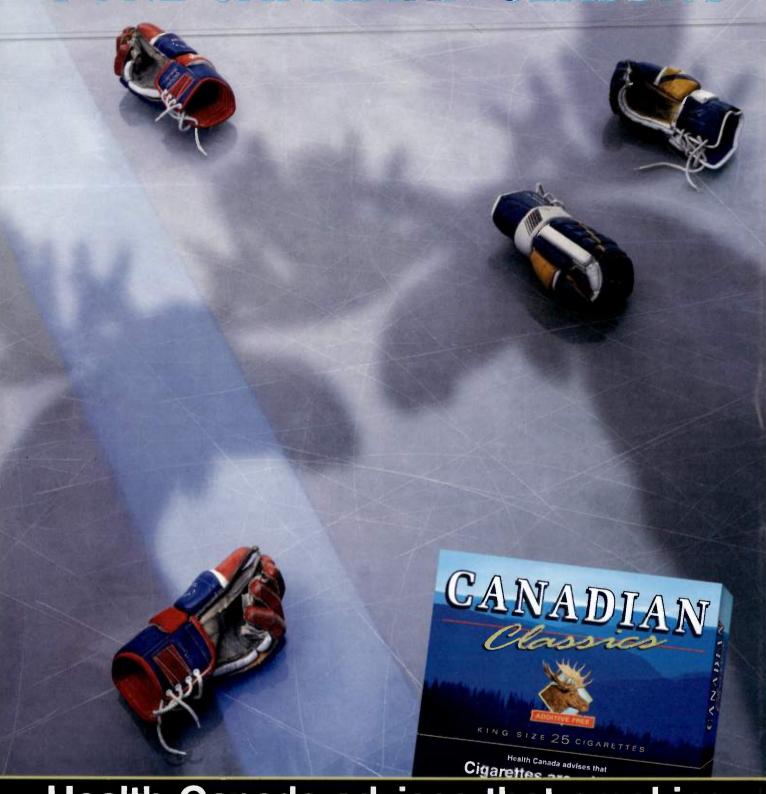


PURE CANADIAN CLASSICS



Health Canada advises that smoking is addictive and causes lung cancer, emphysema and heart disease

ORIGINAL SOUNDIRACK

Spin Doctors and Biz Markie

Monica

Coolio

R. kelly

Barry White & Chris Rock

Changing Faces



Seal

Salt 'n Pesa

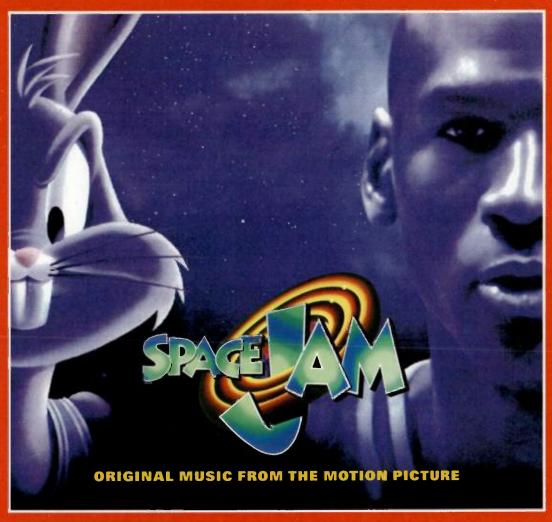
Robin S.

D'Angelo

All-A-One

Quad City D.J.'s

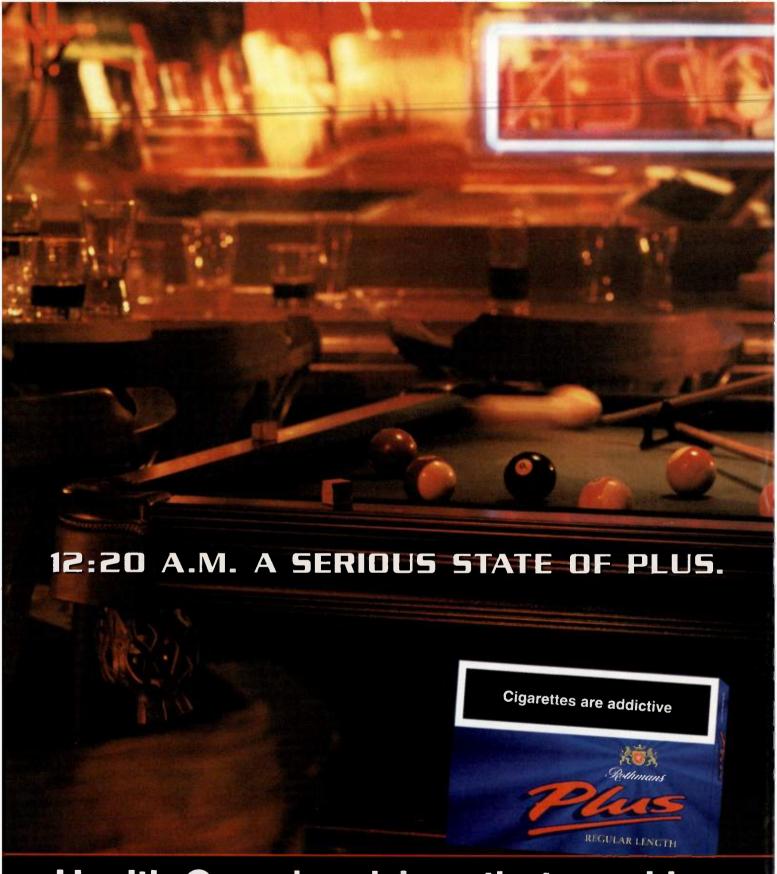
LL Cool J, Method Man, B-Real, Coolio, Busta Rhymes



Jammin' this november

IN STORES EVERYWHERE





Health Canada advises that smoking is addictive and causes lung cancer, emp vsema and heart disease

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VOLUME 10 NO.5

Cover photo: Comstock Moe Berg photo: Chico Taeschel Liberace album & tuxedo: Wolfe Archives Digital voodoo:TOAD Contents photo: Darlene St. Louis

WHAT YEAR WAS IT, ANYWAY?

1996 will be remembered as the year when the clock was perpetually being turned back

— everyone from Kiss, led by
sensitive guy Gene
Simmons, left, to the Sex
Pistols, Styx, Journey,
Kansas and many others
reunited for nestalgia tours or lame new albums. Here's hoping we go back to the future in 1997

7 Billy Bragg, Wilco, Disc de jour, Big Sugar, Starkicker, Carol Welsman and more from the wacky world of pop.

IN DIM LIGHT 11 Hype! Beavis and Butt-head. Daylight, Evita, Turbulence and more from the balcony.

COVER 12 It's endof-the-year list time. Yes, it's our annual glance back at the music we loved and hated and the people who made it. It's trite but fun.

URSUIT OF HAPPINESS 23

Moe knows misery. Moe knows heartache. Moe knows how to write a great song. And the new Pursuit Of Happiness album, The Wonderful

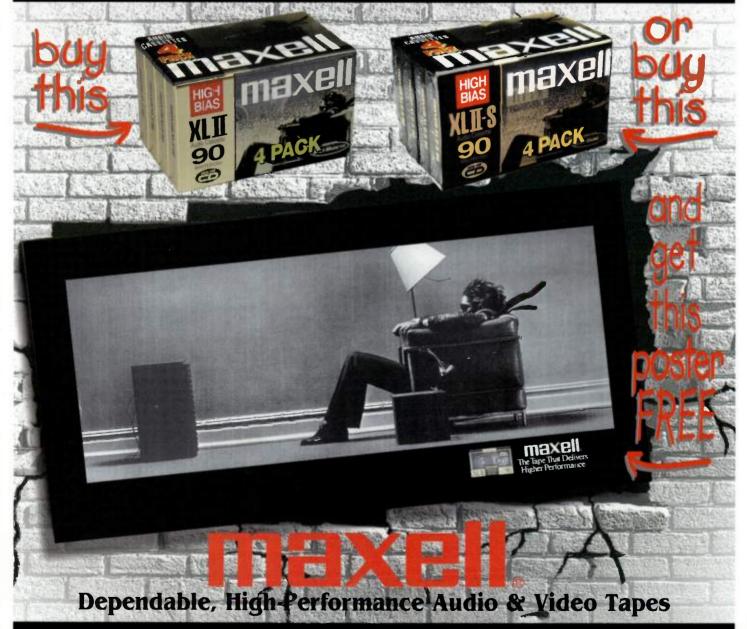
World Of ... is

full of cool tunes about love, sex and romance.

GROOVES 27 Reviews of Paul Hyde, SNFU, Mary Chapin Carpenter, Joni Mitchell, hHead, Chuck D, Lamb, The Beautiful South, Counting Crows and more.

CHARTS 30

JETHE ULTIMATE SOUND



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Billy Bragg's 'socialism of the heart'

The timing was pure magic. Two days before Billy Bragg's scheduled concert in Toronto, the city was in the grips of the largest labour protest in its history — the first of two days of angry demonstrations against Ontario's Conservative government and its slash and burn agenda. So what's a jolly good Socialist to do? Join in, of course. Bragg came into town in time for Day Two's big rally at the provincial legislature on a warm, sun-dappled October day. He played four songs at the rally then put on a dynamic two-and-a-half-hour solo show the next night. Each performance was infused with the passion that Bragg still carries for the ideals that have been the driving force behind his 13-year career.

The following day, he spoke enthusiastically about the protest and its message. "The great thing about Days Of Action to me, is that the people took the initiative; they've already done the most important thing, they've drawn a line in the sand and said 'this is where we're going to stand and fight and this is what we're going to fight on," he says.

Bragg's tour coincides with the release his new disc, William Bloke, only his second album this decade and the first since he became a father. Not surprisingly, much of it deals with the new developments in his life ...



and the struggle to hold onto his ideals in a world that's drifted to the right. "Brickbat" — one of the album's most beautiful ballads — deals with the maturing of Bragg's views. "That one's got a very important message: 'I used to want to plant

Of The Proms/ but now you'll find me at home with the baby in the

bathtub ... ' because it deals with the realization that there are other ways to change the world that aren't quite so destructive ... one of them is how you bring up your kids," he explains.

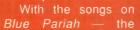
One of the burdens of having a reputation for writing "political" songs is that when you choose to write about something else — like the challenges of love and family — people accuse you of "selling out" or calming down ... criticism he's facing because of *William Bloke*. "That's part of the price of writing political songs. If you don't write political songs you can't really sell out, you just sell more records," he says, adding, "which is why it was really important for me after five years to open this album with "From Red To Blue," (which deals with his struggle to remain true to his Socialist beliefs while many of his friends are growing more Conservative) because if there was ever a time for me to stop being political it was now, and I wanted to show that my beliefs were still intact, even if I was having doubts."

et cetera

Big Rude Jake's 'swing-punk' philosophy

Raymond Chandler novel, on stage Toronto's Big Rude Jake is all swagger and attitude. Dressed in a finely-tailored suite puffing an expensive cigar and bellowing out whiskey-soaked songs in front of a great band, Jake's self-described "swing-punk" is like a tour through the seething cauldron of inner city life.

