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featured in The Magic City column, By Brett Sokol

SUMMER 2006 IN POP CULTURE

3. Monotract—*XPRMNTL LVRS* (Ecstatic Peace Records)

Don't be fooled by this CD's cover photo featuring the members of Monotract offhandedly posed in their bathing suits on the sun-dappled sands of South Beach.



There's nothing even remotely relaxing to be heard on the actual CD—which is exactly the way this trio wants it, building on the crashing drums and caterwauling, feedback-drenched guitar workouts of such local

forebears as Harry Pussy and (the still going-strong) Rat Bastard and the Laundry Room Squelchers. Where Monotract separates itself from the lease-breaking pack is in its deployment of honest-to-gosh grooves, as on the opening Flipper-esque "There Are Hard Days I Can't Forget." Since recording much of *LVRS*, the band has unfortunately decamped north to the more aesthetically friendly environs of Brooklyn. But a lil' taste of their sound lingers around every downtown construction site.