

BAND

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On "Halloween," which DMB already has recorded live on its short EP *Recently*, Matthews sounds as if he has been gargling Drain-O in the studio.

And after you listen to the song's gritty, hair-raising vocals, you might wonder if he swallowed a drop or two as well. Just skip past this track — it ruins an otherwise pleasurable listening experience.

Lyrical, Matthews also seems to be running in a circle. On "Rapunzel" and "Crush," he is still trapped "in a boy's dream," refreshing the same fantasies that drove several of

the tracks on *Crash*. (Does Matthews expect us not to notice that "Crush" is only one letter away from being the hit single, "Crash"?)

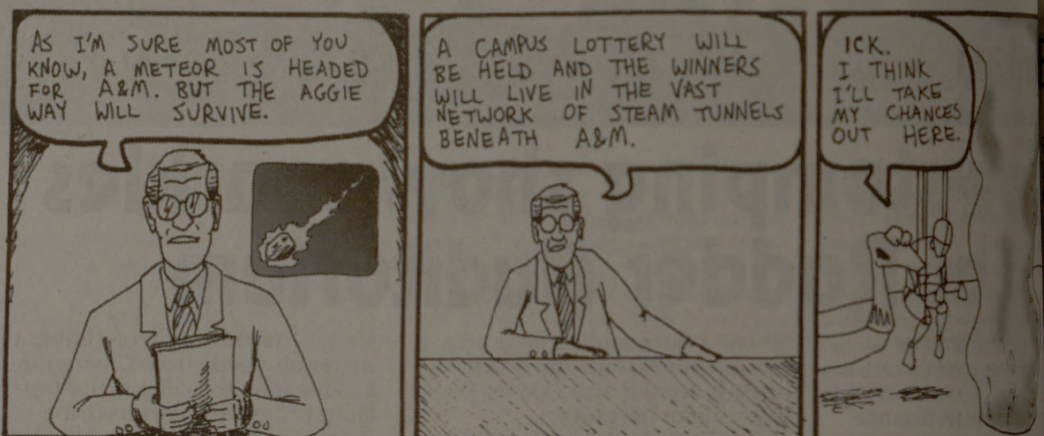
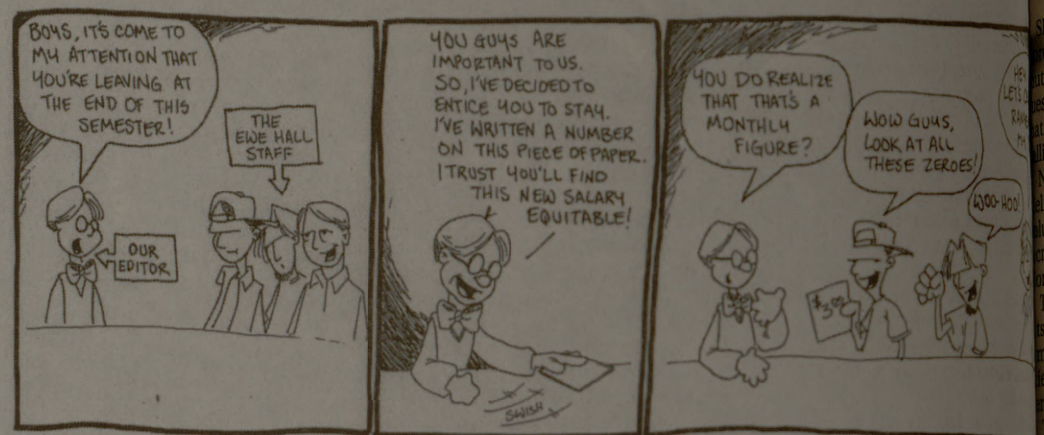
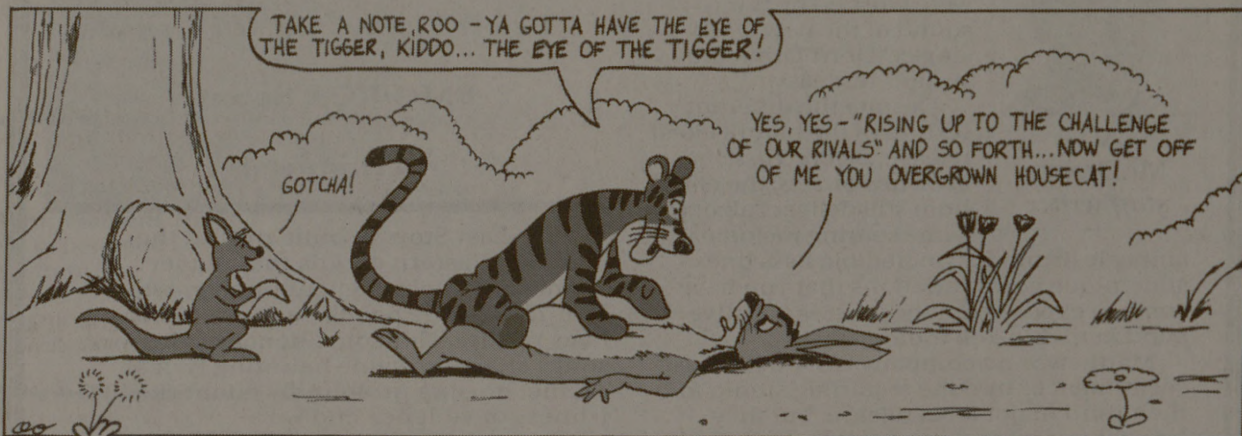
Hopefully, Dave will start to make a lyrical departure from obsessing about "the dirty deed." His lyrics are much more mature when they wax philosophical on tracks like "Pig" or "The Last Stop."

But despite some lyrical disappointments, the Dave Matthews Band has outdone itself musically.

Before these streets become crowded with lines of fans rushing to buy the album, get your own copy of *Before These Crowded Streets* and enjoy DMB's latest eclectic excursion into world music.

Sketch

By Quatro Simel & Lewis



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