Deftly blending swing, blues, rock, punk and ska — yes, it works — the band has carved out a niche for itself in the busy Toronto club scene, and recently has been taking its show on the road to ports as diverse s San Francisco, L.A. and all parts of Canada.





band's great new album — focusing on Jake's obsession with urban life, particularly the seedy and seductive aspects of urban life, it's something of a surprise, then, to discover how thoughtful and, well, philosophical, Jake is off stage. "We're having a good time in San Francisco, but what kills me the most about out here is that it's obvious how we ve become a society that is only into immediate gratification, and purely base sensations ... we've become a masturbatory society, you know, get the most thrill for the least amount of effort and anything that requires work or is ethereal or, dare I say, spiritual, is shunned," he says, from a phone booth in the City By The Bay.

But lest you think Jake's a dour *artiste*, or a musical bible-thumper, he's also got a wicked sense of humour and a genuine love of all things pleasurable — as do the characters that inhabit *Blue Pariah's* bars, back alleys and crowded streets. It's just that they've got the perspective to realize that happiness comes from "taking a lot of pleasure in what you've got and I guess, making the most of your situation," he explains.

In the band's case, making the most of its situation includes recording more albums and, in Jake's words, "being the period at the end of 1999, I want this band to be the music that puts the back cover on the 20th century."

etcetera



Cars, guitars and Big Sugar

"Loud and ugly and just dangerously fast," says Gordie Johnson, lead singer of Big Sugar, passionately describing a 426 Hemi-Vision. Although he's rhapsodizing about a 1964 Chrysler muscle-car engine, these adjectives could just as easily be applied to Johnson's trademark guitar playing. An analogy not overlooked by the band, *Hemi-Vision* is the title of its fourth freewheeling release.

Johnson's lust for powerful cars and wailing guitars stems from a childhood spent in Windsor, Ont. where his father worked for Chrysler. "For me growing up, cars always provided a freedom that I didn't have," he explains. Nevertheless, Windsor did provide Johnson with the freedom to listen to Detroit radio. And it is this lethal combination of greasy auto parts and American classic rock that resonates in Johnson's guitar riffs which simultaneously assault and stimulate the senses. "You step on the gas and you go. It's like with an electric guitar, I hit the volume and I go," he adds.

Yet the direction Big Sugar is heading is not always certain. With a blues-driven saxophonist, Jamaican-born reggae bassist and an ex-member of the Odds serving as drummer, the band's eclectic music is difficult to mold into a single Juno category. Leaving a trail of unpredictable turns, Big Sugar often steers from Led Zeppelin rock to Muddy Waters blues to English Beat ska. However, as Johnson notes, "What I can promise you is that I'll play the hell out of my guitar, the show's going to be loud as a bastard, and we're going to play like hell every night." — Cindy Waxer

Wilco's dark epic

You gotta be nuts to release a double CD, right? Sure, the Pumpkins pulled it off, but they did it at the height of their popularity. Why in the hell would Wilco, a great, but largely ignored band, attempt such a perilous feat when their following is confined to enthusiastic music writers and club-goers?

Well, basically, they had a lot to say. And the result is *Being There*, an epic, double-disc from the Chicago-based band born out of the ashes of the late, great Uncle Tupelo.

Basically, Wilco leader Jeff Tweedy found the need to vent big-time, and thus, a chunky, 19-song album was born. And though still reminiscent of the country-drenched rock that marked the band's first record, *A.M., Being There* contains songs like "Misunderstood" and "Sunken Treasure" (that open disc one and two, respectively), that clock in at well over six minutes and offer a darker, less sprightly sound.

"I haven't been real comfortable with the way we've been labelled with this 'alternative-country' tag and musically, and maybe in my life too, I've been feeling a little restless," says Tweedy, "and so ...," his voice trails off.

But, Jeff, about that length thing ...?

"Well, actually, we recorded a lot more than we actually put on the record," he says, with a chuckle," "but I guess it was somewhere around 75 per cent into it when we realized we could make it work as a double."

And while there will be claims of supreme self-indulgence, Tweedy doesn't care — they made the album they wanted



to and what's more, it's good. Very good. As he says, "we wanted to shatter our own notion of what we sounded like and the only way to do that was to dismantle it from song to song."

Starkicker celebrates joy of brevity

"I'm definitely into short songs, I can't even listen to things that are really long with crazy intros, I just find they drag on and on — the key for us is that we're not afraid to write strong melodies and that's what I think of when I think of good pop music," explains Ben Dunk.

And strong melodies are certainly at the core of the guitarist-singer's band, Starkicker. The St. Catherine's, Ontario trio (featuring brother Nick on bass and vocals and drummer-backing vocalist Doug Boudreau) have been all over the radio with "Get Up," the bouncy first single from their debut album. Beach Music.

As for influences, well, they wear them on their collective sleeve ... even the album art suggests the kind of sunny disposition the band has. Hell, Dunk's even willing to openly admit to digging the Bee Gees. "I was listening to them just before we did our album and I thought it was really, really good stuff, really inspiring, you know, they write great songs and obviously stuff like the Beatles and the Beach Boys have been big influences as well, but we put our own spin on that kind of stuff," he says.

True enough. Beach Music isn't purely awash in soaring, melodic guitar pop; tracks like "Pitter Patter," and "360°" show Starkicker's experimental side. The former has a decidedly spacey, tripped out feel to it, while the latter begins as a beautiful, atmospheric ballad and halfway through mutates into an aggressive mid-tempo rocker adorned with wave upon wave of grungy guitar.

"Well, that's what we really set out to do — combining all our favourite influences and, you know, making them our own, we didn't want the record to sound like an album from the '60s," says Dunk.

Between the lines

CROWDED HOUSE

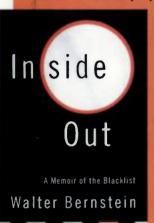
private universe

Amonast the gaggle of new books being released this season are two that really deserve some attention; one for its fascinating, detailed portrait of perhaps the best pop band of our time; the other for its stirring, harrowing look at one of the most disturbing chapters in the cultural history of America.

Private Universe, Toronto writers Kerry Doole and Chris Twomey, offers a behind-the-scenes tour of the career of New Zealand pop sensations Crowded House, from their roots in Split Enz -

another great Kiwi band - through their phenomenal late-'80s success and their recent disintegration. What makes Private Universe a notch better than most books of this genre, is Doole and Twomey's vast storehouse of knowledge about the band. Extensive contacts, obviously developed in their capacity as music writers of note, allow them access to mountainous quantities of tidbits about the band ... many of which haven't been revealed before. And it didn't hurt that Private Universe was put together by two Canadian-based writers - Crowded House's connection to this country was long and deep: Canada was, quite simply, the best market in the world for the band.

Written in a breezy style that never gets tedious,



Private Universe is a great read for anyone interested in machinations of a pop band that helped make melody cool again. The book sells for \$23.95 and is published by Omnibus, U.K. You can get a copy by contacting Kerry Doole at 42 Northcote Ave., #1, Toronto, Ont. M6J 3K5.

Inside Out, A Memoir Of The Blacklist, by New York writer

Bernstein, paints a sobering, frightening picture of life for left-leaning writers, directors and actors during the height of the anti-Communist paranoia in the late-'40s and early-'50s. As one of the artists singled out for his "pinko" views, Bernstein learned first-hand how easily constitutional rights can be trod upon in the name of national interest.

Inside Out is more than a moral treatise, however; it's an utterly compelling examination of a time and place frozen in infamy, and the characters who resided there. It's published by Knopf, New York and is in book stores now, selling for a price of \$33.50.

The story of a jazz musician who likes the media ...

Carol Welsman keeps turning the ringer down and missing my phone calls. Who could blame her? With a Jazz Report Award in her trophy case (not to mention last year's Juno nomination) that constant ringing must be a nuisance. But the phone interview is well worth the wait - she likes talking to media people.

"It's a gas. I enjoy doing publicity stuff. I have fun working on my image - choosing clothes, having my hair done, getting made-up," she says.

Welsman has no trouble dealing with the business of music.

She even has her own recording label. This independence also marks her music. When the vocalist headed off to Berklee College to study jazz, she wanted to get her piano knowledge in place. "I wanted to be able to accompany myself, to be self-sufficient," she explains. "Playing along with my singing also means I'm able to control the harmony. And



knowledge of the keyboard helps with scatting - I can sing along with the chord progression. Plus, knowing how to do arranging has been miraculously helpful."

Welsman does seem to have heavensent abilities. Along with her musical and business skills, she also has a touch for languages. Welsman converses (and sings) fluently in English, French and Italian. Always fascinated by Latin

languages, she made the most of her years studying and playing in Europe.

Now based in Toronto, Welsman is working on her second CD. She wants to progress from her debut, Lucky To Be Me that she describes as a "background type of CD. I'm more dynamic live and I want to display that fire and fun on CD. It won't be a straight quartet recording. I'm adding percussion and guitar — beefed it up a bit," she explains.

This fortified effort from Welsman and Co. will be released in February, 1997. - C. J. Wren

Disc de jour

Fabian Road Warrior, by Chicago singer Wesley Willis, features 24 tracks ... each of which is the same. Exactly the same. Sure, the song titles, including Alanis Morissette, Hussein's Ass" are different, and they clock in at different lengths, but each



screaming vocals and the same le-fi music.

Willis — who was "discovered" living on the streets of Chicago — released a bunch of equally strange records independently before getting the chance to spread his monotone wisdom for American Recordings, a pretty cool label whose artists usually aren't diagnosed



Pulling Brad Roberts' teeth

At this stage of the game, it's a safe assumption that everyone in the hemisphere has been exposed to the Crash Test Dummies and their latest four minutes of wackery about a kid who yanks out his own teeth (though I think there's a clan of yak herders in Tunguska who haven't heard it). At this point, it's a good bet most folk know the following: A/ the Dummies' latest album, A Worm's Life, is their first in about three years; B) the record is supposed to unveil their new 'rock' sound and, most significantly, C) Brad Roberts just got a haircut. Oh, and that Roberts marshals the usual cavalcade of rejects, oddballs, outsiders and deviants through the lyrics in his own peculiar way: not so much, "Hey, Martha! Look! Weirdos!" (paging Marilyn Manson!) as it is ... sympathy?

"Empathy, more accurately," Brad rumbles, "because when I was a little boy I actually *did* worry my teeth until they were loose — I nearly lost two in a row. And actually, that's what made me write that song ("He Liked To Feel It"). I thought, 'Man, my teeth feel right *there* in my head. They don't feel like anything that'd ever fall out,' and then I remembered loosening them as a kid and I went, 'That's *sooo* crazy."

"See," he continues, "sympathy can be condescending, like you feel sorry for that person. And even though it can be well meant, there's something almost arrogant about it — like trying to dish out pity to someone without really *understanding* them."

So you can actually illustrate something meaningful about human nature with these characters?

"Yeah, I think you can major in all those extreme varieties," Brad opines, "as long as it's entertaining and educational. The characters in the songs I put together are weird, but I don't want them to be over-the-top or melodramatic. There has to be a sort of nice, quiet feeling accompanying them for it not to be ..."

He searches for the right word.

"... distasteful."

And so out of both perspectives you present on *A Worm's Life* — the insider and the outsider — which is you? How weird is Brad Roberts feeling these days?

"Well," he considers, "I'm an insider and an outsider. I've seen both those points of view and I think most people have participated in them at one time or another. I think when I was that little boy loosening his teeth, I was much shyer and probably more an outsider but then I went to school, became an adult and started integrating myself a bit more into life. And I'm kind of an insider/outsider in the music industry, because I've entered it, I've done three records and, unlike when I started, I know how it works. But at the same time, I see the mechanisms of that industry in critical terms and I see what I think is wrong with them ..."

