



**RAUCOUS ROCK 'N' ROLL:** It's hard not to love a band that names its record after one of Frank Sinatra's favorite toasts. Even more so when the music and lyrics are wryly bold enough to leave a listener imagining Ol' Blue Eyes wouldn't have been opposed to tearing up the Sin City strip with the members. Well, the Riverboat Gamblers is that band and *To the Confusion of Our Enemies* is that record, and boy is it a doozey. From the moment you hit the stereo's play button, this disc fairly crackles with energy, pounding out an exuberant mix of the old-school tear-it-up rock of MC5 and The Clash mixed up with faster, modern influences, such as Rocket from the Crypt, The Bones, and even, albeit to a lesser extent, The Levellers. Yet whereas even some of those great bands all had some downtime breathers on their records, Riverboat Gamblers do not let the barreling pace flag throughout the 14 tracks found on *To the Confusion of Our Enemies*. And how could they with songs like "The Biz Loves Sluts," "The Curse of the Ivory Coast," and "Keep Me from Drinking." To the Riverboat Gamblers' credit they know there are times when any let-up would ruin the whole enterprise. It's an attitude we've seen before. Someone should make this band honorary members of the Rat Pack. ~ *Shawn Macomber*