name references, Vancougar's music is equal parts grace and power (or rather, pop and rock 'n' roll), while the progress they've made over their three short years as a band reveals impressive velocity and focus. Formed in the fall of 2003, drummer CC Rose (of noted Vancouver outfits The Pink Mountaintops as well as The Cinch (Dirtnap Records), bassist Becca Stewart, keyboardist Megan Johnson, and singer/guitarist Eden Fineday have wasted no time in making their presence known around Canada. The band has opened for a stellar list of both local talent (The Evaporators, The Gay, The Buttless Chaps) and touring acts (Outrageous Cherry, The Gris Gris, Quintron & Miss Pussycat, Drunk Horse), as well as headlining sold-out local bills. A tour of the west coast in September 2004, as far south as Los Angeles, spread the word of mouth further. Just a year after their first rehearsal, Vancougar won the coveted top spot over 26 other competing acts in CiTR's annual battle of the bands, SHiNDiG 2004. Ambitious and talented as they are, Vancougar are by no means content to sit still for long. Here for you know is the full-length, Losin' It, recorded over four days at the Hive Creative Labs (Black Mountain, Destroyer, Frog Eyes, P:ano, etc) in Vancouver. Vancougar intends to tour across North America to support the full-length throughout 2007 and 2008. Plans are already being hatched to take Vancougar's deservedly celebrated live show to rock 'n' roll enthusiasts everywhere, if they'll have them. What better time than now to get wise to Vancougar's unique brand of Attitude Pop? Recently given a rave review in April 2007 MRR, not to mention topping several MRR staff writer picks: "This is treating my ears right. Crunchy indie-rock with girl-group harmonies and pop sensibilities without excessive sheen. The vocals invite comparisons to the Go-Gos & The Bangles but you can tell this music was born in the garage and not in an LA recording studio. The first song, 'Mine First', is about discovering some new band and thinking they're your little secret, only to lose them to commercial radio popularity and the MTV nation. I wouldn't be surprised if Vancougar fans are going to suffer the same frustration soon."-MRR

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# Music Review: Vancougar - Losin' It

## Written by Tuffy

### Published May 25, 2007

At some point in every adult's life, all the nonsense about meeting cute and playfully circling a potential mate becomes more than a bit tiring. Any world-weary 21 year old will tell you that with an exasperated sigh, sipping an espresso during dramatic pauses.

It takes someone a bit more seasoned, though, to feel it in their bones and do something about it. For them, it's essential the courtship be short and to the point. It's time to rock and/or roll with no delay. May I recommend the following?

"I'm a really good girl with a really bad body / Naughty"

With that entire song, the ladies of Vancougar pull you in with a catchy bass line, a snappy drumbeat, pounding keys, and a vocal approach that grabs you by the scruff of the neck and then politely but firmly requests your presence on the dance floor.

With a sound stripped bare of all pretension and flourish, Vancougar lays down thirty minutes of bare-wire electricity on their recently released first LP, *Losin' It*, applying punk aesthetics and catchy hooks to gloriously filthy garage rock.

This slightly mature quartet from Vancouver, BC, takes the name from the legendary cougars of every wine bar and dive bar you've been to, hunting the younger man to extinction. Eden Fineday is lead singer, guitarist, songwriter, and raconteur. Becca Stewart, bass player, worked with Fineday in CA and again in BC when both ended up home again. Megan Johnson (keyboard) and CC Rose (drums) were roped in later; Rose came over from work with The Clinch and Pink Mountaintops.

*Losin' It* covers the usual rock'n'roll material: lost love, found love, lost and found love, financial advice. However, Fineday's songs and lead vocal efforts bring wit and swagger to finding a first band (the poppy "Mine First"), a first day at school ("Kids at School"), or just the first thing to come along ("Temporary Teamwork" and its irresistible harmonies).

The music's sparse nature belies its intelligence as well. "Painkiller" could have been rewritten from a charming harpsichord waltz into this ode to taking two and calling in the morning. The gently subtle "Repetition" is a heartbreaking cry for help from a dying marriage, smartly underlined by a percussive march from Rose and a dangerously strong undertow from Stewart and Johnson that Fineday's voice reaches over desperately to get to the chorus.

