

BEST OF '98 *music*

BY MICHELLE MCNEELY AND AMY DAUGHERTY
The Battalion

Two became one as rock meets rap, the glam-orama of Marilyn Manson took center stage, and it was boys against girls as the infamous boys and girls battle the girls of rock 'n' roll. Here are our picks of the 10 best albums of the year:

1 Lauryn Hill
The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill
"The Queen of the Hill" rises to the



forefront with her debut solo album. Composed of wisdom and realism, Hill's verses flow like spoken poetry. School is in session as she teaches about love and loss with the help of fellow soul mates Mary J. Blige and D'Angelo.

Carlos Santana adds finishing touches on "To Zion," a beautiful ballad dedicated to Hill's son. Hip-hop meets scripture when Hill inspires on "Final Hour" and "Forgive Them Father."

There are even two bonus tracks on the album including a version of "Can't Take My Eyes Off of You." Like the sound of an old 45, Hill blends classic rhythm and blues with silky smooth harmonies. Lauryn Hill, proven top of her class, graduates with honors on *Miseducation*.

2 Beastie Boys
Hello Nasty
After five years, Adam Horovitz (Adrock), Adam Yauch (MCA) and Mike Diamond (Mike D) brought their beats out of the dungeon and bless the Beastie girls and boys of the world with the release of *Hello Nasty*. The album consists of 21 tracks filled with lyrical prose, funk beats and even a little lounge music from the Brooklyn boys.

Less crass than *License to Ill* and not as hard-hitting as *Check Your Head* and *Paul's Boutique*, *Hello Nasty* transforms old-school rhyme and reason to the modern era.

Nobody does it better than three-time world champion DJ, Mixmaster Mike, whose creativity and flair intertwine with the Beastie Boys style magnificently.

3 U2
The Best of 1980-1990 (Limited Edition)
The highest-selling greatest-hits collection by any band its first week of release, this double disc set of the best of U2 is a contradiction in itself — with so many platinum albums, a compilation of their best songs is merely opinion.

Disc one celebrates U2's first six albums, with classics including "I Will Follow" and "Sunday Bloody Sunday."

Included in the limited edition is a promotional album of B-sides with the newly enhanced version of "Sweetest Thing."

True U2 fans will know every word by heart. Bono's soulful vocals make this yet another rare album from arguably the greatest rock band of the past two decades.

4 Dixie Chicks
Wide Open Spaces
The hottest new group to hit mainstream country and the first all-female group to score a number one hit, the Dixie Chicks' signature sound is taking them far.

The Chicks' latest release combines a mix of country, folk and bluegrass with pop harmonies.

As if that is not enough, they play their own music. Natalie Maines' vocals on "You Were Mine" are perhaps the most emotional and heart-wrenching of the compilation.

Overall, this un-Nashville CD is filled with attitude, personality and a lively delivery.

5 FatBoy Slim
You've Come A Long Way, Baby
FatBoy Slim, a.k.a. Norman Cook, deserves much praise for this handcrafted album.

The big-beat brother from Brighton, known for throwing the baddest house parties in England, has certainly come a long way since his first release, *Better Living Through Chemistry*.



ROBERT HYNCEK/THE BATTALION

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WHERE: Rudder Tower Room 601

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