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Music Review V 2.002

Queens of the Stone Age Songs for the Deaf Interscope Records

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Don't buy this disc of pathetically generic and thoughtless songs. Songs for the Deaf should stay muted.

Basically, Queens of the Stone Age is three nobodys who got together and wrote a bunch of songs and somehow got Dave Grohl, the former drummer for Nirvana and current lead singer for the Foo Fighters, to play drums for them. Listeners should remember, however, that poor music, no matter who's playing it, is still poor music.

The tracks are the easy guitar-pop-punk melodies any guitar band can beat out. "No One Knows" has gotten some radio play and granted, it does have a different beat compared to the rest of the slop on the airwaves.

There are tons of great bands out there with far better skills at both writing and performing, and it's too bad this little group gets to distribute its songs on a nationwide level and get so much air time. If listening with one's brain as well as one's ears isn't the preferred method for discerning quality in music, owning this CD shouldn't be a problem.

★☆☆☆☆

-Thomas Phillips

usic Review V 2.002

Good Charlotte

The Young and the Hopeless

**Epic Records** 

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If punk rock was a wine cellar, Good Charlotte would be the bottle of Snapple that somebody left there by accident. The band's sophomore album, *The Young and the Hopeless* is a direct prequel of its 2000 self-titled debut album with the same theme – hatred for high school, jocks, preps and all others things a stereotypical punk is expected to detest.

The 14-track set is chock-full of emo rock that would even make Dashboard Confessional beg for mercy. In songs such as "Bloody Valentine" and "Anthem," the band tries to use fast-paced tunes and clever guitar riffs in an elaborate scheme to cover up the fact that front man Joel's vocalizing efforts would be perfect for a boy band.

The track "The Day That I Die" reaffirms the band's status as a pseudo-punk-pop band, with over-the-top sappiness and guitar music reminiscent of Matchbox 20. "Say Anything" starts off like a pop effort, and continues on to morph into a mushy chronicle of whining.

The album isn't entirely a lost cause though, because Good Charlotte manages to salvage a couple of songs on the record. The saving grace of the album are the tracks "Lifestyles Of The

Rich And Famous" and "Story Of My Old Man." These fast-paced beats and infections lyrics definitely make the listener think twite about the album.

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The Young And The Hopeless seems to be an functory effort by the band. Strong anarchis at rebellious sentiments coming from the lates of poster boys just doesn't strike a chord. The abundance of the CD collections of same pre-teens that tune in to watch the band of TRL everyday. But what else can you expect a punk band that lists Michael Jackson and Fin Apple as musical influences?

☆★★☆☆

fusic Review V 2 002

Foo Fighters
Songs for the Deaf
Interscope Records

One by One, the Foo Fighters' fourthall contains a mixture of hard rock ballads with heart-felt lyrics that have been compared to

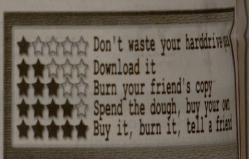
songs written by Kurt Cobain in the late and early 1990s.

Dave Grohl, lead singer of the Foo Fighter of former drummer for Nirvana, seems to mimic Cobain's dark style when he sings, "Dead on the inside, I've got nothing to prove/Keep me alive migive me something to lose," in "Comeback." Our lyrics (i.e. "Down and out again/But I'm down with you," in "Lonely As You") suggest Grohl's moving away from such loneliness.

Band members Taylor Hawkins (drums), Chris Shiflet (lead guitar) and Nate Mendel (bass) lend powerful guitar riffs and intense rhythm to most of *One by One*'s tracks. White Grohl's contribution to Nirvana was his perasion style and occasional backup vocals, his position at helm of the Foo Fighters creates different style of music that can appeal to the grunge lover.

Whether singing with melody or simply screaming lyrics into the microphone, Grohl swith passion in every song. In "All My Life," Grohl screams, "I'm done, done/On to the net one!" with a tone of voice that could scare uppered ears. One by One is an all around good album with good lyrics and riffs, but it's just not the same old Foo Fighters.

★★★☆☆☆



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