He pauses, considers again: "... and yet I'm still playing that game." — C.J. O'Connor



Y WILLIAM PEYTON

Cold weather, dark skies and the inevitable deluge of Christmas ads on TV signal the return of the Holiday movie season — blockbusters, silly comedies, and family fare as far as the eye can see.

For starters there's *Beavis and Butt-Head Do America* starring those two lovable cartoon characters, bringing their unique take on American life to the big screen — jam-packed, of course, with cool music and the kind of adolescent humour destined to piss off most parents.

Meanwhile, Sly Stallone's back with his latest opus, Daylight, in which our hero attempts to save a motley group of people trapped inside a large commuter tunnel connecting Manhatten and New Jersey following an accidental explosion.

A thriller of a different kind, *Turbulence*, takes place in an airplane commandeered by a serial killer. It pits a terrorist against a crafty flight attendant and stars Ray Liotta and Lauren Holly.

One of the most anticipated films of the season is the movie version of the much-loved musical *Evita*, starring the irrepressible Madonna. Much of the hype has focused on the rough treatment the star received in Argentina, where the story of the real-life Eva Peron is worshipped like a religion, but the film has also generated interest from those who wonder weather the pop star can do the famed *Evita* music justice. Either way, it's sure to attract attention.

And speaking of hype, the film of the same name, documenting the rise of Seattle's "grunge" scene of the early-'90s, recently

Beavis,

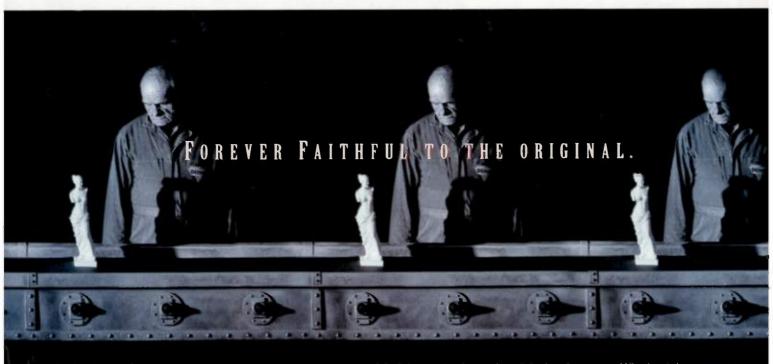
On a more ser return of Kenneth epic — Hamlet, fe and many others.

opened. Featuring interviews with key bands like Soundgarden and Pearl Jam — not to mention the first-ever performance of Nirvana's "Smells Like Teen Spirit" — Hype! is a fascinating look at the rise and commercialization of a genuinely interesting scene.

On a more serious note, December also sees the return of Kenneth Branagh in another Shakespearean epic — Hamlet, featuring Julie Christie, Sir Derek Jacobi, and many others.

Another drama that's bound to turn a few heads is *The Evening Star*, the long-awaited sequel to *Terms Of Ends a ment*, starring Shirley MacLaine, Bill Factor, which Lewis and Jack Nicholson. The film picks up the story of Aurora Greenway and her three grown up grandchildren, years after Mom (played by Debra Winger) passed away in the original 1983 Academy Award-winner.

and Madonna



For 87 years, Denon has pursued one—and only one—goal: the faithful reproduction of the original performance. Whether it be a concert or studio performance, a blockbuster film or a music video, the goal remains unchanged to reproduce exactly what the artist or director intended. This philosophy is present in the full range of Denon Home Theater components, like the cost-no-object AVP-8000 Tuner Preamp Processor.

the new audiophile Dolby Digital (AC-3) A V Receivers and the highly affordable Dolby Pro Logic A V Receivers.

Recause at Danan type remain faithful to the artist and to every one of our customers



Images with the impermanence of a politician's promise characterize 1996. Tasteless, colourless and as bland as Wonder Bread. That was 1996. Sure, stuff happened - there were the Olympics, a variety of terrorist attacks, one of the worst winters

in recent memory, assorted assassinations, scandals, and the continuing proliferation of sleezy pop culture dressed up as something important - but,

"And the political correctness award goes to ..."

Goofy American TV censors, who wanted Alanis Morissette to change the lyrics to "You Oughta Know" during the Grammy Awards. Grow up - more than 12 million people in your country bought the damn thing, I think the 'world's greatest democracy' can survive one "dirty" word in prime time.

"Oh, would you please just go away ..."

The Macarena and all its remixes - Yeah, it's fun. but enough is enough. Record Clubs - They don't really offer great deals

and they're hurting retailers.

Cool concerts

Neil Young/Oasis - Molson Park, Barrie Tragically Hip - Horseshoe Tavern, Toronto Rusty - Lee's Palace, Toronto Billy Bragg - The Concert Hall, Toronto The Headstones - CNE. Toronto

Wordsmiths of the year (fav lyricists) Dave Bidini (Rheostatics)

Billy Bragg Moe Berg Gord Downie Craig Northey (Odds)

Fav indie artists Salmonblaster

Duotang

"Man, these albums were lame ... " Load - Matallica

Fairweather Johnson - Hootie & The Blowfish Ridiculous trends of '96

Enough with the X-Files clones already; there's not enough truly interesting stuff "out there" to justify all the ludicrous "paranormal" shows. Overhyped artists of '96

Marilyn Manson - what's really scary is the fact that people are buying this act.

upon reflection, so what? The world neither lurched closer to its destruction, nor did it show any signs of improvement. We exist,

Fav albums of '96

The Blue Hysteria - The Rheostatics

Salmonblaster - Salmonblaster

Trainspotting - Soundtrack

Unsafe@anyspeed - Furnaceface I Feel Alright - Steve Earle

Pluto - Pluto

Love And The Great Depression - Paul Hyde

William Bloke - Billy Bragg Being There - Wilco

Odelay - Beck

Pissed Off ... With Good Reason - Subhumans Up - Great Big Sea

The Wonderful World Of ... - Pursuit Of

Happiness

Scream, Dracula, Scream - Rocket From The Crypt

Long Way Down - The Sympathy What A Life - Smoother

One Chord To Another - Sloan

Rollercoaster - Clove

Fav songs of '96

"Someone Who's Cool" - Odds

"Feed Yourself" - The Rheostatics "Summerland" - Everclear

"Cold Steel Hammer" - Big Rude Jake "The Truth" - Pursuit Of Rappiness

"Better Than Eddie Vedder" - SNFU

"Something More Besides You" - Cowboy Junkies

"Ahead By A Century" - Tragically Hip

"Big Time" - Neil Young/Crazy Horse

"The Letter" - Starkicker

"Brickbat" - Billy Bragg

"I Was Wrong " - Social Distortion

"A Long December" - Counting Crows

"The Good In Everyone" - Sloan "Dead Man Under The Car" - Robbie Rox

- Butthole Surfers

"They Got It Wrong (As Usual)" - Graham Parker

stuck in time like characters from a cheap X-Files knockoff ... waiting. For love. For meaning. For hope. But while we put in our time here we make sure to drink a cold beer now and then, see a loud band every once in a while and enjoy those around us. Cheers.

- Stephen Hulobard



go away ..."

That dude in Oasis Anyone describing their life's work as "Britpop"

Cool concerts

The Smugglers - El Mocambo, Toronto 7 Year Bitch's set at Edenfest The Sinisters - Too many good shows to

Wordsmiths of the year (fav lyricists)

R.L. Burnside Dr. Frank Jon Spencer

Fav indie artists Scratching Post

"Man, these albums were lamo . . . "

I dunno ... did Oasis/Nine Inch Nails/ 4 Non Blondes release anything this year? Ridiculous trends of '96 Voting Conservative (and/or Republican) One pant leg rolled up/one rolled down

Overhyped artists of '96 The Mike Harris government The Private Sector

go away ..."

n Doilt Hootie and the Blowfish Cool concerts

Finn Brothers/Ron Sexemith - Concest

Hall, Voronto Kiss - Skydome, Toronto Ben Polds Five - Lem's Falace, Toronto Crowded House's Faravell Show - Horseshoe

Tavern, Poronto The Polles/Treble Charger - Las's Falson,

Wordsmiths of the year (fav lyricists)

Crain Horthey (Odds) Ben Fold Rulyn Hilchecek De 11 Brits

Fav indie artists The Purmuit Of Happiness

"Man, these albums were

lame ..." Nourotic Culsider - Neurocic Outsiders

Unplugged Alice in Chains Ridiculous Trends of '96 The Comunications Decency Act

Overhyped artists of '96 New Pistols reunion

Smokin' Grooves - Kingswood Music Theatre, Maple, Ont. Bif Naked - Ultrasound, Toronto Paul Westerberg - Opera House, Toronto

Wordsmiths of the year NAS Bob Mould

Paul Westerberg Beck Nada Surf

Fav indie artists Poledo

SuperGARAGE

"Man, these albums were 1ame . . . "

A Worm's Life - Crash Test Dummies Rocket - Primitive Radio Gods I Was Higher - LoveinReverse

Ridiculous trends of '96

Kinderwhore look. Grown women with ph.Ds wearing t-shirts reading 'Barbie Doll,' bobby pins, private school kilts and fishnet kneehighs. Fashion made possible by Calvin Klein and pedophiliac Wray Budreo.

The Hari-Krishna sparkling third eye of consciousness painted between the eyes of Bif Naked, Perry Farrell and the lead singer of No Doubt. You'd think someone with three eyes would be able to see how ridiculous it looks.

Overhyped artists of '96 Alanis Morissette Oasis

Fav albums of '96

Unchained - Johnny Cash New Adventures In Hi-Fi - R.E.M. Hi My Name Is Johnny - Johnny Polonsky Secaucus - The Wrens The Blue Hysteria - Rheostatics The Pink Album - Tuscadero Fav songs of '96 "Novocaine For The Soul" - Eels "Sworn And Broken" - Screaming Trees "Ahead By A Century" - Tragically Hip "Mother Mother" - Tracy Bonham "When She Was Happy" - Pluto "Gold Dust Woman" - Hole "And the political correctness award goes to ..." Media mogul Ted Turner, for his cowardly (and so far successful) attempt to conceal David Cronenberg's Crash from an oh-so-tender American public. Hey, did amyone else hear the one about Ted, Jane Fonda, a

video camera, and a strap-on ... oh, never mind.

"Oh, would you please just go away ..." Bryan Adams, for his Kurt Cobain-ona-Paris-runway makeover. Also, anyone in Van Halen who's not David Lee Roth.

Cool concerts Johnny Cash - Irving Plaza, New York City Neil Young/Crazy Horse - Jones Beach, Long Island The Tragically Hip - Irving Plaza, NYC (3 times!) Blue Rodeo/Weeping Tile - Tramps, NYC

Wordsmiths of the year (fav lyricists) Gord Downie. Without a doubt. No one

else even comes close. Fav indie artists

GUH Venus Cures All Smallmouth

"Man, these albums were lame..."

Anything by Marilyn Manson. Say what you want about Sigue Sigue Sputnik, at least they had talent.

Ridiculous trends of '96 X-Files rip offs (hello, David Hasselhoff!) and big-budget Hollywood films that all appear to have been made without the benefit of a screenplay.

