

VOLUME CONTROL



Happy 2b Hardcore: Chapter Six
Various Artists
Moonshine Records

This compilation of dance tunes provides break-beat techno anthems sure to get any dance floor jumping. The soft vocals accompanied by fast techno beats on "Drift on a Dream" by Kaos and Ethos make a smooth transition into the repetitious second track, "All I Need" by Visa. "Turn up the Music," by Scott Brown, sounds almost Celtic in the introduction, but quickly gains momentum as one of the best tracks on the album.

DJ UFO's "Deep Inside" and "Jump a Little Higher" by Breeze, start off strong and keep the pace until the end as high-energy dance tunes. The high-pitched vocals on "Toy Town," by Hixxy and Sharkey, sound almost child-like. Any student having trouble staying awake through readings on palisade mesophyll cells or phloem parenchyma will feel his or her eyes immediately pop open.

The fast and messy beats of the 13th track, "Can't Stop" by Midas, announce the climax of the album, and Hixxy's "Come Together" and "Make Believe" by Force and Styles bring this dance-mania album to a close. (Grade: B)

—Lizette Resendez



The Grand Pecking Order
Oysterhead
Elektra Records

Musical collaborations have two purposes: to allow artists to step outside of their usual confines and to sell records. Think Santana on 1999's *Supernatural*. It featured huge names that would not have normally gotten together, and it sold millions of records.

The Oysterhead collaboration combines guitarist Trey Anastasio, bassist Les Claypool and drummer Stewart Copeland — three musical heavyweights with less than superstar fame.

Their usual bands might sound familiar, though. Anastasio plays lead guitar and sings lead for Phish, Claypool is the genius frontman for Primus and Copeland played drums for The Police.

The Grand Pecking Order, Oysterhead's first

CD, weaves the varied skills of these three talents into a wacky, if not completely absurd, sonic quest.

The style of play is difficult to define and can not be placed into a specific subgenre, unless its title is "miscellaneous." If music can be choice D.) All of the above, then this is it. Rock, funk, blues, bluegrass, folk and comic book fantasy are all in this CD.

The work is hard to describe, but that does not make it amorphous. Metaculous compositions by capable songwriters mean that any superficial attempt to decode the music's complexities will end in utter failure. Even an educated ear will continue to discover previously unheard riffs and presentations, however, listeners should not try to figure out the lyrics.

Claypool's and Anastasio's vocals are clear enough, but the meaning of their lines remains a mystery. (Grade: B)

—Thomas Phillips

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The Nutcracker

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DEADLINES: 4:30 p.m. **Tuesday, Nov. 27**, for editor positions, and 4:30 p.m. **Monday, Dec. 3**, for staff positions. Turn applications in at 014 (basement) Reed McDonald Building. Interviews will begin immediately after application deadlines.

Extra applications available in the newsroom or online at <http://www.thebatt.com>

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