

### CD Reviews

#### Crash Test Dummies *A Worm's Life*

The *Ghosts That Haunt Me*, Crash Test Dummies' first album, was magical. Unlike anything I'd ever heard before, it had the mesmerizing vocals of Brad Roberts, quirky lyrics and unusual music. Played over and over, "Superman's Song," "A Winter's Tale" and "Androgynous" were the soundtrack of a summer.

*A Worm's Life*, the Dummies' latest release, is less fabulous. Roberts' style — both vocal and lyrical — gets old by the fourth track. While it's well-suited to "My Own Sunrise" (about morning erections, but symbolic-like), a few tracks with keyboardist Ellen Reid taking over lead vocals may have added some welcome variety.

Some songs do stand out. The Dummies bio information (on their website at [www.crashtestdummies.com](http://www.crashtestdummies.com)) calls the material for Brad's songs: "outsiders, oddballs and surreal moments of living," and this is true enough.

"All of This Ugly" and "My Enemies" capture his genius for the surreal irony of everyday life; and when the lyrics in "An Old Scab," "Overachievers" and "He Liked To Feel It" fall flat, the music makes up for it.

There's a uniform quality to *A Worm's Life* that is okay, so long that you enjoy the Dummies' distinctive sound. But it sounds like I can't get some things back, including that first, fresh love affair I had with *The Ghosts That Haunt Me*.

• Mary Rogal-Black

#### Gillette *Shake Your Money Maker*

The deluge of dance-style music has certainly hit an all time peak in recent years. Some are one-hit wonders, while others become the continual cog in the fast-paced energy of dance. Within the dance-scene itself there are numerous offshoots with varying themes such as tribal-beat, jungle music, techno, trance and so forth. One of the more recent additions has been the rise in Grrrl-based music; hard-driving, in-your-face and from the perspective of women. In some cases the Grrrl scene is a feminine version of the hard-core nasty-boys attitude of the rap/hip-hop influence. As such it often exudes a raw sexual ambivalence toward life and everything in between.

Gillette has come through with another recording entitled, *Shake Your Money Maker*. Whereas her previous album, *On The Attack*, seems bent on putting men in their place, this one has a more upbeat and fun-loving style to it. Some of the music is not really that inspiring, but there are a few that are excellent dance numbers (e.g. "Weekend & Bounce"). The beats are fresh and her vocal abilities do have that raw passion and energy. However, the lyrical content of some songs leaves much to be desired. Still, overall, this recording is good.

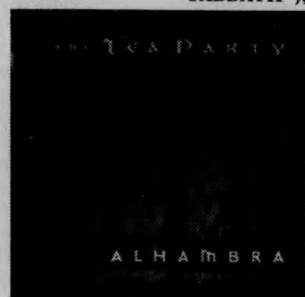
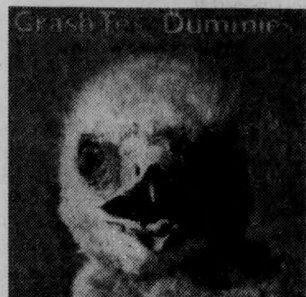
• Jethelo E. Cabilete

#### Marilyn Manson *Antichrist Superstar*

Marilyn Manson, the person, is a good businessman. His shock value is very nicely calculated to disturb parental, religious and political authorities, which gives him tons of exposure; in turn boosting record sales. The entire lyrical content of *Antichrist Superstar* proves this. However, he is not a very good musician, and without the musical prowess of his backup musicians—most notably Twiggy Ramirez—Marilyn Manson, the band, would cease to exist. Manson himself contributes musically to only four of the sixteen tracks on the album, and only one, "Minute of Decay," is a completely solo effort.

This doesn't mean, though, that *Antichrist Superstar* is not a good album. If you can get past Manson's "evil" image, this album does have some decent music, reminiscent of Nine Inch Nails and Joy Division. Memorable tracks include "Tourniquet," "Kinderfeld" and the haunting "Man That You Fear." However, if you are easily offended or can't stand the thought of people with little or no talent taking the spotlight at the expense of other people, do not pick up this album.

• Charles Teed



#### New Kingdom *Paradise Don't Come Cheap*

New Kingdom is a duo from Brooklyn comprised of DJ's Nosaj and Sebastian. Their album *Paradise Don't Come Cheap* embraces a marriage that is not unfamiliar in modern music—that of rock and rap. Slow phat beats infest the fifteen tracks, and a little distorted guitar riff (usually a la Jimi) often complement the raspy, heavy vocal deliveries of the members. The result is a sound somewhere between the drowsiness of Cypress Hill and the flavor of Wu-Tang stylings. Most notably (and symbolically) though is the obvious influence of RUN-DMC (who are sampled on "Infested") who were the original matchmakers in the aforementioned rock/rap relationship. New Kingdom certainly are not bashful in terms of these influences—they're all over the record. Props are sent out to Sabbath ("Blasting out my advents / DAS-EFX to BLACK SABBATH"), Jimi ("I once had a poster / Jimmy Hendrix on a horse with a pistol and a holster"), and the greatest rock drummer of all time ("Animal was my favorite drummer"). *Paradise* doesn't come across as a work of brilliant conception; instead it is more of a refreshing interpretation of rock influences. New Kingdom is like most good music these days—it's not an unfamiliar sound, but an old favorite heard through new speakers.