Overhyped artists of '96 A three-way tie between Madonna's baby, Pamela Anderson Lee's baby and Oasis.



Fav albums of '96 Beatles Anthology 2 - Th B tles New Adventures In Hi-Fi - R.E.M. Fever In Fever Out - Lu clou

Trainspotting - Soundteack

Macarena Non Stop - Los Del Rio

Fav songs of '96 "If It Makes You Happy" - sh Tyl

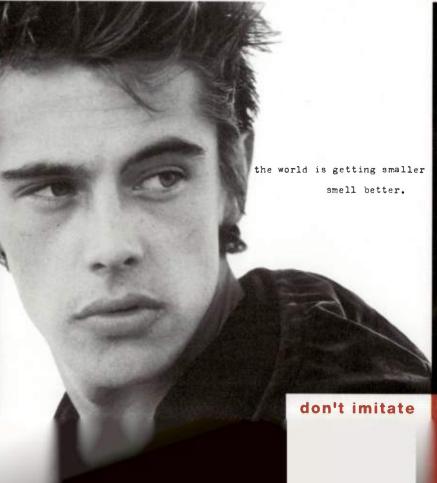
"No Diggity" - Blackstreet "Tonight Tonight" - Sm shing

"King Of New Orleans" - Better Than

"Blue" - Leann Rimes

"And the political correctness award goes

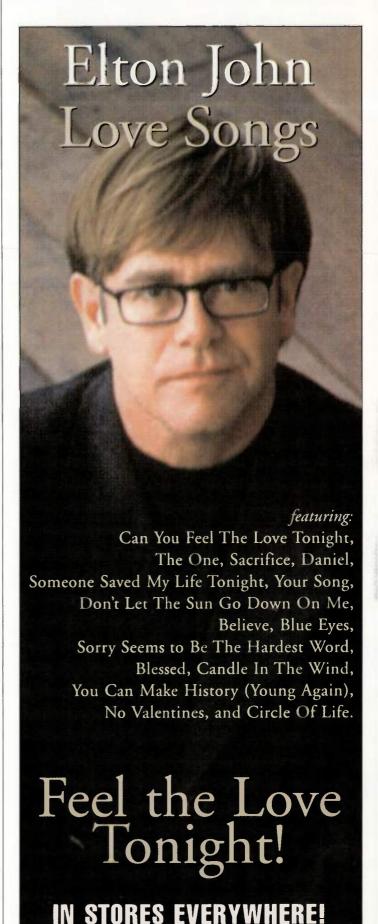
to ..." Billy Corgan for firing Jim Chamberlin

