

MUDGIRL
First Book
PERMANENT

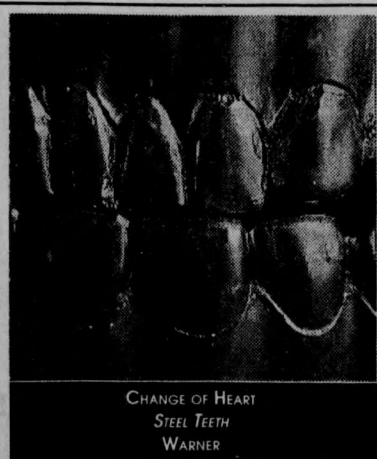
From the remnants of Me, Mom & Morgantaler comes Kim Bingham, aka Mudgirl. This five song EP shows excellent promise for Bingham's near-solo vehicle, and a full-length album would certainly be a keeper for Can-rock fans.

First Book's opening track, "This Day," is about as fine a radio rock/pop tune as anyone could invent - clear and distinct vocals overlap a surly guitar and simple, yet effective lyrics. The *miscellaneous* video for "Adjusted" has seen regular air time on MuchMusic, obviously displaying The Nation's Music Station's belief in Bingham.

Her husband, Odds' Steven Drake, who recorded and mixed the recent 54+40 and Tragically Hip albums, also served the same duty on *First Book*, and the quality is apparent on Bingham's snappy, self-produced affair.

Hopefully, Mudgirl will soon schedule studio time to complete a full length album. Another chapter in her musical career is much anticipated.

• PETER J. CULLEN



CHANGE OF HEART
Steel Teeth
WARNER

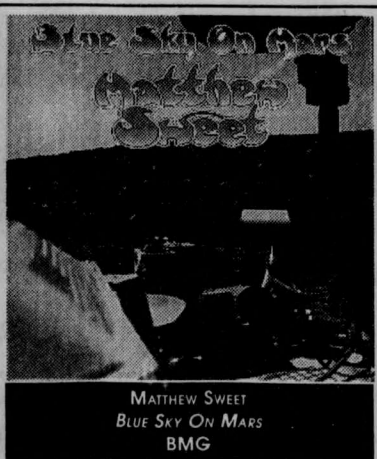
As I sit here grumpy and tired, this album cheers me up. "Goddamn" (track 7) has me singing along, and it feels good. Definitely a breakthrough album for the band, as they have managed to capture a lot of their live intensity.

After the release of their *Tummy'suckle* album, CoH guitarist/vocalist Ian Blurton said to me, "[Tummy'suckle] is the first album we've recorded that I can actually listen to afterwards." Well, this is the second.

From the catchy opening track of "Little Kingdoms," to the extended build-up of the closing track "Say It," the album is excellent. You can listen to it in parts or as a whole.

The addition of new bassist Rob Higgins seems to have added a boost to the band. The energy that the grooving bass pulls from your body is truly inspiring for Canadian rock musicians.

• ANTHONY DAVIS



MATTHEW SWEET
Blue Sky On Mars
BMG

'Infectious' isn't quite the right word to describe Matthew Sweet. It doesn't do him justice.

Sweet has definitely built his name on the basis of his hit singles. The first radio release from *Blue Sky On Mars*, "Where You Get Love," takes, at most, two listens to lodge itself firmly in your head. And once there, it's not easy to dislodge.

Likewise, the album's first two tracks, "Come To California" and "Back To You," are solid pop tunes; they grab the listener's ear and refuse to let go. But this asset falters about half-way through the album.

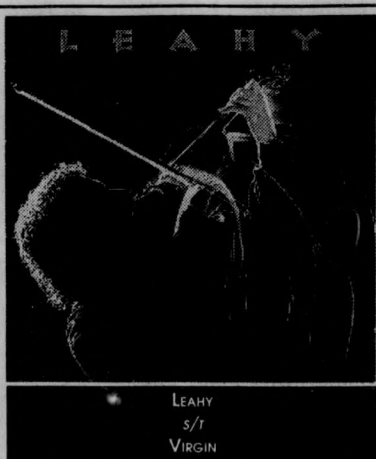
The "Sweet-syndrome" still exists on this new disc: the man writes incredible songs, but he can't find a suitable middle ground. Either the songs are exceptional, or else they're fast forward fodder. Fortunately, the majority of *Blue Sky On Mars* fits into the former category.

