

# SOUND BITES

## *Dead Presidents Sound-track Volume 2*

**Various Artists**  
(EMI/Capitol)

The first effort was so successful I guess the powers that be decided that a second release was needed. Well, the second effort turned out to be better than the first one with artists such as James Brown and the Temptations included in the solid music line-up. This one will move you and give your parents flashbacks.

## **Rappin' 4-Tay**

*Off Parole*  
(EMT/Rag Top)

The second effort from the artist who gained lots of exposure from his cuts on the popular *Dangerous Minds soundtrack*, may prove to be more popular than his first. Guest shots from Too Short and MC Breed help strengthen the CD and an appearance by his seven year old daughter makes it different. You should scope this one out.

## *Now! Compilation*

**Various Artists**  
(EMI/MCA)

The first in what could prove to be a long series, Now! relies on some of the talents of the most popular artists from the past year. Weezer, Coolio, Everything But The Girl and many others appear performing their biggest hits. If you have got an eclectic taste in music than grab this one if you haven't already.

## **MC Eiht featuring CMW**

*Death Threatz*  
(Sony/Epic)

Already one of the most notorious rap groups in history CMW is back with MC Eiht taking up the lead reins on this effort. After his success of the *Menace II Society soundtrack* MC Eiht's stock has skyrocketed. You will not want to pass up the chance to catch this one as it will be one of the most popular CDs of the year.

## Book Review

*Cowboy Logic:*  
Raincoast Books

A collection of quippy quotes "for those who can't get enough of the wise words of people who talk like Little Joe from 'Bonanza'" Ted Stone compiled such interesting quotes as, "Never cry over spilt milk- it could have been whiskey." A great book for anyone who loves great quotes or misses life on the ranch.

## **Eternal**

*Power of a Woman*  
(EMI)

This sugary sweet pop release is filled with slow ballads and a couple up tempo songs that resemble other female groups such as Xscape and En Vogue. The trio's CD is not bad but it does not feature anything with staying power, it is radio filler at best. If you can not find this one, you are not missing out on anything great.

## *Columbia Records Radio Hour:*

**Various Artists**  
(Columbia)

The second volume of "The Best Of" series, the CD features live performances from such greats as James Taylor and relative newcomers Toad the Wet Sprocket. This is a real easy CD to listen to with most of the artists falling under the rock/folk category. Keep an eye out for this in and keep your ears peeled for volume three.

## *The Elevator Drops Pop Bus*

(BMG/Time Bomb)

Welcome to the wonderful world of Indie Rock, enter at your own risk.

The group lacks any real edge to their music but it still managed to capture my attention. I do not really have anything to compare it to but the CD speaks for itself so grab it, if you can find it.

## **Sharp 9**

*Untimed*  
(BMG/Mausoleum)

The Swedish group's debut CD has a heavy guitar influenced sound, mimicking the Seattle grunge sound of other bands. The 5 member band resembles Pearl Jam the most and although the debut left room for improvement they should stick around for a while longer.

## **The Band**

*High on the Hog*  
(EMI/Pyramid)

After three decades of producing music, this group hasn't lost it's appeal. Producing Classic Rock before it even had a name his latest effort is worth checking out. Fans of Steve Miller of Dr. Hook will like the classic sound with just a hint of the 90's tossed in.

## **The Conscious Daughters**

*Gamers*  
(Virgin/Priority)

"Come and take a ride with the sucka-free Thelma and Louise of the mothafuckin' industry. Gamers for life!" That is a small sampling of the lyrics from the song "Da Mack Shit", one of the songs featured on the rap duo's sophomore CD. I won't bother with anymore 'cause there are no other songs worth mentioning. This CD is Gangsta rap done by two females who have played themselves out. One or two tracks were worth listening to, but on the whole the CD is weak.

## **Fugees**

*The Score*  
(Columbia/RuffHouse)

If you want something fresh and new then the Fugees are where it's at. With a hip hop flavour this group's debut is strong from track one all the way through. A decent remix of Bob Marley's classic "No Woman, No Cry" is just an example of the range of their music, do not miss your chance to grab this one.

## **Geto Boyz**

*The Resurrection*  
(Virgin/Rap-A-Lot)

After a five year separation, Willi D., Bushwick Bill and Scarface are back and ready to take control of the rap world as the group the Geto Boyz. Over six albums the group has gone platinum in the States and their latest offering should only solidify the group's place in rap history. After successful solo careers the group comes back stronger than ever and this CD is a dominant must for rap fans, you do not want to be the only one who does not own a copy of this.

## **Me & My Cousin**

*International*  
(Virgin/Priority)

The self-described parlayers of an eclectic blend of hip-hop funk have missed the mark on their debut CD. Tired lyrics and weak tracks combine for an overall bad effort on the part of the rap duo. It really is not a bad CD but unfortunately their style played out in the 80's. If you are looking for something new, this really is not the CD for you.

## *The Ongoing History of New Music*

**Various Artists**  
(EMI/Virgin)

Brought to you by 102.1 The Edge, this is supposed to be, as the title implies, a history of new music. The fact that these songs are history is a good thing. Featuring artists like Duran Duran, Simple Minds and Kate Bush this CD could have been better but they chose the artists lesser known hits and as a result produced a CD that is best listened to on a record player.

# BY LORNE CABORN