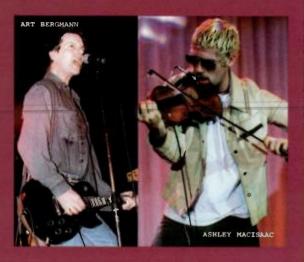




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"Oh, would you please just go away ..."
Eddie Vedder
Cool concerts
ESG - The Mudd Club, New York City, 1981
Roxy Music - Massey Hall, Toronto, 1979
New Order - Finsbury Park, London, 1988
X, Stardust - Los Angeles, 1980
Wordsmiths of the year (fav lyricists
of '96)
Gord Downie
Fav indie artists
"Man, these albums were lame..."
Down The Upside, Soundgarden
No Code, Pearl Jam
Electric Larryland - Butthole Surfers
Ridiculous trends of '96
Fiddles
Overhyped artists of '96
Goo Goo Dolls
Pearl Jam
Beck
```

Fav albums of '96 Republica - Republica Gone Again - Patti Smith Beach Music - Starkicker Between The 1 and the 9 - Patti Rothberg Cold Snap - Weeping Tile Fav songs of '96 "The Good In Everyone" - Sloan "The Playboy Interview" - Merlin "The Old Apartment" - Barenaked Ladies "Aquamarine Blue" - The Sympathy
"Misunderstood" - Wilco "And the political correctness award goes to ..." All dimwitted advocates of the V-Chip and other proposed gadgets to control violence on TV. "Oh, would you please just go away ..." Jenny Jones. And by the way, it was your fault. Cool concerts Garbage - The Opera House, Toronto Black Grape - Opera House, Toronto Cure - Edenfest Bruce Cockburn - Edmonton Folk Festival Finn Brothers - Concert Hall, Toronto Wordsmiths of the year (fav lyricists) Patti Rothbarg Ani DiFranco John Mann (Spirit Of The West) Scott Bradshaw (The Sympathy) Fav indie artists Local Rabbits Matthew Good Band "Man, these albums were lame ... " Load - Metallica Star Turtle - Harry Connick Jr. Ridiculous trends of '96 Cigar smoking Mike Harris worshipping Overhyped artists of '96 Oasis and all their bretheren - it's not like a return to the golden age of pop or punk or something important.





Fav albums of '96

New Moon Daughter - Culturators Wilson Ancestors - When Roshe Jane Dunnett and the Cuban Piano masters Two By Two (vol. 2) - Dave Young With Words Unspoken - Lynno Arrive Trio

Fav songs of '96

"Until" - Cossandre Wilson
"The Ache Of The Absence"- Renes Bound
"Portrait of a Grove" - David Wilson,
Advin Brown, Rick Hake

"And the political correctness award goes to ..."

Every U.S. city that cancelled Jane Bunnett's tour dates due to their distaste for anything Cuban.

"Oh, would you please just go away ..."

Tony E Dn.c Harry Connick J .

Cool concerts

Cassandra Wilson - Bathurst Street Theatre,

Albey Lincoln - Toronto Downtown Ja z Postival

Medeski, Hartin | bood | 1.0. Jazz Festival Hanne Borger | Glene Gould Hudlo, Toronto Ted Rosenthal | Hontreal Histro, Toronto

Wordsmiths of the year (fav lyricists)

Cassandra Wilson

Fav indie artists

Chilan Iri on

Ridiculous trends of '96 Acid juzz (the undefined category)

Page 12 photos: Marilyn Manson, Heather Nova — Bruce Lam; Nell Young — Darlene St. Louis; Page 13 photos:

Hugh Dillon, Royston Langsdon — Pat Payne;
Billy Corgan, Lunachicks — Bruce Lam;
Page 14 photols:

Runoid, Sarah McLachlan, Sloan's Chris Murphy — Bruce Lam Page 16 photos:

Art Bergmann, Ashley Macir aac — Pat Payne



MUSIC CONNECTION

Interested in music and entertainment?
Wondering what's happening across the country as well as in your own backyard? Check out the well as in your own backyard? a 2-minute syndicated Kahlúa Music Connection, a 2-minute syndicated radio feature brimming with music and entertainment news.

TOTAL HYPE: One of the most talked about films to open in a long while is Hype!, a cool documentary on the rise, growth and commercialization of the Seattle "grunge" scene of the early-'90s. What makes it more than just another social documentary is the number of key players that participated in the film, including members of Pearl Jam, Soundgarden, Mudhoney and a slew of others.



Also of historical note is the first-ever performance by Nirvana of their mega-smash "Smells Like Teen Spirit."



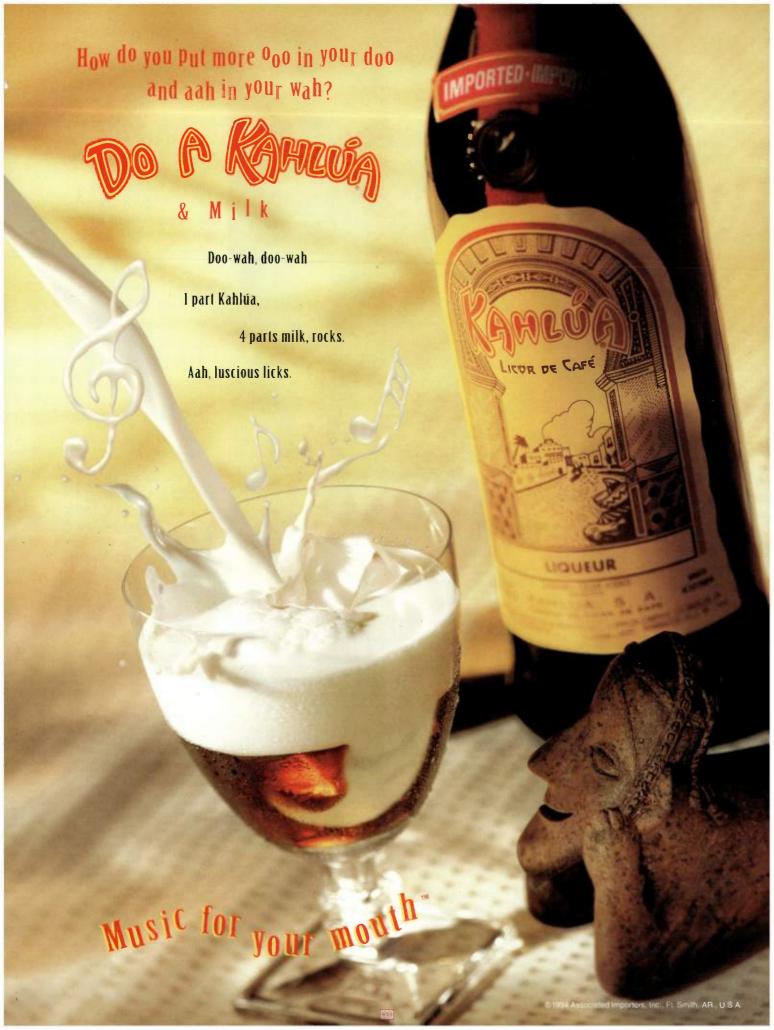
HOT STATICS: One of the most anticipated releases of the season is *The Blue Hysteria*, by Canadian rock icons the Rheostatics. Back with an indie label (Cargo), the Toronto foursome

(guitarists Martin Tielli and Dave Bidini, bassist Tim Vesely and drummer Don Kerr) shows, once again, why their unique blend of intricate harmonies, offbeat rhythms and compelling lyrics — with a definite Canadian slant — have earned them a special place in the hearts and minds of Canuck music fans. Currently, they're travelling the country opening for the Tragically Hip on their national tour.



The Kahlúa Music Connection airs in the following cities during the month of December

CITY	STATION	TIMES
Toronto	Energy 108	Wed-Sat., between 3-10 p.m.
Winnipeg	CITI-FM	ThursSat., between noon-9 p.m.
Calgary	CJAY-FM	ThursSat., between noon-p.m.
Edmonton	CKNG-FM	ThursSat., between noon-9 p.m.
Vancouver Kahlúa Club Trax	CKZZ-FM	Mon-Sat. between noon-midnight



It's not exactly the winter of '91 when the country was mired in the worst economic slowdown since the Great Depression ---but there are signs that this could be a rough one for a lot of people. Hospital beds disappearing, unemployment is still high. cutbacks of every kind are hurting a lot of people and, well, things aren't looking too rosy for the nation's hockey teams.

Thankfully, there's a new Rheostatics album to cushion the blow. But lest you think it's full of goofy odes to hockey players and the like, *The Blue Hysteria* is, perhaps, the

band's heaviest album to date. Aggressive guitars slice in and out of the mix and there's a distinct darkness to a lot of the album's songs — in other words, it's perfectly in sync with the times. Even the title suggests something ominous and threatening.

"Well, we wanted it to be a bit obtuse, so people could interpret it a lot of different ways," says guitarist/singer Dave Bidini.

When it's suggested that the title evokes images of paranoia, troubled times and the small thinking that often accompany them, guitarist/singer Martin Tielli — whose artwork once again graces the album cover — smiles and nods his head. "So far, it's evoking the



right things ... exactly what I wanted it to," he says, explaining that the image the title is based upon refers to the feeling one gets while swimming or snorkeling in deep water when the bottom isn't visible and it's easy to imagine all sorts of horror lurking in the still blue.

Whether consciously or not, the album seems to mirror the more troubling aspects of contemporary Canadian life.

From the desperation infusing bassist/singer Tim Vesely's "Bad Time To Be Poor," to the raging fury of Bidini's epic "Feed Yourself," to the unsettling imagery of Tielli's poignant ballad, "A Mid Winter Night's Dream," The Blue Hysteria is an album that resonates with an overwhelming sense of time and place. Coproduced by Vesely, drummer Don Kerr and L. Stu Young, the record, though more musically aggressive than 1994's

Introducing Happiness, still features the band's trademark time changes, intricate harmonies, irresistible melodies and, on "Four Little Songs," wonderful penchant for inspired weirdness.

If the tenor of the times informed each the album's songs, officially forsaking the suburbs for the city was the spark that ignited them. As Bidini notes, "Winter's Tale,' 'All The Same Eyes,' 'Bad Time To Be Poor,' 'Feed Yourself and, to an extent, 'Fat,' are all about city life and the environment of the city — for me, it's a real Toronto album and it reflects our experiences in the city in the same way that Melville (1992) reflected

• the city in the same way that *Melville* (1992) reflected life in the suburbs."

At the heart of the Rheostatics' music since the very beginning (1987's *Greatest Hits*) has been a pioneering spirit that fueled their desire to make an imprint on the Canadian cultural landscape. Back then they aggressively celebrated all things Canadian, proving that music about this vast and forbidding land could be cool without being cold. On The Blue Hysteria they not only continue to focus on the people, places and attitudes of this nation, they also openly acknowledge some of their musical influences.

For instance, "Bad Time To Be Poor" is "me doing Neil Young," says Tielli, in reference to the song's distinctive guitar sound. And, as Bidini gleefully notes, "An Offer" is also really Neil Youngish and in 'Four Little Songs' we make reference to Neil, and then we end it with kind of a tribute to Max Webster — another huge influence — and what's hilarious is that we didn't even realize until we'd finished that all these things were in there," he adds.

One of the most powerful moments, in an album full of them, is "Feed Yourself," as good an indictment of anti-crime paranoia as has ever been written. Told with meticulous detail, the song chronicles the night of a horrific murder — offering insights into the killer, and the girlfriend who becomes his victim — as well as the chilling aftermath in which the community demands revenge, which it ultimately gets, when the murderer is executed. However, the case causes a horrible backlash by scared citizens convinced society is falling apart: "... We've got to be safe from all the junkies who rape and all the Blacks and single mothers/ Those welfare types and those punks will run/ They'll find a rank place with the immigrant scum." By song's end the weary narrator informs us "... a girl was murdered, a boy was hung/ that was our first summer that we owned a gun."

"Well, with the Bernardo trial and the Guy Paul Morin case you could really see the kind of hysterical reaction from the public and the press ..." Bidini begins. "... And from myself," adds Tielli.

"Yeah, that's true. We all felt it," says Bidini, with a frown. "If there's any kind of political commentary there it's that I'm looking forward into the future at what Canada might be like if we continue in the direction we're going in — at least in Ontario — because the kid suspected of doing the crime would have been hanged and there would have been a proliferation of violence in our society and regular, suburban people would start buying guns," he explains.



'New pop.'

O.k., it may not be flashy or even clever but it's certainly an accurate way to describe the music of Vancouver's Odds. And, hell, I didn't come up with it.

"There seems to be a movement, that we sort of call new pop, that includes bands like Radiohead, Blur, Sloan, ourselves, Bloody Chicletts," says Guitarist/singer Steven Drake. And what constitutes new pop? "Something becomes pop the moment it's got a strong melody and that's what all these bands have in common."

That may be true, but not everybody writes songs as good as the Odds do. When it comes to combining

clever, often sardonic words with impossibly rich melodies and complex harmonies, they



something that has meaning," explains Drake. And like any good songwriting team from the Clash's Joe

