

CLEAN EDITS FOR RADIO AND RAW TRACKS RIBBED FOR YOUR ENJOYMENT

By Jason Johnston

This album is actually a press kit sampler from four albums to be released simultaneously: *Dangerous* and *Relentless* are re-releases, formerly out-of-print. *Arizona Bay* and *Rant in E-Minor* are previously unreleased.

The first time I saw the late Bill Hicks was on a video called *Steal this Video* which I purchased from a hemp activist group. On it were segments of Hicks commenting on drugs and his obvious appreciation of them. I was fairly impressed at the time. He is a funny man, but I don't see the brilliance so many people rave about.

The information I received on Hicks boasts endorsements from all manner of comedy big wigs such as David Letterman, Jay Leno (whose name Hicks drags through the pasture on *Rant in E-Minor*), Brett Butler, Richard Belzer, Eric Bogosian, and Dennis Miller. Butler goes so far as to call him "the best comic of my generation," as if she is some kind of authority on humor (I know, I know--she makes more money than me).

Perhaps these accolades are not directed at his comedic ability, but his political frankness. His acts seem to go from joking matter to that of a liberal columnist. You may credit him for putting what many people already believe into witty sentences, but that does not make him a comedic genius.

None of this is to say that he isn't any good. Hicks is an extremely talented *entertainer*. Try *Arizona Bay* on for size and go forth from there. Conservatives and the easily offended need not apply.

In a nutshell: Don't believe the hype, just enjoy the humor.