

Volume Control



Various Artists
Never Been Kissed
Columbia Records



Bijou Phillips
I'd Rather Eat Glass
Almo Sounds



Old 97's
Fight Songs
CD Courtesy of Elektra Records

From old artists to new, from the famous to not so famous, all are featured on the *Never Been Kissed* soundtrack.

The lesser known songs, such as Block's performance of "Catch a Falling Star," dominate this soundtrack.

Songs such as "Erase/Rewind" by the Cardigans and R.E.M.'s "At My Most Beautiful" aren't quite up to par.

Oldies but goodies such as "Don't Worry Baby" by the Beach Boys and "Watching The Wheels" by John Lennon & Yoko Ono give this soundtrack a highly nostalgic tone.

The one song that sets this soundtrack on fire and makes up for any of the bad songs on the play list is Ozomatli's "Cumbia de los Muertos."

Cumbia is a hot Latin dance with the irresistible beats of the bongo and a blaring coronet.

Other featured names in the CD include Semisonic, Swirl 360, The Smiths and Sonichrome. (Grade: B)

— Noni Sridhara

This album should be re-named *I'd Rather Eat Glass Than Listen to This CD*.

Just because manufactured pop singers like Britney Spears and Natalie Imbruglia had a couple of top 10 songs, producers are trying to find every girl out there with a pretty face and a pretty voice and make her the next big thing.

Bijou Phillips herself looks like an elf straight out of some fantasy painting, freckles, impish nose and all.

The practice is so sickening and this album so bad, this valuable space really shouldn't be wasted talking about this excuse for a trend album.

One of the only good things about the album is the first track, "Hawaii." The song itself is terrible, but the title is pretty cool.

To sum up this review, don't buy this CD.

If time permits, please boycott this CD and the horrible producers who brought us all the boy bands. (Grade: F)

— Kyle Whitacre

With their fourth album, *Fight Songs*, the Old 97's prove once and for all that country and rock do mix — and mix with style.

From the first gritty chords of the album's opener "Jagged" to the pseudo-love song closer "Valentine," the Old 97's have once again hit the mark.

Rhett Miller, the band's lead vocalist, guitarist and primary songwriter, has readily admitted he moved from Dallas to Los Angeles in pursuit of a girl. By listening to *Fight Songs*, it seems apparent things did not exactly go smoothly for the two.

While the album's lyrics are decidedly more somber than those of the 97's previous releases, *Fight Songs* somehow maintains the jangly alt-country sound that first attracted the band's die-hard fans.

If crying into a beer while bobbing your head sounds like a good way to spend an evening, *Fight Songs* will not disappoint. (Grade: B)

— Riley LaGrone



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