

Volume Control



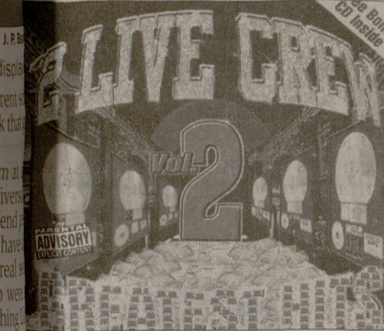
Less Than Jake
Hello Rockview
Capitol

Last year's ska-punk invasion may have fizzled, but the genre is far from buried. In fact, *Hello Rockview* is evidence the ska-punk scene is still just as good (if not better) than last year—it's not just mainstream.

"History of a Boring Town" is a candid view of a teenager's aspiration to leave home and become successful, with the reflection "I promised myself I would never stay, but I'm rotting here today." Many of the songs on the album are fueled by the band's three-piece horn section, which further energizes the fast, upbeat tempo of ska music.

Hello Rockview is a goodbye to the pop-influenced ska (see Sugar Ray, "Fly") that took it off the mainstream. "All My Best Friends are Metalheads" and "Help Save the Youth of America From Exploding" are fast paced songs to raise your heartbeat and make you mosh in your dorm room. (Grade: B+)

—Mariano Castillo



2 Live Crew
2 Live Crew Greatest Hits
Volume 2
CD Courtesy of lil' Joe Records

Those naughty Floridians are back on the shelves again. Unlabeled by the possibility their album could get yanked off the shelves a second time and the fact nobody much cares about their

music except drunk frat boys, 2 Live Crew is disseminating its raunchiest works in the form of a "best of" album.

Taking a cue from former arena rockers Poison and Skid Row, two other bands on the missing but not missed list, Luke Skywalker and company released an album featuring hits spanning their entire 15-minute career. The result is a collection of tracks that proves they cannot compare with any rap act of today (or even old material from fellow Florida alumnus Too Short).

As an extra enticement for buyers, the album features a remake of the Crew's "Me So Horny" that attempts to editorialize on the Lewinski affair but sounds like it was written by a three-year old whose Hooked on Phonics program included transcripts from a particularly foul-mouthed Def Comedy Jam episode.

Buyer be warned: purchasing this album for nostalgia will only bring to light how incredibly immature you were when you snuck in a listen during middle school. (Grade: D)

—Stephen Wells



Los Amigos Invisibles
The New Sound of the Venezuelan Gozadera
Luaka Bop

When students at Texas A&M hear the phrase Spanish music, the first rhythms to flow through their mind are the tango songs found on some of the radio stations in the Bryan-College Station area.

The New Sound of the Venezuelan Gozadera, the U.S. debut album of the Venezuelan band Los Amigos Invisibles, dispels this stereotype from the moment the play button is pressed.

The sextet delivers a distinct musical flavor not found on English menus combining acid jazz and funk with a side of dance

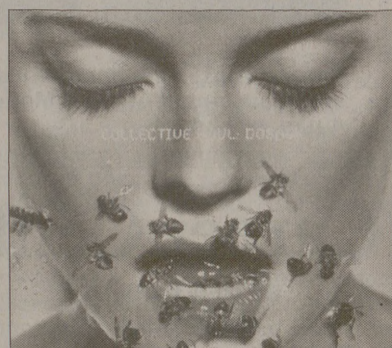
and a twist of disco.

The main criticism of this album is that the Spanish lyrics (which read like a chapter out of Human Sexuality 101) cannot be understood by most listeners.

However, the music is intoxicating enough to meet its purpose—to get everyone up and dancing.

Songs like "Ponerte en Cuatro" and "El Disco Anal" smoothly blend traditional Latin rhythms with modern experimental beats and show the evolution of Spanish music that leads to one definite conclusion: get out of the old and get into *The New Sound of the Venezuelan Gozadera*. (Grade: A-)

—Mariano Castillo



Collective Soul
Dosage
Atlantic Records

Dosage, the fourth release by Georgia quintet Collective Soul has already scored with three hits. The two current releases, "Heavy" and "Run," have received heavy air play from radio and MTV. "She Said," an unnumbered bonus track, was a hit when it was originally released on the *Scream 2* soundtrack.

Front man Ed Roland and company stay true to the Collective Soul sound on *Dosage*. "Needs," a holdover from their last album, and "Slow" are definite future releases. Like "Maybe" from *Disciplined Breakdown*, "Needs" is an acoustically driven ballad with lyrics that are personally meaningful to Ed Roland, and "Slow" is a collaboration of brothers Ed and Dean Roland.

In a change from the norm, lead guitarist Ross Childers wrote and fronts "Dandy Life." Many of the songs were previously written or intended for other albums but were rediscovered and changed up for *Dosage*.

Dosage is a must have for any true Collective Soul fan or any music fan who needs a dosage of great modern rock. (Grade: A+)

—Zach Hall

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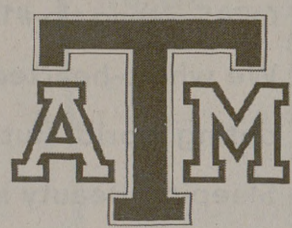
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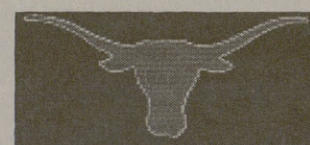
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