

Max Webster: Canadian Rock Isn't Dead Yet!



MAX WEBSTER-MAX WEBSTER
(TAURUS RECORDS), (*****)

It's a relief to hear Canadian rock that is imaginative and original, not copied and boring like so many of the present bands. Max Webster is a four piece band out of Toronto which is dominated by Kim Mitchell, who wrote all the tunes on this debut album, plays all lead guitars, and does all

the lead vocals. His voice is completely different from anything else I've heard before, giving the band it's killer edge. The bands sound is ultra-heavy, represented the best by "Hangover" and "Coming Off The Moon", which are the standouts. There isn't a dud to be found on this record, as all of it is strong material.

It'll take bands like Max Webster (this album has been on the Canadian Top 100 album chart for 22 weeks) and Moxy to restore respectability in other markets, proving Canada has viable talent.

(***) GRAND FUNK-HITS-
GRAND FUNK (CAPITAL RECORDS)

Now that Funk have switched to MCA Records, Capital has wasted little time in releasing their "greatest hits:.. This package has its ups and downs, a fair complement to the Funk albums. The early singles are as bad as the early albums, etc. The best material is the 1973-74 period, "We're An American Band", "Walk Like A Man", and "Shinin' On". These are among the greatest singles of all times, but "Bad Time", "Rock 'n Roll Soul", and "Sally" are some of the worst, so the album averages out at a three star effort.

(***) - HARD RAIN-
BOB DYLAN (COMUMBIA RECORDS)

The material is fine, but Dylan never was any good doing live albums. The sound is muddy, hampering what, in some cases, is pretty good stuff. The best cuts are "Shelter From The Storm" and "You're A Big Girl Now", where Dylan's vocal comes through loud and clear. Hold onto your "Desire" album and wait for the next studio offering from Dylan.

(*****) TEASER-
TOMMY BOLIN (ATLANTIC RECORDS)

This is a solid rock album from a great guitarist. You overlook the fact that his work sounds alike on this solo effort, Purple's "Come Taste The Band", and the two James Gang elpees. The best cuts on "Teaser" are "Wild Dogs" and "The Grind", both heavy metal thumpers. Since Deep Purple have split up, this album is much more important to Bolin and his band. It's a fine start on a promising career.

(*****) WAKING AND
DREAMING-ORLEANS
(ASYLUM RECORDS)

With beautiful soft ballads like "If I Don't Have You" and "Sails", offset by tough rockers like "What I Need" and "Waking And Dreaming", Orleans has produced their best effort yet. The songwriting team of John and Johanna Hall dominate the album, as they have developed into a top-notch team. With the exception of two mediocre tunes, this could have been a five-star effort. As it is, the album should produce two or more hit singles besides "Still The One".

(**) TAKE NO PRISONERS-
DAVID BYRON (MERCURY RECORDS)

The lead singer (and main hindrance) of Uriah Heep has released a solo album. This album makes it obvious why the Heep is a vehicle of the past. The album is aimless with some of the worst junk I've come across in a long time. This one's a real dust collector! Speaking of junk, it's time for another Kiss review.

(8) THE ORIGINALS - KISS
(CASABLANCA RECORDS)

This is three slabs of plastic, each with a thick coating of crap!

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