have few peers. Built on the twin songwriting talents of Drake and Craig Northey, combined with the rock solid rhythm section of bassist Doug Elliott (who also contributes mellifluous background vocals) and drummer Pat Steward, the Odds' latest album, *Nest*, has been blazing a trail through radio on the strength of addictive first single "Someone Who's Cool," featuring their typically wry wordplay: "It was the suit that got me the gig/ It was the tear that got me the girl/ I'm a sheep in this wolf clothing/ I'm a picture that I'm holding/ Of someone who's cool."

Like some of their contemporaries, including Pluto and Sloan, the Odds like to mix light and dark elements in their like any good songwriting team — from the Clash's Joe Strummer and Mick Jones to Sloan's unique four-way partnership — there are distinct differences in Drake and Northey's approach to writing. "I tend to use fewer words and shorter phrases than Craig and my songs tend to be more in

songs, hence, some of their sweetest, most memorable

"Nothing Beautiful," where Craig sings: 'First I drank

melodies — the kind that my Mom would dig — conceal truly

twisted lyrics ... the kind my Mom just wouldn't get. As Drake

notes, between laughs, "Yeah, that's really fun for us, like in

insecticide/ A little more each day' to this really beautiful tune."

Although Northey and Drake don't have any axes to grind

and indeed, don't write "political" songs per se — they do

invest a lot of time in their lyrics and work hard to make them

meaningful. "For us, the lyrics are not the filler to

get you from a to b so you can listen to the

music, we really try to craft them into

be a little more descriptive," says Drake.

Elliott, for his part, thinks Northey and Drake's trademark harmonies — that made such classic tracks as "Eat My Brain," "Truth Untold" and "It Falls Apart" so memorable — are even stronger on *Nest*. "It seems to me like the vocals on this record are even more rich; they seem to use their voices a little more and in different combinations," he says.

the first person while Craig will often go into third person and



Network = 2

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Q1. Adding up all the times you pick it up to read or look at something, about how much time in TOTAL do you typically spend reading or looking through an issue of

Less than 15 minutes 15-30 minutes

46-60 minutes Over 60 min.

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31-45 minutes

Q2. About how many people, including yourself, read or look at the copy of Network

(number of people)

Q3. About how many hours of television in TOTAL do you watch in an average WEEK?

Less than 1 hour 11-15 hours 1-5 hours

6-10 hours

Q4. And, about how much time do you spend watching Much Music or Musique Plus

on TV in an average WEEK?

Less than 1 hour 11-15 hours 1-5 hours Over 15 hours

6-10 hours

Q5. About how many hours do you spend listening to the radio in an average WEEK?

11-15 hours 1-5 hours 16-20 hours

Q6. About how many hours have you spent using the internet, either at home or

somewhere else in the PAST 4 WEEKS

6-10 hours None, zero hours 11-20 hours Less than 1 hour

21-30 hours 1-5 hours Over 30 hours

Q7. With which, if any, of the following on-line services do you have an account, either your own name or shared with someone else?

(Check as many as apply)

CompuServe

Other internet service provider America On-Line (AOL)

Sympatico

SPORTS, RECREATION, SHOPPING

Gone to a concert

Fast food restaurant meals

Q8. In season, about how often do you participate in the following sports or recreation activities?

Regularly Sometimes \Box Bicyclina Racquet sports Snow Boarding/

Downhill Skiing Rollerblading

Sailing/Windsurfing Hiking/Camping

in the PAST 4 WEEKS? Q9. About, how many times ha None 1-2 5 or more

Gone to a movie Rented a video

Q10. Approximately, on how many SEPARATE occasions have you, yourself, PURCHASED any of the following items in the PAST 7 DAYS?

Regular soft drinks Diet soft drinks Potato chips (including

corn chips etc.) Chocolate or candy bars

Q11. How many bottles, cans, glasses or mixed drinks of the following did you drink in the PAST 7 DAYS, either at home or somewhere else?

	None	1 to 3	4 10 6	7 10 9	10 or more
Beer					
Gin					
Rum					

Vodka Whiskey (any type)

continues over >

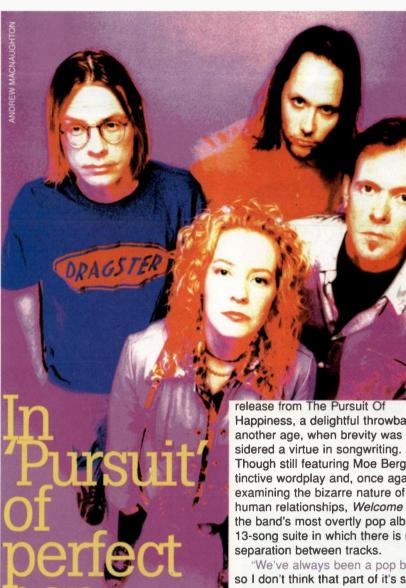
Wine

Q12. Approximately, on how m PURCHASED any of the follow			Q17. Which ONE of the following is your PRINCIPAL financial institution? (Check one only) Bank of Montreal Scotiabank Canada Trust TD Bank	
Colognes/perfumes				
Skin care products			CIBC Royal Bank Cother	
Shampoo			Q18. Which, if any, of the following cards do you have, either that you, yourself own, or have jointly with someone else? (Check as many as apply)	
Other hair care products (e.g. Gel, Mousse etc.)			Card You Have Yourself Own Jointly	
Men's clothing			Visa (any)	
Women's clothing			Mastercard (any)	
Shoes (any type)			American Express (any)	
Computer Software excluding games			Department or other store credit card	
Computer games or cartridges			Other credit card	
Q13. Which of the following po	roducts do vou own or do	you intend to buy in the next	Automatic teller card (ATM)	
2 years? (Check all that apply)		Buy in Next Two Years	Long distance calling card	
Car/truck/van			ABOUT YOU	
Walkman/portable stereo			Q19. In which age group are you?	
Desktop computer			Under 18	
Notebook computer			Q20. Again, thinking only about where you're living now, what was the approximate	
Cellular phone			TOTAL combined income of all members of your HOUSEHOLD before tax from all sources in the past 12 MONTHS?	
Home stereo equipment			(Include all sources of income: job, student loan/grant, loan or gift from relative, etc.)	
Video game system (e.g. Sega, Nintendo)			Under \$10,000 \$40,000 to \$49,999	
Pager			\$10,000 to \$19,999 \$50,000 to \$59,999	
Q14. About how many pre-rec		sette tapes combined have	\$20,000 to \$29,999 \$60,000 to \$69,999	
you, yourself, bought in the p			\$30,000 to \$39,999 \$70,000 or more	
□ None □ 1 to 2 □	3 to 4 5 or mo	re	Q21. What was your approximate TOTAL PERSONAL income before tax from all	
LONG DISTANCE PHONE CAL			sources in the past 12 MONTHS? (Include all sources of income: job, student loan/grant, loan or gift from relative, etc.)	
Q15. Excluding the regular months which did you, yourself, see PAST 4 WEEKS?			Under \$5,000 \$20,000 to \$24,999	
Nothing	\$26 to \$50	to \$15	\$5,000 to \$9,999 \$25,000 to \$29,999	
\$51 to \$75		ore than \$75	\$10,000 to \$14,999 \$30,000 or more	
Q16. Which ONE of the follow (Check one only)			\$15,000 to \$14,999	
AT&T/Unitel	Sprint Be	ell Canada (Ontario and Quebec)	Q22. Are you	
Other supplier	Provincial phone company		Male Female	
	,			

FOLD

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Technology's a weird thing. Seems every time something comes along that's supposed to be a major advancement, there's a reaction against it. In the music biz, the advent of CD technology meant that artists could extend single albums to lengths that, in the past, were unimaginable. Thus, the 70-minute album — often containing sub-standard material that wouldn't have made the cut in the old 45-minute days - was born. Lately, however, artists are starting to turn the clock back to the days when listening to an album didn't require a large chunk of your day.

A case in point is Welcome To The Wonderful World Of ..., the latest

Happiness, a delightful throwback to another age, when brevity was con-Though still featuring Moe Berg's distinctive wordplay and, once again examining the bizarre nature of human relationships, Welcome is the band's most overtly pop album; a 13-song suite in which there is no

We've always been a pop band so I don't think that part of it's so unusual, although we may have leaned a little more in that direction this time because it made sense the idea behind the record was that it was kind of like one long song and because the template for those kind of records was classic pop music, like the second side of Abbey Road," he explains.

And though long-time fans of the band (which includes quitarist Kris Abbott, bassist Brad Barker and drummer Dave Gilby) may assume the title is drenched in irony, it's actually a fair representation of Berg's approach to this album. "Well, it definitely is our most upbeat album ever - lyrically and musically - but, as in most things in life, it starts off quite positive and tends to get worse as it goes along," he says.

Indeed, to suggest that Welcome contains nothing but lightweight pop would be to commit a grave disser-

By Stephen Hubbard

vice to Berg's clever, often blunt, observations on romance, love and sex — and the politics that always seem to fuck them up. "The Truth," the album's closing cut, is a hilarious and remarkably accurate depiction of a relationship in shambles and the accompanying analysis and assignment of blame that inevitably follow. It's also the album's funniest track as the pissed-off protagonist declares: "You're not smart enough for Shakespeare/ But hip enough to think Merchant of Venice is racist ... so now that the truth's come out/ I hated you first/ You say you hate me now/ But baby, I hated you first."

Other tracks, like the aggressive first single, "She's The Devil," and the straight-ahead "Hate Engine" also offer a cynical view of love, while songs like the catchy, Beatlesque "Tara" and the bouncy "I'm Just Happy To Be Here," take a more positive tact. But whatever the sentiment, it's expressed (with a couple of exceptions) in under three minutes, and frequently in less than two.

'The reality of today's world is that I think most people just aren't going to make it through these 70minute albums in one sitting; they'll hear the first six songs 20 times and the last six a few times, so the idea with this record was to format it so that a person could listen to the entire thing in one sitting," says Berg, flashing a smile, "and since it's just over a half an hour it's definitely something people can get through without much effort."

Warm, articulate and funny, Berg seems a lot less neurotic than the protagonists in his songs: geeks perpetually searching for answers to the mysteries of love. And though some people think his persona — that of a nerdy guy who still finds it hard to talk to girls — is an affectation, Berg's genuinely grappling with and enthralled by the complicated nature of the male-female dynamic.

"Interaction between the sexes is a game, there's a weird set of rules that men and women follow. Basically, the rules are don't act like yourself, act in a way that you think the other person will respond to ... I've got into incredible difficulty in my life just trying to act like myself and express my real feelings."

ALL WAYS CANADIAN



Greatest Hits 1986-1996
BARNEY BENTALL AND THE
LEGENDARY HEARTS
Sony

This greatest hits album contains over 70 minutes of music and includes 17 selections which cover Barney Bentall's entire recording career. Included is a brand new song, "Be Inside Of You" which will be a single in the new year.