The band's promotional materials tout Vancougar's ability to winnow out the filler material on *Losin' It*, perhaps showing concern that you will feel cheated by such a short album. Instead, let me suggest that there are far too many groups of gentlemen that have yet to keep up their end of the bargain for half an hour, no matter how many tricks they think they have. Those men (and you) should check out *Losin' It*.

[blogcritics.org/archives/2007/05/25/091552.php](http://blogcritics.org/archives/2007/05/25/091552.php)

# Vancougar Losin' It CD

Scratch Records

4 out of 5

Vancougar is a female rock band from you guessed it ... Vancouver. The quartet formed in the fall of 2003 and have been garnishing attention from around Canada ever since. The band self released a demo CD R in 2004 which reached the top of University Radio charts throughout the North. After receiving acclaim from local music magazines and Radio programs alike, including CBC Radio 3 the group of gals decided to hit the studio to record a proper album titled, "Losin' It".

"Losin' It" was recorded in the respected Vancouver studio, Hive Creative Labs in just four days and features 39 minutes of high energy pop n' roll music. The girls start the album off with "Mine First", a track that showcases each members' talents including the vocals and chugging guitar chords of Eden, the thumping, Rickenbacker like bass riffs of Becca, the new wave keyboard sounds of Megan, and the rhythmic drumming of CC, who also plays for Vancouver's Pink Mountaintops.

For me "Pain Killer" sticks out as the albums highlight with vintage synth sounds, slick guitar riffs and anthem like lyrics that make you want to sing along with front woman, Eden. Other note worthy tracks include the punky number, "Temporary Teamwork" and the album finale, "Take Me Out" a catchy, melodic track that closes the bands solid first effort.

Vancougar plan to tour the country in the near future, if the girls' live show is as energetic as their full length debut then make sure to keep an eye out.

More Goat Than Mongoose

# Vancougar Losin' It CD

Scratch Records

Johnny asked Donna to go steady at the Romance Under The Sea formal. While they clumsily slow-danced under the papier-mache stars, Vancougar's debut must have been coming through the gym speakers. The girl-group comparisons come easily on Losin' It. There are plenty of nostalgic hooks perfect for sock-hopping ("Mine First") or spotlight-dancing ("Take Me Out"), plus gooey harmonies and slumber-party angst over dreamy fellas ("Way It's Gon' Be"). Leslie Gore couldn't have done it better, but she probably didn't do it by way of playing dingy west coast bars like these gals. There's no Phil Spector polish here. Garage musicianship and singer Eden Fineday's petulant, cracking vocals make every sugary hook feel like it might turn into a rock tantrum. It's still perfect for Johnny and Donna's prom, so long as they met in juvie.

Leah Collins

[www.chartattack.com](http://www.chartattack.com)

# Vancougar Losin' It CD

Scratch Records

Despite its jokey moniker and employment of the age-old gimmick of the all-girl lineup, Vancougar is a band to be taken seriously. With its lo- to medium-fi guitar-bass-drums attack topped with new-wave-inflected keyboards and decent pop harmonies, the four-piece follows the road mapped out by the Dishrags, the Pointed Sticks, and other pioneers of this city's first-wave punk scene of the late '70s and early '80s. It's edgy enough for the white belts, but the well-crafted hooks suggest that, with an extra coat or two of gloss, Vancougar could reach an audience beyond the two-dozen cool kids who fill Pat's Pub on any given Saturday night.

Judging by this disc's catchiest number, however, such a development might not sit well with the band or its followers. "Mine First" is a lament for all those once-underground bands whom the scenesters have lost to the larger world of pop culture. Katie Sketch, we hardly knew ye.

