



**AMON TOBIN**  
*Supermodified*  
Ninja Tune

Not only does Amon Tobin's ability to make impossible beats sound real make *Supermodified* an album that has to be heard, but the quality of the music will make listeners want to hear it again and again. The stuff on this album is mindblowing. Tobin fuses bits of breakbeats, swing, funk, jazz, soul, and bizarre percussive effects into a cohesive sound unique to him. *Supermodified* has the ambience of a 1930's film spliced with spaghetti westerns and early 90's ganster movies. You must hear it to believe it.

-SML

**AIR**  
*The Virgin Suicides*  
Virgin

French electronica duo, Air, provide atmospheric instrumentals to set the tone to Sophia Coppola's debut film. The

music sounds like a perfect combination of Angelo Badalementi's warm *Twin Peaks* soundtrack and the icy analogue synthetic score from *A Clockwork Orange*. It's dark, trippy and an all around enjoyable listen.

-SML

**EVE 6**  
*Horrorscope*

BMG

If you were to play any one of the songs on *Horrorscope* twelve times in a row, you would get the same effect as if you listened to the whole album. Well, I may be exaggerating a little, but EVE 6 aren't a band that would make me jump around if I had an opportunity to see them perform a live gig. After a few listens, I have developed a certain distaste for their lyrics, which are all pseudo-intellectual mouthfuls that don't have any rhythm (like this sentence).

-JC

**XTC**  
*Wasp Star: Apple Venus Vol. 2*  
TVT

XTC are perhaps the most consistently good pop band making music todayand, unfortunately, nobody knows who they are. But that doesn't matter for the few people who do buy *Wasp Star* (or any other XTC Album for that matter), because they'll be treated to some rockin' good

tunes that they won't be able to get out of their heads. Convinced yet? Here's a line for the ads: It's smart, it's fun, it's pure XTC (Ha!).

-JC

**TREBLE CHARGER**  
*Wide Awake Bored*  
BMG

Chances are, you've probably heard the first single from *Wide Awake Bored*, "American Psycho." Thank goodness all of the songs on this album don't sound like that (is it just me, or do the guitars at the beginning of that song sound like kazooos?) There are actually a few good songs on the disc, but I'm not likely to be popping it into rotation a regular basis.

-JC

**IRON MAIDEN**  
*Brave New World*  
EMI

Yes, they can still rock, and yes they still sing about Satan, paranoia, mythic creatures, and nomads. It's so refreshing to finally hear a metal band that adds a bit of mystery and fantasy to their music when most hard rock acts today just sing about "nooky" and their inflated egos. Let's hope more artists follow Maiden's lead and make intelligent, tolerable metal records.

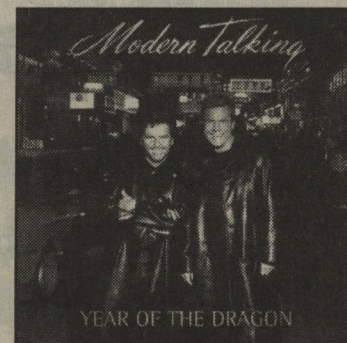
-SML

**ORISKAS**  
*A Lo Cubano*  
EMI

Oriskas rap their hearts out and I don't have a sweet clue what they're saying. I never learned any hip hop lingo in Spanish 101 and now I'm regretting it. I can see it now: "Professora, ¿cómo se dice blunt en español?" Despite the language barrier, the album is pretty dope with a Latin flavour to boot.

-JC

**MODERN TALKING**  
*Year of the Dragon*  
BMG



The album cover is hilarious and so is the spoken word part at the beginning of the first track when a husky-voiced man says, "I know we're two worlds apart,/but I want you in my world./I'm a rapper,/and you're my China girl." The Chinese orchestra music is funny too, but it just gets sad as soon as it breaks into the dance music. Dance music in general is sad and at around the fifty minute mark of this seventy-two minute album, I wanted to throw my CD player against the wall.

-JC

**Summer-y**

After an uneventful season for music, the folks at *The Cadre* have sifted through the crap to give you a few gems that went unnoticed. Here's a thong-free look at the summer.

**BILLY BRAGG AND WILCO**  
*Mermaid Avenue Vol. 2*  
KJB: "Because it sounds like the first album."

**OH SUSANNAH**  
*Johnstown*  
KJB: "Because she played with Julie Doiron and Vetch at the Marquee in Halifax."

**DAN-E-O**  
*The Book of Daniel*  
ROC: "Because it's Toronto hip hop that's not about rockets in people's pockets."

**SIXTOO**  
*The Psyche Continuum*  
ROC: "Because it's original and intelligent."

**BELLE AND SEBASTIAN**  
*Fold Your Hands Child, You Walk Like A Peasant*  
SML: "Because they have a better string section than GN'R."

**ELLIOTT SMITH**  
*Figure 8*  
SML: "Because."