

Centrifugal Force

Matter

(Uforia/Fusion III)

You always kind of get a feeling for a CD when you look at its cover art. Although your mother likely warned against judging books by their covers, you can't help but do so with this one. The Grade 1 school of graphic design more than misses the mark, and it

seems to set the stage for the rest of the album. It's that murder mystery paperback that you start reading, then skip to the last chapter to end the agony. And I don't mean suspense. Agony. And not good agony, either. Watch as former Men Without Hats co-conspirator, Colin

Doroschuk, tries to cling to his synthesizer, adult-contemporary-prog rock and short-lived, domestic success (read: "big in Canada") and butchers the poetry of Dylan Thomas and Milton Acorn, along with some of his own feeble lyrics. If only this album was interactive; then,

at least, we could witness the grace and splendour of the interpretive dancer. There are enough photos of her to cut and paste a flip-book to watch the motion. Alas, but the only interactive feature here is the pressing of the stop button.

By Your Side

The Black Crowes

(Columbia/Sony)

Holy Rock, Batman! The band which has been called "The world's most 'rock & roll' rock & roll band" do not disappoint on this album. I dare say that their sound is unparalleled in today's world of rock & roll. This is what real rock & roll is supposed to sound like. The Stones are getting old, Led Zepelin's gone, along with many other aging bands. With but a few exceptions, the music of today is without any champions

or figureheads of pure rock & roll. If the Crowes keep this quality up, they will truly be the undisputed "most rock & roll" band in the world.

The bickering brothers, Chris (vocals) and Rich Robinson (lead guitar), have created some quality songs. The guitar playing is incendiary. Chris's vocals are relentless and extremely energetic. Drummer Steve Gorman and bassist Sven Pipien supply "an array of no-

f***ing around grooves." Eddie Harsch adds his finely-honed keyboard stylings, along with sassy soul-sister vocal backing, and the terrific horns of The Dirty Dozen. All of the artists' performances are inspired and are perfect for performing these eleven meaningful, thoughtful, and reckless songs.

This album is a culmination of everything they've done over the last ten years. What's this point? A serious kick-ass,

funky, powerful blast of blues-based, deep-fried, hard-edged, riff-a-rama rock & roll record. This is the Colonel's real special blend, 11 herby and spicy songs that create this tasty, southern-flavoured album. The next album you sink your teeth into should be this one. And the best part about it? Zero grams of fat.

-Stephen McQuaid

DJ Clue

The Professional

(Roc-A-Fella/Def Jam)

Quite simply put, this album is very good. Although the intro sucks because it features Puff Daddy, the rest of the album is strong. DJ Clue is continuing a new trend in hip-hop: a DJ releasing a disk with all his music and featuring different artists on every track. This is a switch from the traditional method of a rap group or the same MC's and different DJ's on an album. *The Professional* is also unlike releases by DJ

Muggs or Funkmaster Flex. Clue gives you the feeling that it's a mix tape by continuing one song into the next and shouting out his name. His constant mentioning of DJ Clue, Cluemenaty and New Shit get annoying but without the original DJ shout out we would not have MCing or rap.

Four of the albums best songs are the first tracks. Clue starts it off with a remix of DMX's "Rough Ryders" An-

them" featuring DMX and lesser known rappers Jadakiss, Styles, Drag-On, and Eve. The Professional continues with another DMX song which is followed by "Fantastic 4" - a song that couldn't go wrong because it features Cam'Ron, Big Pun, Noreaga and Canibus. The fourth song (and the album's best) is "Queensfinest" featuring Nas. The middle of the disk contains songs featuring the likes of EPMD with Redman

and Keith Murray, Nature, Flimode Squad, and others. The songs near the end of *The Professional* which are some of the best are tracks by Mobb Deep with Noyd, Raekwon, MOP and Boot Camp Click. The success of this album comes from the high caliber talent Clue features on his songs and the original beats he manages to produce for each track.

Marc MacDonald

Bone Thugs-n-Harmony

The Collection Volume One

(Ruthless Records)

If you love Bone thugs then you'll probably love this album because it has some Bone remixes and some harder to find Bone thugs tracks. If you only like them then the Collection is perfect for you because it has all their greatest hits. If you don't like them then don't expect any-

thing different from this Collection cd.

This collection features tracks of Bone with two of the three hip hop greats who have passed away in the past few years. There is "Foe Tha Love of \$" with Easy-E and "Notorious Thugs" featuring Notorious

B.I.G., unfortunately "Thug Love" with Tupac does not appear on this collection even though it is probably the best of the three. Another disappointment is "Crossroad" which is the original version and not the video version which is better and harder to find. How-

ever, it is volume one and later volumes may feature songs that this one missed. The best joints of this cd are "1" of Tha Month", "War" (Battlecry Remix), "Thuggish Ruggish Bone" and "If I Could Teach The World" (D.J. U-Neek Remix).

Marc MacDonald

Bizzy Bone

Heaven's Movie

(Mo Thugs/Ruthless/Relativity)

Heaven's Movie is Bizzy Bone's (of Bone Thugs-N-Harmony) first solo effort. For the most part, Bizzy sticks to the Bone Thugs' style and some songs are pretty good. The weakest part of the album comes

from four "songs" (of the 13 on the disc) that are less than one minute in length. The first single - and by far the best song on *Heaven's Movie* - is "Thugs Cry" which is on the level of most Bone Thugs hits. Sadly

there are only a few other songs that are good, including "Menesky Mobbin," "Waitin For Warfare" and "Mr Majesty II." The CD is ended with an eerie joint called "Social Studies" and a hidden mock news

trial after a break of silence. There are a few good songs on this album but far too much filler to make it great.

Marc MacDonald