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SOUND OFF



BUMP AHEAD

GROUP: Mr. Big LABEL: Atlantic

r. Big return to the scene with Bump Ahead, their follow-up to the smash album Lean Into It.

The band renews their relationship with producer Kevin Elson in an attempt to build on the success of the last album. With little exception, Bump Ahead is geared toward the crowd who liked the song "To Bowith You," from the last album.

The band still proves that it has skills with tunes like "Colorado Bulldog;" however, much of the rest of the album is filled with love ballads. Of these ballads, "Nothing But Love" and "Ain't Seen Love Like That" make a good impression. These songs, along with the remake of Cat Stephens' "Wild World," should make Bump Ahead another commercial success for Mr. Big.

Commercial is the key word in that sentence. The album is over produced, over polished and smoothed out for the audience.

The band is "held back" on this album. Paul Gilbert and Billy Sheehan are not allowed to display its true talents. If you are a Mr. Big fan who likes the band for their musicianship, this may not be the album for you.

- Stephen Woodward For the Oregon Daily Emerald



BELIEVE IN ME

GROUP: Duff McKagan LABEL: Geffen

uns N' Roses guitarist
Duff McKagan tries to
prove he has talent on his
own with the release of Believe
In Me on Geffen Records.

The point of this album was to create an identity for McKagan outside of G N' R. There is not much difference between the

Most of the album sounds like Guns' outakes with Duff on vocals. He does play just about every instrument on the album (if you count the drum machine).

and he did produce it. However, Believe In Me really falls short of any expectations one might have for it.

The only bright spot of the album is the song "The Majority." Lenny Kravitz makes a guest appearance on this track. In fact, Kravitz plays most of the instruments and does most of the vocals for that song.

If the rest of the album were scrapped and restarted from that song. Believe In Me might have had a chance.

- Sephen Woodward For the Oregon Daily Emeraid



WAR OF WORDS

GROUP: Fight LABEL: Epic

ob Halford has proclaimed: "Let the fight begin!"

Fight is ex-Judas Priest singer Rob Halford's first project since leaving the band last year.

With the first album, titled War of Words, he gets off on the right foot. After stealing super-drummer Scott Travis from Priest and adding the talents of Russ Parrish (War and Peace), Brian Tilse and Jay Jay, Fight add a much—needed crunch to the metal scene.

Produced by Rob Halford and Attie Bauw, the album gives a big "fuck-off to all those who deserve one."

Sixty minutes of solid crunch with songs like "Nailed to the Gun," "Immortal Sin," and "Kill It" — War of Words is a must.

- Stephen Woodward For the Oregon Daily Emerald



PEGHEAD

GROUP: Black Happy LABEL: Pacific Inland/Macola

ractically every song on Black Happy's Peghead album can be classified in a different musical category.

From the country-sounding guitar licks of "Chicken in a Biscuit," to the rap of "Bullmonkey," the listener never knows what to expect next.

Besides an eclectic mix of

musical sounds. Black Happy provide some interesting lyrics. In an almost Radiohead-like declaration, singer Paul Hemenway belts out, "I'm a jerk /I'm a creep/ I'm so shallow I seem deep."

In "Chicken in a biscuit", he declares, "I want to go up to that hoedown in the sky."

Several of the songs are repetitive, but the beat would be great for dancing. Because of their diverse musical styles, Black Happy are a very enjoyable group to listen to.

Based in Spokane, they managed to avoid the Seattle grunge sound and have produced an entertaining and amusing mix of music. The first track, "Bubbles," is an experimentation in funky elevator music that would make even a grump smile.

So, if you are in the mood for a musical surprise, go out and buy *Peghead* by Black Happy. It's a great CD and well worth the money.

- Mayna Shorr For the Oregon Dally Emerald



VISITING YOUR PLANET

GROUP: Naked Soul LABEL: Scotti Bros.

oming across as somewhat of a grunged-out Pixies album, Naked Soul promises what its name implies, bare roots.

Possessing absolutely no depth, or creativity, Visiting Your Planet is perhaps the longest CD of unartful noise since Slayer put out their first album.

Singer/songwriter/guitarist Mike Conley seemed a bit preoccupied on Visiting Your Planet, as one could obviously note.

Beginning the album with "Helicopter Man" was perhaps his worst decision of all. Placing the best song on track one left the rest of the album nowhere to go, especially because most of the other tracks were clones of each other.

Going nowhere seemed to be the key issue for the band.

All in all, Naked Soul could have used better production and songwriting. Although they may be major items, they are not difficult to change.

- Ryan Walker For the Oregon Daily Emerald

FATAL

Continued from Page 7

in its own cleverness.

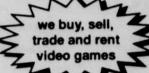
Make no mistake, there are enough laughs in this film to entertain anyone, but the storyline lacks a certain cohesiveness that films like *The Naked Gun* and *Airplane* have.

Each scene is just an endless succession of gag after gag, and for a while, it works quite well. There are few connectors tying the laughs together, and for someone who has not seen the erotic thrillers being spoofed, it's possible to get lost in between.

However, both Armand Assante and Sean Young turn in memorable comic performances and keep the flavor of the film at a don't-take-any-of-this-seriously level.

Fatal Instinct is a quality spoof job and like all spoofs, should leave the audience holding their sides and pounding their fists with glee.

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