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Smash Mouth
Fush Yu Mang

Smash Mouth's debut album is twelve hard-core songs that can be played over and over. It contains the smash hit "Walkin' on the Sun", but it is not the version played on the radio, which is teched up. This version is a more sedate, 60s-kind of thing.

The album does happen to contain some vile language, however, so if you can't listen to that, I would recommend steering clear of purchasing this.

The lyrics are absolutely hilarious, though. Some of the best songs to explain that are "Pet Names", "Heave-Ho", and "Flo." The band is just so willing to let everything out that is wrong with the world or which just plain bugs them. They kind of remind me of a metal version of the Beastie Boys.

I definitely recommend this album. 5/5 stars
-SEW

Eddie Money
Shakin' With The Money Man
(CMC/BMG)

I originally chose this disc to review because it included the '86 Bill Board Hit "Take me Home Tonight." After listening to Eddie's whisper-like voice, I realized that there is more to this guy than a couple of hit singles. This album has every thing a good disc should. It includes some new up-beat songs, such as "Two Tickets to Paradise" and "She takes my Breath Away", as well as live recordings of old hits like, "Baby Hold on." With lots of different musical instruments and a mix of up-beat and slow tunes, you should find this an enjoyable Eddie Money experience. Hey, there is even a Christmas tune!

Having never heard much of Mr. Money's material, except what was played on the radio, I must say that I find his songs both energetic and relaxing at the same time. After being in the music business for 20 years, Eddie proves with his latest compilation that he still has what it takes to keep his listeners entertained.

JMA

Bobby Brown
Forever
(MCA Records)

Even with the release of New Edition's new album, Bobby still had the time, or lack of time, to create enough songs for an album of his own. Don't get me wrong, I like Bobby Brown but he should have waited until he had enough opportunity to actually think of some good songs.

Bobby has a 54 second intro with his wife, Whitney Houston, which is alright but he should have used her in all of the songs. His voice is not really suited for slow songs, yet he has an abundance of them on this album. I will admit that I like "She's All I Need," but that's probably it. I think he used up all of his good ideas on New Edition's new album and then had none left.

Over all, I only give Bobby a two out of five rating. The only reason I gave him that much is because I like him.

Boyz II Men
Evolution
(Motown Records)

Wow! I've been waiting a good three years for this album and it was worth the wait and thensome. There is not a single bad song on this album, which is from one of my favourite groups. All the songs are great and it shows that a lot of effort was put into every song.

You've probably heard the new release "4 Seasons of Loneliness" which is really good, but my favourites are "Can You Stand the Rain", "A Song For Mama" and "Baby C'mon." The album itself is kind of like the first one with all the slow songs up front, then the faster ones following. It will probably take a few listens to convince you that it is better than Boyz II Men's *II*, but I think it is.

This CD gets a definite five out of five rating as it is my favourite CD of this year so far, and probably will be until they come out with a new one.

Rakim
18th Letter
(Univeral Records)

Rakim is back after a long break from making records. He used to be known as Eric B. and Rakim in his former days, but now has come out solo on his new album *The 18th Letter*.

This album sounds like a new release from Tupac Shakur rather than Rakim however. No offence to the late performer, but this album doesn't really sound like the old Eric B. And Rakim style that I liked. There are a couple of good songs on the album, such as "Guess Who's Back" and the title track, but the rest don't sound right with Rakim singing them. The beats are slower than his usual style and it shows as his lyrics don't really go along with the beats.

Even though he does sing a few songs well, the rest of the CD is not worth mentioning. I give it a 2.5 out of 5 rating.

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