Radically Canadian Dance VARIOUS Quality

Quality Music in cooperation with the CFL score a major touchdown with Radically Canadian Dance. From Juno-winning Capital Sound to MuchMusic's #1 dance act, BKS, to Canada's divas of dance, Emjay, Solina, Maria Lisa and Deeva (aka Sherrie J-Cock), Radically Canadian delivers over 70 minutes of the very best dance music that Canada has to offer and some of the best the world has ever



A Christmas Cocktail
JAYMZ BEE & THE ROYAL JELLY
ORCHESTRA
BMG

A tasty candy-cane concoction, this collection harkens back to swingin' Christmases past, spiced up with spaceage-style new tunes. Must-hears: Crooner Tim Tamashiro's wise-ass version of "Rudolph" and the new/retro "It's Christmas Time (Oh Yeah)." Cocktail king Jaymz Bee presides over all.



Kissing Rain ROCH VOISINE BMG

"Kissing Rain" ... is the long-awaited album from Roch Voisine. What can fans expect? Roch at his best! The 15 new songs are 60+ minutes of pure listening pleasure.



Rap*Essentials* Volume One VARIOUS

BeatFactory Music Inc.

BeatFactory Music entered the scene just two short months ago and is already making power moves. They have met the challenge with their first release, RapEssentials Volume One. Packed with "lyrical scud missiles," RapEssentials Volume One is a compilation of 12 hip hop artists including two-time Juno winners Ghetto Concept, Vancouver's Rascalz, Choclair and others. Watch for RapEssentials The Tour across Canada in December.



Pluto PLUTO Virgin

Pluto's self-titled debut hit the pop stratosphere flying! Their hits "Paste," "When She Was Happy" and "Black Lipstick" have continued to prove their rocketing success as the galaxy's foremost pop band!



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With a sound that swings effortlessly from honky tonk to soul-tinged pop to beautiful, melodic folk, this is the album that should propel her away from the cowboy hat set and push her directly toward the pop mainstream. — s.b.

Love And The Great Depression PAUL HYDE

Page

He may have gone six years between albums, but Paul Hyde deserves to be heard. The former leader of the Payola\$ has, on Love And The Great Depression, fashioned an album of great depth. featuring enough hooks, genuine anger and memorable melodies to satisfy any lazy radio programmer. And while Hyde eschews musical muscle for a more subtle, textured approach, his pen is still razor sharp. "Pie Eyed," with its mock country verses and aggressive refrain, is a savage attack on sleazy Vegas show biz types while "Started Smoking Again" paints a powerful picture of unrelenting melancholy: "There's a dead crow, lying in the fag end gutter/ The smell of cordite, and my mind's in such a clutter/ There's a cold rain falling from a starling spattered sky/ The willows are all weeping, the fallen angels cry." With its shimmering music and world-weary sentiments. Love And The Great Depression is like a silver cloud with a dark lining it's compellingly bleak. You simply must hear it. - s.h.



A Place In The World MARY CHAPIN CARPENTER Sony

She may still be described as a country singer, but Mary Chapin Carpenter shows, on *A Place In The World*, that she's far more than that.



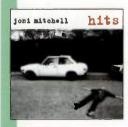
Pissed Off ... With Good Reason! SUBHUMANS EMI

Dripping with the kind of pure vitriol any good punk band has to have, this collection of the Subhumans' finest recorded moments shows why the Vancouver legends must figure prominently in any history of West Coast Punk.

With 24 tracks spanning the years 1978-1983 (plus a few live tracks from recent reunion gigs) *Pissed Off* is a treasure-trove of well-directed anger, caustic humour and, more than anything, pure punk energy.

Raw and melodic, political and funny, this is a vital addition to the growing number of reissues and collections that are slowly filling in the history of what was one of the most dynamic periods in the history of Canadian music.

Standout songs include "Firing Squad," "Slave To My Dick" and "Death To The Sickoids." — s.h.

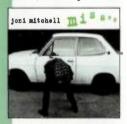


Hits/Misses JONI MITCHELL Warner

My parents were big Joni Mitchell fans. They saw her play at Yorkville

grooves grooves

coffee houses (in Toronto) in the '60s; named our cat after one of her songs ("Sisotobel Lane"), and even sang me to sleep with "The Circle Game." I feel like I knew Mitchell by osmosis before I'd ever heard her sing a note. The incredible thing about the two-disc Hits and Misses collection is that while the former collects all her greatest pop singles and the latter paints an expressive portrait of Joni, the uncompromising artiste (by which time my parents had long tuned out), it still feels strangely incomplete. Divorced from their conceptual album settings, the wonderful string of classics ("Raised On Robbery." "Carey," "River") that make up Hits surprisingly lack any true cohesion. And the jazzy, difficult music of Misses, with song titles like "The



Magdalene Laundries," doesn't push the envelope far enough to include her strange collaborations with the likes of Billy Idol and Willie Nelson (both from *Chalk Mark In A Rain Storm*).

But maybe that's as it should be.
Weird and frustrating, brilliant and varied, fascinating for all their flaws, this pair of albums nevertheless reflect back on their eccentric creator like colliding images in a shattered, spider-webbed mirror. — c.s.



Autobiography Of Mistachuck CHUCK D PGS

After a promising start, with the simple but powerful throwdown, "Mistachuck," Chuck D's first post-Public Enemy album takes a nose dive. Mixing mildly funky jams and R & B-inspired hip hop, Autobiography

is a disappointing bore. It's not a bad album, it's just not equal to D's status as one the most important writers and performers in rap history. — f.l.



Happily Ever After ROSE CHRONICLES Nettwerk

Ironically-titled albums don't always work. Sometimes they're simply an attempt to inject humour into an otherwise weak record. Fortunately, that's not the case on this fine album from Vancouver's Rose Chronicles. Dense and airy, heavy and melodic, Happily Ever After is a hard album to describe. With a sound that includes pounding rhythms, slicing guitar and ethereal vocals, the Rose Chronicles belong in the same family as the Cranberries and Ottawa sound merchants Sully: part pop, part aggressive rock, with intricate, gorgeous vocals. A rare treat. - w.p.



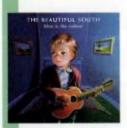
Lamb LAMB PGS

With a BPM rate too high for triphop, this Manchester pair's debut swings like dark, obsessive techno strung through with equal parts Nina Simone and Bartok. Uncoiling languorously, Lamb's conflicting (and conflicted) emotions turn this into a great make-out record for hyperactives. — c.s.

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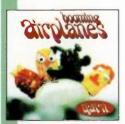






Blue Is The Colour THE BEAUTIFUL SOUTH PGS

With a well-deserved reputation as one of the best pop bands in recent memory, the release of a new Beautiful South album is a major event - at least, it usually is. As one who would normally run through a burning building to spread the word on this band, Blue Is The Colour is a mild disappointment. Actually, half of it is a disappointment. The writing is as clever, the sentiments as wonderfully acidic as ever, with the band's trademark irony, sarcasm, and pure anger in full display, but, unfortunately, the songs just don't stand up to repeated listens. Musically, most of the tracks on Blue Is The Colour are annoyingly uninteresting and devoid of the quirky twists and turns that made so much of the band's earlier work truly brilliant. Certainly worth a listen for long-



work, - s.h.

time fans, but far from their best

Yarn BOOMING AIRPLANES Latitude/EMI

Dartmouth, Nova Scotia's Booming Airplanes float up like a perfect summer day soap bubble: shimmery and beautiful, but also empty and lacking any real edge. If I were an American, I'd make a crack about how the band's sound reflected their homeland; y'know, pleasant and non-descript. As it is, I'm a proud Canadian, and *Yarn* is pleasant and non-descript all the same. — c.s.



Let There Be Peace On Earth ALMETA SPEAKS

Among the cavalcade of Christmas releases this year is this deeply soulful disc from Almeta Speaks. The North Carolina-born, Toronto-based jazz and blues singer offers, on *Let There Be Peace On Earth*, stirring renditions of a host of seasonal gems, including "The Christmas Song," "O Christmas Tree" and "Merry Christmas Baby." Her gospel-drenched version of "Silent Night" is truly inspirational and showcases her powerful, emotional voice to great effect. — s.h.



Hard Core Logo HARD CORE LOGO BMG

Sure, it's hard to ignore the novelty aspect of this album - a mock tribute to a band that never existed but when you set that distracting fact aside, what you're left with is a pretty cool record. What makes Hard Core Logo work is the chance to hear bands performing unencumbered by past reputations, expectations or stylistic restrictions. Thus, we get to hear what Pursuit Of Happiness would sound like if Moe Berg were less dysfunctional and more angry ("Edmonton Blockheater"); the Odds ripping through a song like they were hardcore headbangers instead of pop kings ("Pipefitters Clubhouse"); and The Super Friendz sounding as chunky as musical weight lifters ("Blue Tattoo"). Essentially, Hard Core Logo is like a

sampler of cool Canadian bands screwing around in their rehearsal spaces, covering their favourite punk songs and having a good time. — c.m.

grooves grooves



Ozzy hHead Handsome Boy

The third release from these Toronto indie rockers is a spirited collection of guitar-pop that alternates between the heavy ("Want") the melodic ("Flipped," "Apartment," "Teasing") and the atmospheric ("Cockeyed)"). With a whack of potential singles here, these guys could break big-time next year and deservedly so — they manage to find ways to take what are essentially straight-ahead pop songs and twist them in interesting new directions. — w.p.



Recovering the Satellites COUNTING CROWS MCA

Talk about pressure. The surprise success of the Crows' first disc, August And Everything After, left many wondering whether these guys could follow it up with an album that was half as successful and half as good. The commercial side of the equation remains to be seen, but musically, they did their part. Recovering The Satellites is as good a sophomore release as anyone could have anticipated. Not only does it reprise the fine melodic structures and compelling vocals that characterized August, it ups the ante. In fact, much of this album is far

vocals that characterized *August*, it ups the ante. In fact, much of this album is far more aggressive than you'd expect. Not content to remain staples of adult-oriented radio, the Crows rock out for a good chunk of *Satellites*, and they wear it well.

But, on tracks like the gorgeous "A Long December," they also prove they can still write beautiful, heartwrenching ballads. — c.m.



