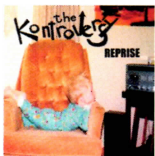


# THE KONTROVERSY

## Reprise

★★★★☆

*Ragged But Right CD*



The Kontroversy rose from the ashes of Kansas powerpop legends The Leopards in 1981 and released just

one EP three years later before folding. Their 30th anniversary sparked a reunion and a number of old recordings were exhumed, completed and supplemented with new recordings. You can't see the joins.

Those in the know will flip at the mention of The Leopards' '77 album, *Kansas City Slickers*. It clearly represents guitarist Kevin Sanders' defining moment too, as he revisits it whole-heartedly on *Reprise*. The ragged, DIY charm of *Slickers* remains thankfully intact, and the music – a dyspraxic high school disco soundtracked by The Kinks (natch), The Beach Boys and Jonathan Richman and recorded *au naturel* – retains all of the naivety that made the teenage Sanders' outings so unforgettable.

**Andy Morten**