

Sound bites

R.E.M.
Monster
 (Warner Bros.)
 This newest album from the ever-diverse R.E.M. is one of their best. The guitar is definitely more hard core, making the album sound very grungy while remaining R.E.M. "What's The Frequency, Kenneth?" starts off this album, and it sets the tone: loud and in your face. Can you tell I like this?
 (5)



April's Motel Room
Black 14
 (Sony)
 This Los Angeles band displays a broad spectrum of music herein, revealing influences ranging from punk to (mildly) country. I would classify them as hard rock, though. I was impressed and surprised by this album. The music is creative and unique, especially the percussion. If you enjoy bands like Pearl Jam, Radiohead, and Stone Temple Pilots, and you like listening to stuff that isn't well known, I recommend this album.
 (5)

Moneywalk
More
 (Duke Street Records)
 This pop/soft rock album is a decent showcase for Moneywalk. It's pretty easy-listening, but not all that original. It's not bad musically, but there's nothing unique about it: a pop record amongst a myriad of pop records.
 (2)

Bryan Ferry
Mamouna
 (EMI)
 This is a good compilation with decent sound. Although it isn't quite my type of music (it's a little too pop), it is a good album in its own right. If you like a lighter sound, take a look at this album.
 (3)

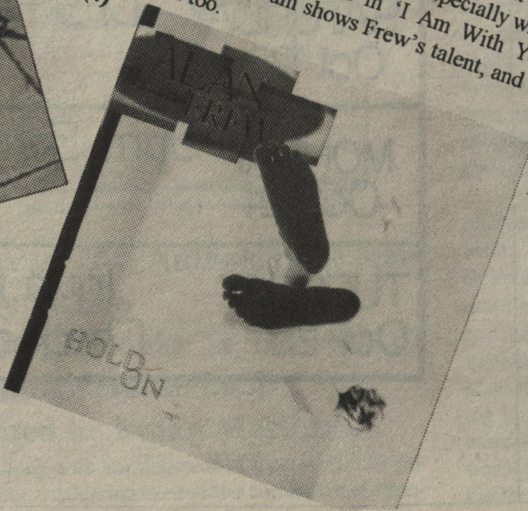


Godflesh
Merciless
 (Columbia)
 Perhaps the worst album I have ever heard, Merciless is lacking in creativity, talent, and... well... music. I hate saying this, because I enjoy a lot of off-the-wall stuff other people call trash, but this album sent me nowhere. Its only redeeming quality is that it would make a nice coaster.
 (1)

Satchel
EDC
 (Epic)
 EDC is unique and interesting. No, this isn't the beginning of a slashing review (I like this album). It is more of a warning: EDC is alternative and may not ring your bell. For recognizability, Stone Gossard assisted in the production of this album (although this album is dissimilar to anything else he has done). The sound of this album is very unique, which is hard to find these days. Overall, I recommend this album.
 (4)



Alan Frew
Hold On
 (EMI)
 Alan Frew is the former lead singer for Glass Tiger. This is his first solo album, and a good one at that. I did get a little nostalgic, though, especially when I heard the penny whistle in 'I Am With You Tonight'. This album shows Frew's talent, and it plays well too.
 (4)

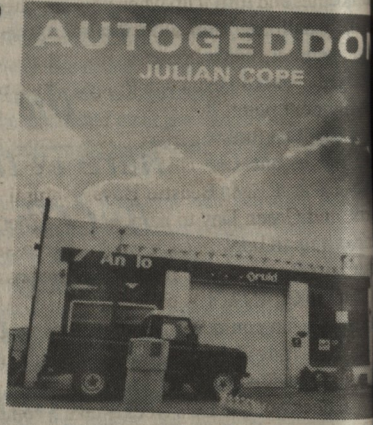


Furnace Face
This Will Make You Happy
 (Cargo Records)
 This album was okay, but not the best I ever heard. There are lots of spots that drip with Furnace Face's tongue-in-cheek style; however, I thought this album could have used a little more time in the recording studio.
 (2)

Pearl Jam
Dissident
 (Epic/Sony)
 This is the first of three live music discs by Pearl Jam. Together, the CDs comprise an entire Pearl Jam concert. This is a great live album. It has excellent sound quality and a good performance by Pearl Jam. Tracks include live versions of "Dissident", "Even Flow", and "Rearviewmirror". A must for any Pearl Jam fan.
 (5)



Sponge
Rotting Pinata
 (Chaos)
 I liked this album, although some of the songs could have stood some extra work. All in all, this "alternative" (I hate that term) hard rock band debut album includes some interesting material and is a decent project. If you are interested, sample of the tune "Rotting Pinata" (one of the best songs on the album) is on the laserdisc disc at K-mart.
 (3)



Julian Cope
Autogeddon
 (American Records)
 This album is not really one of my favourite recording sounds too amateurish. The music is decent and the lyrics interesting, but not very ping. Okay overall, but nothing earth-shaking.
 (2)

Snivilisation
Orbital
 (Polygram)
 This album is completely synthesized, interesting, but as a result there's little to great, though, with some good effects. If you synthesized sound, this album might be for you.
 (3)

