

Volume Control



Blondie
No Exit
CD courtesy
of Beyond Music

The last time a Blondie song debuted on the radio, was in 1982, when most college students were learning how to walk and talk.

No Exit, the new release by Blondie, is far from a weak return. The 17 years have only been an improvement for the group.

The album started as a greatest hits collection, when four of the members came together last summer. However, one thing lead to another, 14 new tracks were laid down and an album was born.

In true Blondie style, the album incorporates a diversity of sounds. "Screaming Skin" is an upbeat punk song, making people want to get up and dance.

"Forgive and Forget" combines tribal drums and electronic rhythms and "Maria" is hitting the air waves and climbing up the Billboard ladder.

"No Exit" is a return to the vocal mix, as rapper Coolio joins in.

Blondie is back and *No Exit* is a return to the upbeat energy and strength that made them the top act in the late '70s. (Grade: A-)

— Mariam Mohiuddin



Dovetail Joint
001
Columbia Records

The traditional college rock of the Gin Blossoms and the brooding sound of Big Wreck make for an odd combination, but Chicago's Dovetail Joint pulls it off with style and grace on *001*.

Their simple lyrics and relaxing vibe ensure that a good time is had by all.

The band covers adolescence to pubescence on *001*.

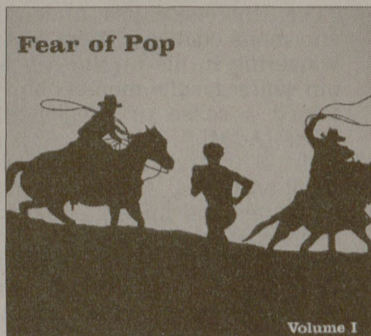
"Beautiful" is a head-bobbin, body-rockin' ballad that expresses the innocent virtues of love at first sight.

"Except When You're Late" declares the annoyance of untimely dates in a semi-new wave fashion.

Freshman psychology class rears its ugly head on the band's first single, "Level On The Inside," as frontman Chuck Gladfelter proclaims, "Feigning your humility/It only serves to weaken the/Most common observations that you make."

A new generation of college rockers, Dovetail Joint carries the torch for generations to come. (Grade: B)

—Michelle McNeely



Fear of Pop
Volume 1
Sony Music Entertainment

Entering the wonderfully wacky world of Ben Folds is an experience, to say the least.

The pageantry of Folds' ingenuity and off-beat charm pervade on his instrumental and spoken word side project, *Fear of Pop*. Beware, Ben Folds Five faithfuls expecting the mellow drama of "Brick" might be scared off by the jungle beats, synthesizers and groovy basslines that instantly surround them.

The album contains aphrodisiacs full of enough grooves and lounge sounds to make Austin Powers giddy.

The main attraction on the album is "In Love," a spoken word performance starring William Shatner as the unrequited lover. Shatner's performance provides a very enlightening look at relationships from a man's perspective.

Folds takes his fun quite seriously on *Volume 1*, impersonating everything from a classic Ponch and John police chase to British techno maniacs.

Volume 1 is an adventure for those who like to journey down the road not taken and venture into a new place. (Grade: A-)

—Michelle McNeely

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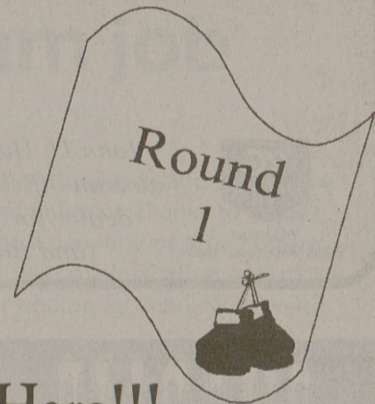
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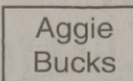
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