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THE BRUNSWICKAN



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Entertainment Editor
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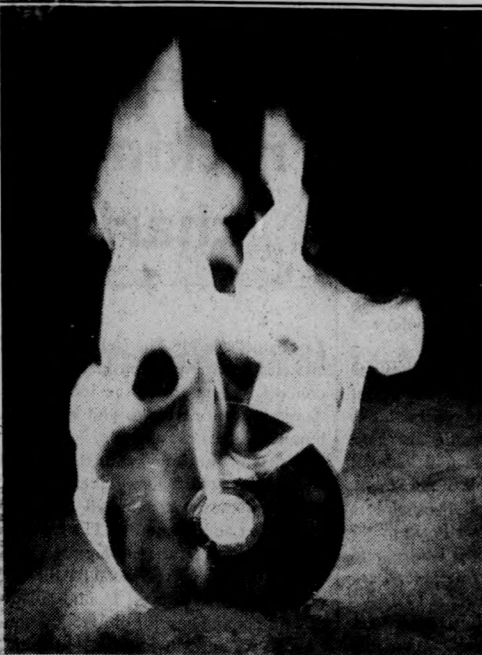
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KENNY G
THE MOMENT
(ARISTA)

There is something ethereal about the sensual sounds of a good saxophonist. The musical production of an array of sounds can be hauntingly clear or blatantly rambunctious. In either case, one of the prominent saxophonists of the musical field is Kenny G. Over the years, this artist has delved into a variety of musical styles that captures the sensual notes of the saxophone. His latest recording, *The Moment*, seems to embody the aspect of situational themes and moods. Each track fits a particular evocative feature that blends different instruments and a few vocals. Primary among the instrumentation is the saxophone's tonal quality and how it adds to the general scheme of the music. The emotional ranges displayed in *The Moment* course through playfulness ("Gettin' On The Step"), love ("That Somebody Was You," with Toni Braxton), relaxation ("Havana") and inspiration ("The Champion's Theme") is an enjoyable CD.

* JETHILO E. CABILETE

CATHERINE
HOT SAKI & BEDTIME STORIES
(TVT/INTERSCOPE)

Catherine may be flush with catchy guitar chords and resounding riffs, but it takes more than a flavour-of-the-week music and a familiar sound to achieve honest popularity. Or does it? The influence of the Smashing Pumpkins is extremely apparent on *Hot Saki & Bedtime Stories*. The vocal quality — albeit better than Mr. Billy Corgan's — is quite similar, and the pace and feel of the songs could fool you as well. In fact, Smashing Pumpkins' bassist, D'Arcy, is married to Catherine's drummer, and sings on "Four Leaf Clover," solidifying the band's resemblance even more so. Lyrically, the tunes very repetitive and definitely not introspective, but the band will no doubt achieve some degree of success in the near future. But it will be the label hype that really pushes this band to prominence because the music certainly won't.

* PETER J. CULLEN



NERFHERDER
S/T
(ARISTA)

There are some prevalent base lines. There're also some pretty loud guitar solos and a lot lyrics written about Van Halen and ex-girlfriends. But when you add it all up, you're left with a band that sounds like it belongs in a garage back in high school. Even the Star Wars fonts they use on their golf shirts remind me of some high school gimmick that I would have found cool for a week or two.

But don't get me wrong. You don't need intelligent and stimulating lyrics to have a band that is entertaining to listen to. Some of the songs are pretty catchy, and would probably cheer anyone out a relationship — including depression. If this sounds like what you want, look for songs like "Sorry" and "Nosering Girl." If you're a Van Halen fan, you'll of course want to listen to "Van Halen," the first single that was released. It's a pretty catchy tune that I'm sure you'll find stuck in our head. Whether that's a good thing or just plain annoying is up to you.

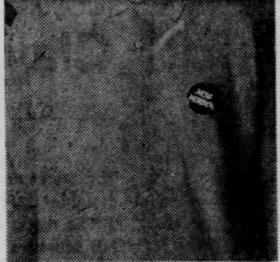
Nerf Herder is music's equivalent of an Arnold Schwarzenegger flick; you watch it to be entertained; not looking for any substance. They're a pretty new band — this being their first CD — so I'll be expecting some interesting releases from them in the future.

