

Oingo Boingo Best O' Boingo

MCA * * *

At first glance, one would Oingo Boingo's think compilation of a decade's worth of music should have been called "Soundtracks 'R' Us." Eleven of the 17 songs on the 75-minute compilation have appeared in movies ranging from Beverly Hills Cop and Fast Times at Ridgemont High to such screen gems as Weird Science and Texas Chainsaw Massacre II.

Oingo Boingo may not create a musical style that defies conventional descriptions, but they certainly try. Their efforts vary from slightly unconventional techno-pop to a mad-scientist approach, tossing standard guitar-bassdrums arrangements in with batteries of synthesizers, all punctuated by a horns section.

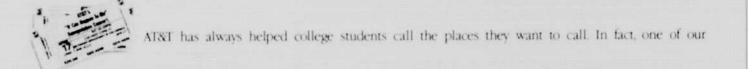
Sometimes, the results are quirky, danceable romps such

as "Dead Man's Party," "Only a Lad," and "Sweat"; songs that sound like a meeting of James Brown, The Dead Milkmen, and Depeche Mode. Other times, bleating trumpets and emotionally disturbed keyboards produce a result only a true Boingo fan could love.

The group deserves credit, though, for never ceasing to be different. Oingo Boingo's



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quirkiness, intelligence and wit are a welcomed distraction in a music industry full of success through formulaic mediocrity.

This band marches to a different drummer.

By Scott Simonsen Emerald Contributor

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(or at least the media's) eyes to the disease?

Monson said it couldn't have happened to a more recognizable person.

"There are 12-year-old kids out there who don't know who George Bush is but know who Magic is," Monson said.

The most amazing aspect of this terrible reality is how well Magic has handled it.

The day after finding out for sure that he had the virus, Johnson broke the news to the world with a grin and a solid, steady voice. Not once did he look even close to tears or to choking up.

Imagine finding out you had the HIV virus. Just imagine how you would feel inside. Then imagine standing in front of the world and telling everyone.

"Not a lot of people could do what Earvin just did," Monson said. "He has a lot of class, composure and a lot of guts. And I think he showed that."

As sports fans, it's easy to assume athletes are invincible. It's easy to assume that any injury or illness is not going to affect a player for more than one season. It's easy to assume even after retirement, an athlete has accumulated enough money to live a prosperous life — especially when that athlete is Magic Johnson.

Magic may have a prosperous life and live another 10 to 12 years. He also could die tomorrow. But then again, so could I, so could you, so could coach Monson, so could anyone.

If Magic's illness gets the point across that no one is invincible, then it will have done something good ... I guess.





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