Teenage Head
TEENAGE HEAD
Other Peoples Music

Another key reissue, this debut album from Hamilton, Ontario's Teenage Head, is available on CD for the first time.

Recorded, for the most part, in 1978, this record was one of the first Canadian albums to revel in its gloriously lo-fi sound. In fact, most rockers and metalheads at the time thought it sounded just plain shitty: all treble, sloppy guitar and paintcan drum sounds. Of course, those seeking an alternative to the boring rock of the time, loved it. It wasn't exactly punk — and Teenage Head never claimed to be punks — but it was wonderfully grungy garage rock that was dripping with attitude, anger and humour.

An added bonus for long-time fans of "Canada's best party band" is the inclusion of some alternate versions of Heads' classics and the earliest known recording of "Disgusteen," which eventually appeared on the band's 1980 Frantic City album. — s.h.



Fyulaba SNFU Epitaph

Vancouver-via-Edmonton punk legends regain their form on this, their latest album since reuniting a few years ago.

Angry without being pedantic, aggressive without forsaking melody, SNFU, on *Fyulaba*, manages to find the elusive balance that a lot of heavy bands just can't grasp. Sure, they're plssed off about stuff, but they're smart enough to know that humour is one of the greatest weapons in the human arsenal. — s.h.

new re			d	6		•
TITLE	ARTIST	LABEL	TITLE	ARTIST	LABEL	
RAD						
ULTIMATE SOUL COLL.	VARIOUS	WARNER	MTV PARTY TO GO RADICALLY CDN. DANCE AROUND THE WORLD	VARIOUS Various East 17	QUALITY QUALITY PGS	
GREATEST HITS GREATEST HITS	ZAPP/ROGER BEBE/CECE WINANS	WARNER EMI				
HOUSE OF MUSIC	TONY TONI TONE	PGS	CHUNTRY			
THE DAY THE BACHELOR	BABYFACE GINUWINE	SONY Sony	UNCHAINED	JOHNNY CASH	WARNER	
SUMMER JAM II	VARIOUS	ISLAND	GIRLS WILL BE GIRLS BEST OF AUSTIN CITYLIMITS	FARMER'S DAUGHTER Various	MCA Sony	
TAKE YOUR TIME NO DOUBT	DAY TA DAY 702	MCA PGS	THE TRUTH	BRADY SEALS	WARNER	
BEST OF	CHAKA KHAN	WARNER	LIVE AT ADAIRS GREATEST HITS	JACK INGRAM MARK CHESNUTT	MCA MCA	
WHAT'S GOING ON DEFINITION OF A BAND	MARVIN GAYE MINT CONDITION	PGS PGS	PLATINUM COUNTRY	VARIOUS	MCA	
DET THE TOTAL OF A BAND	MINI CONDITION	rus	TODAY'S COUNTRY DANCE HEARTS WERE BOUND	VARIOUS KC JONES	MCA INDIE	
POPROCK			THE LONGEST TRAIN	CHARLIE LOUVIN	WARNER	
r or introd			DID I SHAVE MY LEGS MAKIN HAY	DEANNA CARTER FARMER'S DAUGHTER	EMI MCA	
NEW YORK CITY GETOUTTA DODGE	DEMICS HUEVOS BANCHEROS	INDIE	WHAT IF IT'S YOU	REBA MCENTIRE	MCA	
KIND HEARTED WOMAN	HUEVOS RANCHEROS MICHELLE SHOCKED	MINT BMG	JUST THE SAME ONE RIDES IN VEGAS	TERRI CLARK DERYL DODD	PGS	
TEENAGE HEAD	TEENAGE HEAD	INDIE		DENTE DODD	SONY	
EMANCIPATION DC TALK	PRINCE Jesus Freak	EMI EMI	RAP			
RETROSPECTIVE	TIL TUESDAY	SONY	TRUTH CRUSHED	HOUSE OF PAIN	MCA	
ROCK SPECTACLE NEST	BARENAKED LADIES ODDS	WARNER Warner	THA DOGFATHER	SNOOP DOGGY DOG	MCA	
GOOD ACOUSTICS	FIREHOUSE	SONY	T.H.U.G.S. MUDDY WATERS	FLESH & BONE Redman	PGS PGS	
HOOTERIZATION/BEST OF EARLY RECORDINGS	HOOTERS Joan Osborne	SONY PGS	SEASONED VETERAN	RICHIE RICH	PGS	
300 % ROCK	VARIOUS	QUALITY	DA STORM WESTSIDE CONNECTION	O.G.C. Westside Connection	EMI EMI	
VISION OF DISORDER Best of	VISION OF DISORDER MOODY BLUES	MCA	THE DON KILLUMINATE	2PAC	MCA	V
STAR 69	STAR 69	PGS MCA	THA HALL OF FAME	E-40 FOXY BROWN	BMG PGS	
BEST OF THE EASTER TAPES	BOW WOW WOW	BMG	FIRING SQUAD	M.O.P.	SONY	
TOPOLINO	STEVE GOODMAN Lush	BMG PGS	INDESTRUCTIBLE DEATH ROW/HITS	REIGN Various	PGS	
RIGHT TO SING THE BLUES	LONG JOHN BALDRY	WARNER	KOOL DJ RED ALERT	DJ RED ALERT	MCA MCA	
BLEND 18 BIG ONES	BODEANS Dramarama	WARNER WARNER	IRONMAN	GHOSTFACE KILLAH	SONY	
LIFE IS PEACHY	KORN	SONY	BEAT FACTORY/ESSENTIALS	VARIOUS	EMI	
WISEBLOOD BLUE IS THE COLOUR	CORROSION/CONFORMITY BEAUTIFUL SOUTH	SONY PGS	JA7Z			-
SECOND SKIN	GHOSTWRITERS	PGS	BEST OF	JUNE CHRISTY	EMI	
DEEP FANTASTIC BLUE FORTUNE COOKIE	DARDEN SMITH New World Spirits	MCA MCA	VOCAL CLASSICS/47-50	NAT KING COLE TRIO	EMI	
AEROPLANE FLIES HIGH	SMASHING PUMPKINS	EMI	HOT JAZZ Best of	VARIOUS Tony Williams	EMI	
NICO Fever in. Fever out	BLIND MELON Lucious Jackson	EMI EMI	COME A LITTLE BIT CLOSER	ETTA JAMES	MCA	
OUT OF BOUNDS	NO FUN AT ALL	CARGO	FREE FLIGHT QUARTET	BIG BAND PAT METHENY	PAGE MCA	
THE BLUE HYSTERIA OTTAWA SPEEDWAY	RHEOSTATICS Various	CARGO CARGO	2 PIANOS, NO WAITING	CUSNIE, RILEY, BESEN	INDIE	
LOS ANGLES/WILD GIFT	X	PGS	BEST OF This is jazz # 20	AL JARREAU Sarah Vaughn	WARNER SONY	
ENZSO Carnegie Hall	ENZSO Carole King	SONY SONY	BODY AND SOUL	BRAUN, BRAUN	WARNER	
LIVE/ISLE OF WRIGHT	WHO	SONY	A COLLECTION PLAYS PIAZZOLLA	CYRUS CHESTNUT AL DIMEOLA	WARNER WARNER	
ORGANIC STEPPING OUT TOMORROW	JOE COCKER Mersey	SONY PAGE	BEST OF	BOBBY MCFERRIN	EMI	
RACE	RACE	PAGE	BLUFS	N°E		
311 MAMA TOLD ME	311 Various	PGS PGS	105 17 015 00 00			
ONE MORE FOR THE ROAD	LYNYRD SKYNYRD	MCA	LIVE AT CAFE GO GO CONFESSIN' THE BLUES	JOHN LEE HOOKER LITTLE WALTER	MCA MCA	
WHO ARE YOU WHO BY NUMBERS	WHO WHO	MCA MCA	ELECTRIC MUD	MUDDY WATERS	MCA	
TEN EASY PIECES	JIMMY WEBB	EMI	SOU DTRACK SHOWS			
FINEST Lenni Jabour	FINE YOUNG CANNIBALS LENNI JABOUR	MCA PAGE				
RAXORBLADE SUITCASE	BUSH X	MCA	BEAVIS/BUTT-HEAD DO U.S. Ridicule	VARIOUS OST	MCA PGS	
COMING UP CHANGE NO CHANGE	SUEDE Elliot Easton	SONY	PARTYOF FIVE	VARIOUS	WARNER	
IF WE FALL IN LOVE	ROD STEWART	WARNER WARNER	SPACE JAM EVITA	OST Madonna	WARNER WARNER	
BEING THERE DRIVE	WILCO Spirits	WARNER	2001 SPACE ODYSSEY	WARNER	WARNER	
FISHBONE 101	FISHBONE	PGS Sony	THE PREACHER'S WIFE HARD CORE LOGO	OST Various	BMG BMG	
DANCE			THE FUNERAL	OST	BMG	
			CRASH THE ASSOCIATE	T20 T20	BMG PGS	
PRE-MILLENNIUM TENSION House Mix	TRICKY Various	PGS	ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER	VARIOUS	MCA	
QUEEN DANCE TRAXX	VARIOUS	WARNER EMI	DAYLIGHT GLORY DAZE	OST OST	MCA CARGO	
ALL THEIR BEST DIGGIN' IN THE VAULTS	FUN FACTORY BLACK MOON	MCA	SWANN	OST	SONY	
THIS IS CLUB ANTHEMS	VARIOUS	CARGO Cargo	CLASSICAL PERFORMER			
TRANSATLANTIC MOVE	VARIOUS	CARGO	Section and Control of the Control			



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Various Big Shiny Tunes



Bob Marley Soul Almighty: The Formative Years vol. 1

This Collector's Item contains previously unreleased material highlighting the formative years (1967-1972) of the King of Reggae. People Magazine says, "...as this collection of gems attests, Marley was sowing the seeds of greatness." Stop by Sam's and fill out a ballot to win a trip for two (2) to Jamaica. And do it soon contest closes Dec. 18th, 1996.







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CHARTS

1	SOUNDTRACK		6	SOUNDTRACK	
'	The Preacher's Wife	BMG	7	Space Jams VARIOUS	Warner
2	CELINE DION	5,	- 1	Death Row Greatest Hits	MCA
	Falling Into You	Sony	8	L. L. COOL J	MON
3	VAN HALEN			Greatest Hits	PGS
4	Greatest Hits SHERYL CROW	Warner	9	NAS	
7	Sheryl Crow	PGS	10	It Was Written WESTSIDE CONNECTION	Sony
5	NIRVANA		10	Bow Down	EMI
	From The Muddy Banks	MCA		Bon Bonni	Livii
6	NO DOUBT			AZZ	
7	Tragic Kingdom TOOL	MCA	1	VARIOUS A Night Out With Verve	Verve
′	Aenima	BMG	2	VARIOUS	Verve
8	MARILYN MANSON	Divid		Body & Soul	BMG
	Antichrist Superstar	MCA	3	KENNY G	
9	R.E.M.		4	The Moment VARIOUS	MCA
10	New Adventures in Hi-Fi BUSH X	Warner	4	Jazz Round The Clock	PGS
10	Razorblade Suitcase	MCA	5	HOLLY COLE	, 40
11	SOUNDTRACK	WIOA		It Happened One Night	EMI
	Space Jams	Warner	6	DE LUCIA/DI MEOLA/MCL	
12	ROD STEWART		-,	The Guitar Trio	PGS
	If We Fall In Love Tonight	Warner	7	GROVER WASHINGTON Souful Strut	Sony
13	MADONNA Evita	144-	8	JOE HENDERSON	Sony
14	AMANDA MARSHALL	Warner		Big Band	PGS
'7	Amanda Marshali	Sony	9	ROB MCCONNELL/BRAS	S
15	ALANIS MORISSETTE	Comy		Even Cdns. Get Blues	PGS
	Jagged Little Pill	Warner	10	CUSNIE/RILEY/BESEN	6.0
16	I MOTHER EARTH			Two Pianos No Waiting	Indie
	Scenery & Fish	EMI	_	LTERNATIVE	
17	PHIL COLLINS Dance Into The Light	Warner	1	BUSH X	
18	CELINE DION	warner		Razorblade Suitcase.	MCA
	Live In Paris	Sony	2	TOOL	DMC
19	SOUNDTRACK		3	Aenima NIRVANA	BMG
	Mirror Has Two Face	Sony		From The Muddy Banks	· MCA
20	COUNTING CROWS	1404	4	MARILYN MANSON	
	Recovering The Satellites	MCA		Antichrist Superstar	MCA
	OUNTRY		5	SOCIAL DISTORTION White Light/White Heat	C
1	LEANN RIMES Blue	EMI	6	I MOTHER EARTH	Sony
2	PAUL BRANDT	EIVII	Ü	Scenery & Fish	EMI
_	Calm Before The Storm	Warner	7	GARBAGE	
3	CLINT BLACK			Garbage	MCA
	Greatest Hits	BMG	8	PHISH	144
4	A PLACE IN THE WORLD	0	9	Billy Breathes PJ HARVEY/JOHN PARIS	Warner
5	Mary Chapin Carpenter PATTY LOVELESS	Sony	ŭ	Dance Hall/Louse Point	PGS
	Trouble With The Truth	MCA	10	VARIOUS	
6	PRAIRIE OYSTER			Retro Night	Warner
	Blue Plate Special	BMG		CARLOS MORGAN	
7	MINDY MCCREADY	D1:0		Feelin' Alright	Indie
8	Ten Thousand Angels TRACY BYRD	BMG	2	VARIOUS	
U	Big Love	MCA		More Of Our Stupid Noise	Outside
9	DEANA CARTER	WOX	3	SLOWBURN	
	Did I Shave My Legs	EMI	4	Slowbourn Ha KINNIE STAR	ndsome Boy
10	THE BEACH BOYS		*	Tidy	Indie
	Stars And Stripes	PGS	5	KNOCKOUT PILL	maic
	BBAH			Can I Open	Indie
1	SNOOP DOGGY DOG		6	VEDA HILLE	
2	Tha Dogfather	MCA	7	Spine	Page
2	The Don Killuminate	MCA	7	HAYDEN Everything I Long For	Sonic Unyon
3	SOUNDTRACK	MOA	8	HUGH MARSH	John Onyon
	Set It Off	Warner		Songs For My Mother	Indie
4	KEITH SWEAT		9	SUGARPUSH	
-	Keith Sweat	Warner		Glib	Indie
5	BLACKSTREET Another Level	MCA	10	EMBER SWIFT Ember Swift	lm dia
	THOUSE LOVE	MOM		Linder Switt	Indie

MOVIE SALES	1/1	OV	* 400	SA	LES
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1	Toy Story	Disney
2	Wallace/Gromit Box	Fox
3	To Die For	Columbia
4	Giant	Warner
5	Pinocchio	Alliance
6	Pride & Prejudice	A & E
7	Lloyd's Of London	Fox
8	James/Giant Peach	Disney
9	E.T.	MCA
10	Twister	Warner

SAM THE INTERACTIVE MAN'S TOP 10

1	NHL 97	GEN
2	Tekken 2	PSX
3	Quake	PC
4	Resident Evil	PSX
5	Super Mario 64	N64
6	Warcraft II	PC
7	NHL 97	PC
8	Super Mario RPG	SNES
9	Civilization II	PC
10	Donkey Kong Country 2	SNES



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BMG

... And now for something completely different: Lounge music. Or, as it's officially known, cocktail. This fine collection — put together by well-renowned gadfly, party host and cocktail connoisseur Jaymz Bee — features lounge versions of classic Canadian pop songs. From Men Without Hats' "The Safety Dance" to

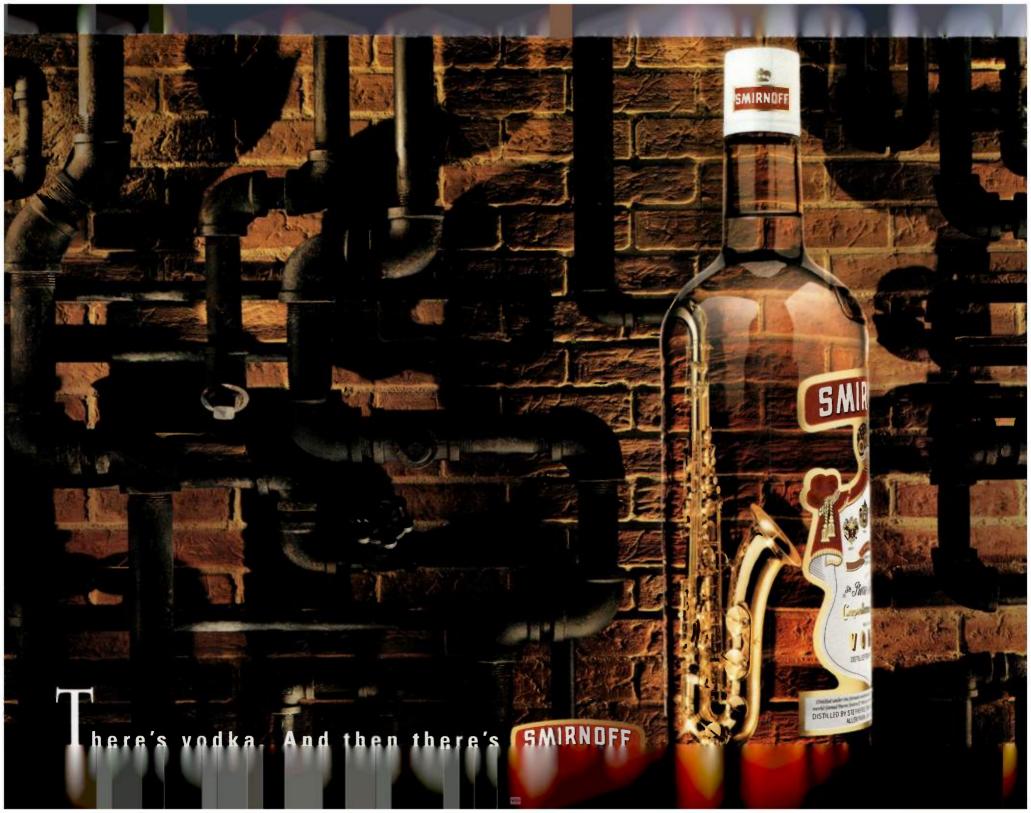


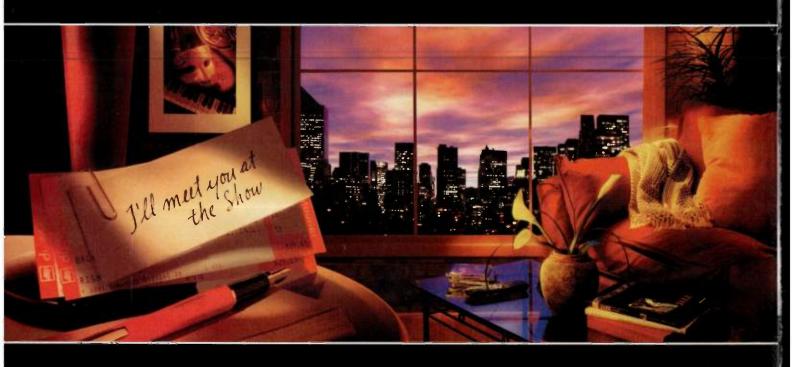
Corey Hart's
"Sunglasses At
Night" to Bryan
Adams' "Run To
You," they're all
here.

With different singers on every track, and swingin', 1960sera Vegas treatments of

these well-known hits, there's something here for everyone; well, everyone who enjoys coming home from work and slipping out of their day clothes into a dry martini. Other covers of note include "You Oughta Know," "American Woman" and "Superman's Song."

A rare treat for trivia buffs is Robbie Rox's version of that '60s biker classic, "Born To Be Wild." Rox, one of the strangest singers to ever emerge from Canada, has been making cool music for 25 years now and is due to have a new album out this year.





THE ARTS AS SEEN BY



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