

THE FLY

Wow, now these guys have a new album coming out, what a year! U2's new single is the work of a drastically changed band: Bono whispers through the song in a manner similar to that of the Manchester bands (Happy Mondays, the Stone Roses, etc.), The Edge's guitar sounds like Hendrix in a bad mood and the drums sound like they jumped off a Sisters of Mercy album. Lyrically "The Fly" is quite similar to Leonard Cohen's "Everybody Knows" using "it's no secret" in the place of "everybody knows". This is pretty forceful stuff, far more intense than most heavy metal. I hate this video, then again I hate videos. By the way, is Bono a dead ringer for Perry Farrell now, or am I nuts (you can only pick one), I'm not quite sure what to make of this: the canned drums could either indicate experimentation or sell out, the powerful sound real anger or just hard rock posing and the whispered vocals subtle intensity or just more posing. I'll go with the first choice in all cases until I'm proven wrong. This is THE band, folks- the one with the most potential, the "best". I await their latest with open ears, and "The Fly" only heightens my anticipation.

Kirby Ferguson



"Diamonds and Pearls" - Prince and the New Power Generation- (Paisley Park/Warner Bros.)

The latest from Prince, "Diamonds and Pearls", is to Graffiti Bridge what Lovesexy was to Sign o' the Times; a solid, entertaining album that repeats the pleasures of its predecessor. Diamonds and Pearls, which has a neat-o cover in which you can actually see the shape of Prince's hair (the thrills never stop from this guy), is a very fun, entertaining little album. This music is incredibly tight and dynamic; Prince's syncopation is always amazing. He's obviously been heavily influenced by rap, and while the raps aren't riveting, he has a keen understanding of what makes rap great. There's filler here, but even Prince's filler is appealing.

Many people don't "get" Prince, or understand why he's the critic's darling. Well, what makes Prince great (besides the fact that he's the biggest talent and most electrifying performer of our time) is his soul. He's not about lyrics (ignore them), he's a pop/funk sensationalist, so to speak. He understands the endearing qualities of his form, and often pulls them with more verve than those he emulates. Take "Jughead" for instance; it's a stupid little tune, but it's just so funky. "Cream", which contains more of Prince's tired sexual innuendo ("you got the horn, why don't you blow it"), is the same. But the real whopper here is "Gett Off" (another dopey song) which sounds like a giant, ponderous bass-machine. No, Prince is not smart (just check out one of his movies if you're a non-believer), but he's genius (makes sense). Don't compare him to U2 or REM whoever; he doesn't play their game. He's the "Picasso of pop", and Diamonds and Pearls is just more proof of his stature.

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