* JAMIE BROWN

FLUFFY
BLACK EYE

Riot girl with a little bit of fluff is the best way to describe Fluffy's CD, *Black Eye*. Being one of the most attractive girl bands to hit the scene in a long time has not made these girls happy. These are definitely angry women. With songs from everything from abuse to drugs, this is not an easy listening CD. Lyrically, this is an excellent group of songs. There are fourteen songs and each one of them have an important message. Unfortunately, though, each song musically sounds pretty much exactly the same as the one before. One or two tracks stood out, but for the most part I found the messages got lost because I was fast forwarding looking for a different sound. If you are an avid collector of riot girl music you owe it to yourself to pick this one up. I don't however recommend listening to the entire CD at once. Fluffy stands in the tradition of "in-your-face" angry chick music, but there is such a thing as too much of a good thing.

* JENN BROWN



LA BOUCHE
ALL MIXED UP
(BMG)

Melanie Thornton and Lane McCray certainly hit the success track to musical stardom when their album *Sweet Dreams* rocked the charts. This duo formed La Bouche with the collaboration of musical talent co-ordinator Frank Farian to create a dance sensation that has taken the world by storm. The title track, along with tracks like "Be My Lover" and "Fallin' In Love" soared to the top internationally in Hong Kong, Austria, New Zealand, Switzerland, The United States and Canada. Furthermore, the dance songs have been capitalized upon by numerous dance compilations to produce a variety of mixes. Now, fans of the popular duo are able to listen and dance to the best mixes of La Bouche's chart-toppers with *All Mixed Up*.

This selection of the best remixes is an example of two different points of view of the entire remix scene. In one sense this is a great opportunity to hear some incredible variations of a popular song. The remixing is superb and the talents of the group are surely heightened from an aesthetic point of view. However, at the same time the appeal is limited to those people who are die-hard dance supporters, aerobics instructors, house-party people and so on. Those of the musical purist orientation, or who think this is a chance to hear some new material, will be somewhat disappointed. Yet the music is upbeat and energetic and is meant as a medium for fast-paced dance and movement. All in all this album is a great selection to dance to, but not for those who plan to sit down and just listen to it.

* JETHILO E. CABILETE



UNGA BUNGA

A COMIC BOOK THING

SAM MORGAN
THE BRUNSWICKAN

TOUCH OF SILVER
BY JIM VALENTINO
IMAGE/SHADOWLINE INK

Jim Valentino is no Kurt Busiek, but from his latest offering, *Touch of Silver* you might think differently — at least for a day or two. Believe it or not, Valentino has been quietly making comics for over a decade with a smart blend of mystery, social commentary and lots of spandex — most notably with his run on *Guardians of the Galaxy* and his creator-owned *Shadowhawk*.

Touch of Silver marks Valentino's semi-autobiographical return to comics after his less than amiable dealings with former Image buddy Rob Liefeld and their *Heroes Reborn* Avengers effort. Each month Valentino intends to tell the story he and your folks lived while growing up in the '60s.



Peter and Timmy are both outcasts at school. Timmy finds escape from his problems by reading the exploits of his favourite super guys, while Peter literally lives the life of the super guy to forget or delay his troubles. Above all, both characters are highly identifiable by their respective readers and accurately captures an era gone by.

Future issues will address the Kennedy assassination, leaving home, school dances and suburbia.

Don't go looking for this issue to be setting any sales records but it will be one of the best reads out there. Maybe we'll see Valentino walk away with an Eisner Award soon.

So give *Touch of Silver* a go, and who knows, it might just breach the generation gap between you and your folks. Or at least why they did all that funny stuff.

Sam Morgan has been wasting his money on comics for too long and doesn't know why. Special thanks to *Strange Adventures*, the *Strangest* collectible place this side of Iowa.



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