

Flesh of my Flesh, Blood of my Blood
DMX
(Def Jam)

What does out-of-nowhere superstar rapper DMX do after releasing a highly successful debut album, touring on Def Jam's *Survival of the*

Illest tour and guest appearing on countless artists' songs. Release a sophomore album. The reason for the quick release of the second CD is because Russel Simmons, the owner of Def Jam is selling the label. The fans are blessed with "Flesh of my Flesh," "Blood of my Blood." This CD

does not reach X's first effort but that would have almost been impossible. However, it is still a good disc. Some may feel that DMX has been compared to Tupac Shakur (R.I.P) because if the tattoos, bald head, rape charges, or bandanas, but the real reasons are apparent on this CD as they

were on the first. On songs like "Slippin, Coming From," featuring Mary J. Blige, X raps about love, respect and life. On "Omen," which is reminiscent of Snoop's "Murder Was the Case," DMX raps back and forth with the Devil and it appropriately features Marilyn Manson. On the final track,

"Ready to Meet Him" where he raps about and to God, X exhibits even more similarities between him and Tupac by this and by reciting poetry. Much of Pac's poetry did not surface until after his death by DMX had included his poetry on his CDs.

- Marc MacDonald

Einstürzende Neubauten
Ende Neu
(Nothing/Interscope Records)

Although German industrial/dance group Einstürzende Neubauten's most recent album, *Ende Neu* was released in Europe in 1996, *Ende Neu* only made it to North America last year. It's a pity, since in many ways Einstürzende Neubauten can be thought of as a post-modern equivalent of Pink Floyd. Well-known in Europe for their use of a wide variety of sounds in their music ranging from drills and saws to the scratches of pens upon paper, *Ende Neu* is a fairly coherent album. "The Garden" – the only English-language track on the entire album – with its hypnotic chorus, is probably the most accessible track on the album, but "Stella Maris" and "Bili Rubin" are also oddly attractive.

Ende Neu is worth a listen.

- Randy McDonald

Dada
Dada
(MCA Music)

In 1998, Dada released its self-titled fourth album. Though they apparently had a US hit in 1992 with the oddly-named "Dizz Knee Band", this is the first that I'd heard of them. Perhaps unsurprisingly, *Dada* is an excellent album. The Dada "Sound" is jaded California pop-rock music, in the vein of The Eagles, Fleetwood Mac, perhaps even Hole. The opening track "Information Undertow" – a sunny, ironic take on the mass media – set the tone for the rest of the album. Tracks like "California Gold", "Beautiful Turnback Time Machine", "Spinning My Wheels", and "The Ballad of Early Grey and Chamomile" all could be Top 40 singles. The closing track "Agent's Got No Secret" is disappointing, but it is also a happy exception.

I highly recommend Dada to anyone interested in melodic, ironic, pop-rock music.

- Randy McDonald

The Church
Hologram of Baal
(True North Records)

The Church is that rarity, an Australian band with a million-selling album that actually is musically competent. The Church's 1998 release *Hologram of Baal* is a slow-burning guitar-pop album. Though the production is at times too extensive, sometimes muffling Steve Kilbey's delivery, the overall mood of the album is dramatically pensive.

"Louisiana" and "The Great Machine" are probably the two best tracks on this album, with their highly atmospheric sheen. I found, though, that this album is better listened to in one sitting. Just take a cup of coffee, a good book, a comfortable chair, and relax.

- Randy McDonald

Top 20 at CIMN

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|-----|-----------------------|--|
| 1C | The Smugglers | Growing up Smuggler |
| 2C | Screaming Beavers | Awamp.... |
| 3 | Soul Coughing | Circles |
| 4C | The Immigrants | AKwardly Mobile |
| 5C | Volume All Star | Close Encounters of the Bump and Grind |
| 6C | Various | Thirty Hour Famine |
| 7C | Jamie Sparks | The Time |
| 8C | Noise Therapy | Myton Lowrider |
| 9 | Monster Magnite | Power Trip |
| 10C | Various (Sonic Unyon) | Now we are 5 |
| 11 | The Delgados | Peloton |
| 12 | System of a Down | System of a Down |
| 13C | Kaffeine | Fish Eating Grin |
| 14C | Strawberry | Brokeheart Audio |
| 15 | Korn | Follow the Leader |
| 16 | MIC | MIC |
| 17 | Placebo | Without You I'm Nothing |
| 18 | Xzibit | 40 Dayz and Nights |
| 20C | Punchbuggy | My Norwegian Cousin |

Excellence in Teaching Awards

Students, Faculty and Alumni are invited to submit nominations for the UPEI Faculty Association Awards for **Excellence in Teaching**. The awards are open to all University faculty members.

The deadline for nominations is noon, Thursday, January 21, 1999. Information about the awards and nominations forms are available at the Faculty Association Office (Main Bldg, Room #214) and the Department of Music Office.