• Jon Bartlett

#### The Wedding Present *Saturnalia*

Somewhere in the middle of the sewage pond of Britpop, David Gedge and Wedding Present are drudging along at their own little pace on a lily pad, happy and content. Gedge has been working under the Wedding Present moniker for years now under various labels and hasn't let bad press or presquefame (with 1994's *Watusi* on Island Records, their former home) change him a bit. Maybe he realizes he is one of the UK's most gifted songwriters. Nevertheless, Wedding Present seem to have found a home at Cooking Vinyl (licensed in Canada by True North Records) who have released *Miniplus* earlier this year, and now the latest offering, *Saturnalia*. There seems to be a new confidence in the material of Wedding Present, as demonstrated by the craftsmanship in the songs of *Saturnalia*. Female vocals are more prevalent than on previous releases and, overall, the band seems to be more a unit this time out rather than an extension of Gedge's psyche. As always, melody is Wedding Present's driving force (most notably on "Montreal") and its most endearing quality. So as you're waiting for the next splash into the cess pool, remember Wedding Present—they're still floating.

• Charles Teed

• Jon Bartlett

#### Saint John String Quartet impressive



SCOTT McFADDEN PHOTO AND REVIEW

The Saint John String Quartet played at the Black Box Theatre in Sir James Dunn Hall on Tuesday night. Never before having been to a string quartet, or for that matter any live classical music performance, I didn't know what to expect. During the first half of the concert they played a string quartet by Mozart, and after the intermission they came back with Shostakovich String Quartet No. 2. I found both very well done, but the Shostakovich played during the second half sounded particularly powerful. The sound was great because the acoustics at the Black Box Theatre are extraordinary. It was an evening of great music, accompanied by free food and beverages during intermission, plus good seats for only a one dollar admission charge.

### Entertainment Online

Monty Python web site (<http://www.pythonline.com>)

I no longer own my navel.

I donated it to a friend last week, through the silly intermediary of the Monty Python web site. In the eight weeks following its conception, 25,000 fans had joined the Spam Club, members of which can donate body parts, change their star sign (I'm now a newt), and other characteristically ridiculous stuff. With information on the players' projects, and a novel "Piss Off" button that returns you to the home page, this site is definitely more for the warped than for the easily offended.

If you have any web sites you find interesting, entertaining or just plain cool, e-mail the URL (and/or even a brief review!) to [bruns@unb.ca](mailto:bruns@unb.ca). Subject line: "ATTN: Entertainment"

The winner of the Starkicker soccer sweater and beach music CD is Kim Wawhinney. Congratulations!

Second prize of a beach music CD goes to Carolyn Kean.

Stay tuned next week for Beatles *Anthology 3* giveaways. It's always easy to win if you actually enter...

### Every 'Airplane' has a 'Silver Lining'

CHARLES TEED  
THE BRUNSWICKAN

The Booming Airplanes are soaring.

In their three short years of existence, this five piece band from Dartmouth, Nova Scotia have been picked up by a major label, released their first CD, *Yarn*, and have toured with some pretty big names in Canadian rock. Not too bad for just a bunch of young 'uns.

Four of the guys in the band are in their early twenties, and the youngest

Maritimes' largest city. "It seems like bands like us are really outnumbered [in Halifax], but not everything in Halifax has a hard edge."

You can certainly hear the Airplanes' acoustic inclinations on their latest album. Savoury compares the sound of the band to Canadian acts such as The Skydiggers and the now-defunct The Grapes of Wrath. While not all of the songs on the album are brand new to the band, Savoury feels that "the sound and the song writing have improved quite

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— Mark Savoury,  
Booming Airplanes

member, Ruth Minnikin, is a mere 19 years old. While youthfulness sometimes hinders bands, vocalist Mark Savoury said thus far they have encountered few problems. "Sometimes it's a little bit hard [being so young], but usually people take it in stride."

Another impressive fact is that the band is a product of the Halifax music scene. The Booming Airplanes are a folk-rock band, not exactly what one would expect from Canada's answer to Seattle. While Savoury agrees that Halifax does have a healthy "alternative" scene, he also points out that there are plenty of other sounds emerging from the

a bit [on *Yarn*]... You can definitely hear the youthfulness in our earlier songs."

The band has also been getting some heavy support from radio stations around the East coast. "Our single, 'Silver Lining,' has been doing well enough on the radio that the record company has been sending us out on the road to promote the album." However, the video for the tune has been receiving limited play on MuchMusic. "The only time we heard about the video being on MuchMusic was on MuchEast, which is only on around midnight on Sundays."

The Booming Airplanes are playing at Sweetwaters this Tuesday, along with headlining act Spirit of the West and Starkicker.

#### UNIVERSITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

#### AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

ATTENTION: STUDENTS, FACULTY AND ALUMNI

THE AWARD is dedicated to the late Dr. Allan P. Stuart and is to honour persons who are representative of outstanding teaching achievement at the University of New Brunswick.

ELIGIBILITY: A candidate must teach at least one 3-credit hour undergraduate course, and at least one 3-credit hour course each term, during the academic year in which the nomination is made. It is not expected that the nominee should excel in all criteria listed on the nomination form, but they should be qualified in most categories. Individuals are not eligible if they have been previous recipients of the Award.

NOMINATION: Candidates for the Award are proposed and recommended to the Senate Committee on Quality of Teaching by students, faculty and alumni of the University.

The basic information required is contained on the Nomination Form, which are available from the University Secretary, Fredericton; the Vice-President (Saint John); the Student Council, Saint John or Fredericton; and Faculty Offices. No one may nominate or support more than one candidate. The form must be signed by two nominators. The Committee places little value on long lists of signatures supporting a nomination. However, signed letters or paragraphs of support from a variety of sources (current and former students, faculty members, alumni, Department Chairs or Deans) can enhance a nomination.

Send nominations to the University Secretary, Room 110, Old Arts Building, UNB Fredericton, or to the Vice-President (Saint John), Room 110, Oland Hall, UNB Saint John.



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