Georgia Straight, Vancouver BC

# Vancougar Losin' It CD

Scratch Records

Vancougar hail from ...you guessed it, Vancouver, BC and employ at least one of the members from the band that left us too soon: The Cinch. Drummer CC Rose was in that band (she is now in the Pink Mountaintops) and along with an assortment of some Vancouver ladies on the scene (including Jennifer Smyth...not sure what band she was in but that name sounds familiar). Regardless, the band have made up a heady brew here of keyboard-soaked rave-ups, gritty pop ("Kids at School" is like the best songs the Go-Go's ever woulda done, if they had written it ), and swaying rock ( "Painkiller"). Vocalist Eden Fineday (and a fine day to you too ) sounds like she doesn't give a crap if you listen to her band or not...she's knows they're great and if you can't see this for yourself, then it's your loss. She seems like she'd be the same whether playing to 3 people at Doug Fir or 3,000 people at the Schnitz (old-time , famed Portland concert hall usually reserved for the well-heeled, things like the opera tho' I did see Sigur Ros there and I think The Strokes played there once as well). Not much more to say about LOSIN' IT !: the songs are well-written, they're no longer than they have to be and they rock, and pop ! Any band that can manage 10 songs this good in under 30 minutes get the DAGGER seal of approval (what ALL bands aim for ). Buy this.

[indiepages.com](http://indiepages.com)

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Though I can groove to the odd diva pop track from time to time, some gay boys like me enjoy their girl pop with a little more muscle. Thankfully, there are excellent bands like Vancougar to fill that need. This wonderful debut comes on the heels of a win at Shindig, CITR's annual battle of the bands that has given top honours to other garage-poppin' gal combos like Maow and Clover Honey in the past. Continuing in this fine tradition, Vancougar's first full outing, after a track on the LaTiDa Records' Vancouver Four Way compilation, is a doozy worthy of accolades and awards abound. Seconds in, I knew I'd found a surefire summer hitfest from the opening chime of "Mine First." A couple tracks later, "Painkiller," is one of those songs that makes you stop whatever else you are doing and just listen intently as the jerky rhythm takes over. The other eight tracks are just as splendid and this much goodness packed into less than half an hour will have you scratching at the repeat button. -Bill Stuart

Monday Magazine, Victoria, BC

# HOT FOR MONEY:

The Vancouver based indie rock band Vancougar has recently released their new album *Losin' It*. Coalfish reviewer Ray Gracewood says that Vancougar is "for girls who pull dudes behind them by their hair, boys who enjoy take-charge girls, fans of girly-pop a la Bangles/Go-Go's and classic Canadian indie pop a la Sloan, Eric's Trip and Cub".

One of my first ever rock shows was at the old Local on King Street to see Vancouver cuddlecore-rs Cub. Ever since hearing their set, I've been smitten with Canadian poppy girl rock a la Maow and Jale. I'm not sure what it was/is - I mean, it's obviously a deep seeded lust for cute girls in stripy socks cooing into a microphone with their eyes affixed to the frets on their Rickenbacker, but considering I usually walk away from each of these gigs with CDs in tow, there must also be something about the sound that I'm loving.

Enter Vancougar, my newest fixation. Four hot ladies from the West Coast who have brought the rock back to the girl nation in truly fine form.

*Losin' It* opens with "Mine First", a frantic pacesetter whose story is well known to those that have "found" a band, only to promptly lose them to MTV. The humanity, I know. The rest of the record is a rollercoaster of straight-out rockers and high-school swooners. Repetition is one of the latter, a story of someone tied down, bored and stuck. But in true 'cougar fashion, the girls crank it back up on Naughty, screaming "I'm a really good girl with a real bad body" over and over.

Lyricaly the simplest track on the record, it's also my favorite. When she slides in "But such a fuckin' hottie", I melt. There's something incredibly sexy about Vancougar's coy confidence.

The girls keep it short and sweet - the way pop music should be. Enough to get you off your ass and moving, but short enough to leave you wanting more. They're the type of band that would blow through a 30-minute set so fast, you'd spend the rest of the night chasing them through the bar trying to convince them for just another taste.

Oh, and *Way It's Gon' Be* and *Painkiller* are two of my favorite tracks on the record; not because they're any better than the rest but because they both remind me of that scene from *Chasing Amy* when Joey Lauren Adams is singing at the kitty-bar and Affleck thinks that she's singing to him but she's really into the hot blonde chick that's parked in front of him. Remember that scene? I liked her voice in that - kind of raw, but immature way, you know?

Vancougar is for girls who pull dudes behind them by their hair, boys who enjoy take-charge girls, fans of girly-pop a la Bangles/Go-Go's and classic Canadian indie pop a la Sloan, Eric's Trip and Cub.

[www.coalfish.ca](http://www.coalfish.ca)