

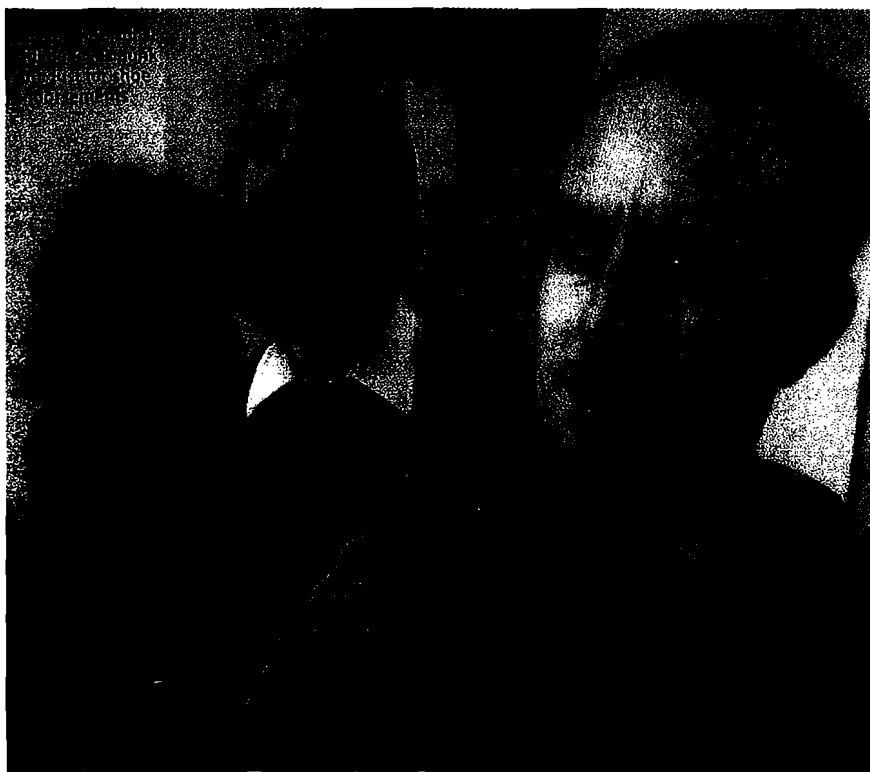
ARCADE FIRE ★

SPIN

SURF 'N' TURF  
FASHION SPECIAL  
WORLD'S TOP BOARDERS  
GO HAWAIIAN  
AND THE U.K.'S  
NEW-WAVIEST BANDS  
ROCK LONDON

NAS  
LIVE!

HIP-HOP  
NOT SO  
DEAD  
(P. 102)



## Speaking the Gospel

Brilliant Jersey rocker, not the same as the old Boss

### Ted Leo and the Pharmacists Living With the Living

★★★★½  
TOUCH AND GO

About 20 years ago, when the speedies, trickers and moral panic of Washington, D.C. hardcore gave way to more expansive music and politics, the scene's unofficial motto went from "Out of Step / With the world" to "Live the life," per the old Thomas Dorsey spiritual. It signaled a shift from accusatory tunnel vision to a revolution of the every-

day, with a soundtrack of chaotic slambeats and rough syncopations, best exemplified by Fugazi, Luna, Fish, and Shudder to Think.

Ted Leo understands. A veteran of Jersey and D.C. hardcore, he retains total belief in the old-fashioned notion that

### Leo tries to pack an essay into each song.

what the individual does actually matters. In 2004's killer *Shake the Sheets* was Leo's *Give 'Em Enough Rope*—slicker production that amped up heavier, chamber hits. *Living With the Living* is by *London Calling*, an hour-long hold-

dering of sounds and visions. Produced by Fugazi's Brendan Canty, it moves strikingly from punk to folk to reggae to noise to liberation theology.

"The Sons of Cain" jigs around the loneliness of the good fight with a triumphant thump. "Colleen" worships a scene goddess with sting-along power pop, and "Bomb, Repeat Bomb" evokes the frenetic jerk of Dutch punks the Ex. Leo still tries to pack an essay into each song, but thinking too much shouldn't exactly be discouraged these days. Especially when he sounds like he could start the revolution by sheer positive force. **JOE GROSS**