

Wine and Cheez Wiz

Serenading celebs who never should have gotten out of the shower

BY THE U. CREW

STATUS COMES WITH MANY A SPLENDORED THING — a happenin' set of wheels, a hot babe, big money. But for some residents of celebrityville, material stuff just isn't enough. That's when tragedy strikes. Fame, much to a true fan's stomach-churning chagrin, means nothing to many celebs until, of course, they cut a record. Some become golden moldies, but most are pure Velveeta.

Here at *U. Magazine*, we tried to separate the Gouda from the bad. Some are more promising (to give you lactose intolerance) than others:



Jerry Springer —
Cheese factor:
five out of five.

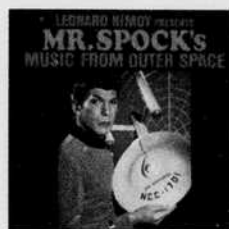
Dr. Talk

Fiddle Fish Music

As if his talk show wasn't enough, Jerry's gone country, and Cincinnati has one more reason to lament the former mayor's nouveau fame. The idea for *Dr. Talk* came to Jerry during a trip to Nashville, when he realized country music lyrics had a lot in common with his talk shows. Check this out from the title track, "Dr. Talk": "Now I know your lover left you/With who you thought was your best friend/And the dog you taught to fetch a ball/Just bit you in your rear end/But remember that guy on Springer who cried and fought and swore/That last week he talked to Elvis at a Memphis Wal-mart store."

No wonder the bulging beefcake with a ponytail, Billy Ray Cyrus, asked Jerry to open for him. But Jerry remains humble. "I was not playing with a full deck when I

did this," he says in the press release. Is he ever?



Leonard Nimoy —
Cheese factor:
four out of five

Mr. Spock's Music From Outer Space

MCA Records

Just as the Enterprise was first to brave the final frontier, Nimoy was one of the first TV celebs to venture into earth-shattering musical projects. Highly illogical? Guess again. Nimoy's gusto in "Follow Your Star" provides strength and inspiration that dreamy listeners thirst for. His rendition of "Where is Love?" from *Oliver* is touching, but haunting backup vocals give it a freaky quality — you definitely wouldn't want to wake up to it. Familiar "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Earth," however, is a soothing backdrop to a bedside chat with spooky Uncle Spock. This galactic compilation includes groovy instrumentals like "Music to Watch Space Girls By,"

but when you do hear the pointy-eared man sing, get ready for the sensitive side of Spock.



William Shatner —
Cheese factor:
Out of this world

The Transformed Man

MCA Records

Dammit Will, you're an actor, not a singer! Back in '68, Shatner cut this 6-track album, packed with drama and intrigue. For the sometimes frantic, often eerie, but always stunning spoken word, check out Shatner's transformation from captain to crooning songster. Although track titles include several of Shakespeare's soliloquies in addition to songs like "Lucy in the Sky With Diamonds," phat Shat never actually pretends he can sing. Instead, he treats both theater and musical covers like dramatic narratives. Unlike *Spock's Music From Outer Space*, *The Transformed Man* bursts with strange sexual energy. Look out, Spock! While you're watching the space girls, the captain is zapping 'em.



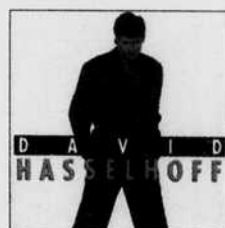
Traci Lords —
Cheese factor:
three out of five

1000 Fires

Radioactive Records

Giving it is nothing new to Traci Lords, so why should we be surprised that she sports two heads on the cover of *1000 Fires*? The underage-porn-star turned *Melrose Place*-psycho turned techno-artist

makes her stunning singing debut, aided only by about \$20,000 of voice distortion equipment. "I want to control your soul," she sings, and, after listening to more than 55 minutes of throbbing Traci-techno, she just might succeed. Traci treats fans to both sides of herself — pouty and seductive. Nude photos are not included in the liner notes, but there is a thank you to her record company, "for allowing me my madness."



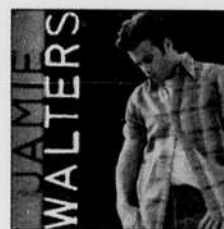
David Hasselhoff —
Cheese factor:
four out of five

David Hasselhoff

Critique Records

Germany has loved David Hasselhoff for years, and now you can, too, although this CD may grate on you like a chunk of cheddar. "Dark Side of My Heart" exudes the sultriness of the life-saving, babe-grabbing Dave we all know and love — not from plain ol' *Baywatch* but from *Baywatch Nights*. Every week, the music video montage on *Baywatch* features the CD's other cool sounds. Dave's daughter does a cameo on "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star." Is this twinkle stuff an epidemic, or what? One track is entitled "Try a Little Tenderness." Since

Dave copped the title from the beloved Otis Redding, we're surprised he didn't try taking the shirt off his back, too. Oops — forgot, Dave doesn't wear one. Sorry, no shirt, no shoes, no single.



Jamie Walters —
Cheese factor:
five out of five

Jamie Walters

Atlantic Records

Former *90210* abusive bad boy Jamie Walters shows his sensitive side with this self-titled debut. His single "Hold On" made a feeble stab at the Billboard charts, and his weekly cameo on the show last year didn't help much. Since TV stardom set in, Walters' tracks like "Drive Me," "Perfect World," and "Neutral Ground" have a good chance of making even Tori Spelling swoon. If you're in the mood for something tougher, you can also check out Brian Austin Greene's rap CD *One Stop Carnival*.

John Tesh

'Nuf said.

Melissa, James, Carrie and Amy would never admit it, but they haven't stopped humming those damn David Hasselhoff songs since they wrote this story.

Now Look Into Our Crystal Ball

Keep your groupie eyes peeled for upcoming social — if not chart — climbing singles from Martha Stewart's stuffy self-produced sing-along, "Wastin' Away in Martha Stewartville." Martha will probably display homespun talent and craft her instruments from leftovers around the house. She could make a banjo from old pantyhose, a few clothespins and a broken ironing board — now that's talent! MacGyver should be jealous.

Also look for Sam Donaldson's rap compilation *Bustin' a Prime Time Rhyme*. You ain't never seen the man groove like this! Songs include: "Spin Me Like a Spin Doctor," and "Those Muther Truckin' Flyboys on Capitol Hill." Although Sammy D. looks a lot like Spock, we doubt he'll ever come up with as much flava as the space man.

These are just our humble predictions. Take 'em or leave 'em, but don't forget the crackers.