



AMBER PACIFIC, "Truth In Sincerity" (Hopeless) ☆☆½ — If you're looking for pop-punk that follows the genre blueprint to the letter while steering clear of any offensive subject matter, "Truth In Sincerity" is the record for you. Seattle-based quartet Amber Pacific are avowed Christians (which Mom and Dad will like, kids) but don't wear their religion on their sleeves (which means your friends probably won't make fun of you for listening) and, to be fair, these former junior high chums have some musical chops. But the record is strictly paint-by-numbers and doesn't offer anything new to the fading pop-punk scene. You've got the requisite cutesy, way-too-long song titles — "We Think We're Hardcore, Cause Well, We Are" and the ridiculous "Dear ____, This Has Always Been About Standing Up for What You Believe In ..." — and plenty of generic three-chord riffs. It's harmless, high-energy music that's far too easily forgotten. (JS)