Sweet is also sounding a bit different this time around. Brendan O'Brien is still at the production helm, but Robert Quine and Richard Lloyd, his long-time guitar gurus, were abandoned for this project. However, Sweet himself adeptly fills in with clean, crisp notes and a greater tendency to rely on synthesizers and the mellotron - instruments and effects that work well on this album.

The lyrics are classic Sweet as well, but that's both good and bad. Most bands would be hard pressed to find someone with such an aptitude for interweaving words and music, but "All Over My Head" and "Where You Get Love" is Sweet at his best. However, other songs such as "Come To California" are so lyrically repetitive that it seems Sweet's middle name must be 'Sickeningly.' But that's the glory of this particular individual: he could be singing about root canals and the listeners would still love it.

Whether you decide to wait to hear the next single to make the purchase, it's a guarantee that, with the summer soon approaching, *Blue Sky On Mars* is going to be a must-have for every CD collection.

• PETER J. CULLEN

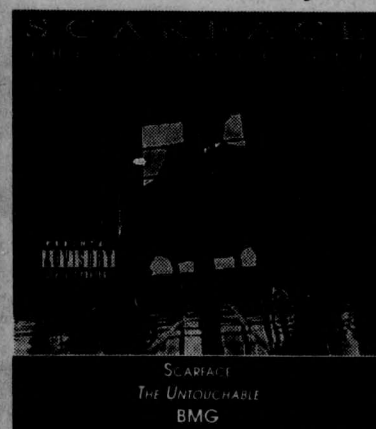


LEAHY
5/1
VIRGIN

You know East Coast music has never been more influential when a band like Leahy - a family act of eight brothers and sisters - can record a major-label album like this. That's because Leahy is not actually an Atlantic Canadian act; like the late Stan Rogers, the band hails from Ontario. The liner notes of their self-titled debut CD express gratitude that their mother never forgot her Cape Breton roots, and it shows in this irresistible compilation of instrumentals.

At times sounding uncannily like Natalie McMaster's *No Boundaries*, this album serves mainly as a showcase for the astonishing fiddling of Donnell Leahy, who has been working at his craft since he was three years old. Performing tunes mainly from Cape Breton and Irish artists - not to mention a self-explanatory "Don Messer Medley" - Donnell and his band display considerable energy, barely stopping for breath until the last track, an Irish lament called "The Coulin." If I had to pick one standout track, it's probably "The Call to Dance," which actually incorporates the sound of Agnes Leahy's stepdancing into the song! Never mind their Central Canadian origins - this band, I'm glad to say, has given us a worthy addition to the burgeoning East Coast music scene.

• DAMIAN PENNY

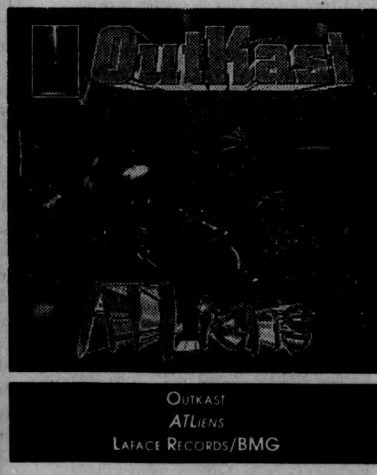


SCARFACE
The Untouchable
BMG

Once again, Scarface takes to the streets with his usual gangsta rap thang. The album is very instrumental, lush with piano, bass and bells. Scarface also features 2 Pac, Dr. Dre, Ice Cube and Too Short in some of the album's tracks.

The Untouchable does Scarface the justice he deserves for his easy-flowing, intensive style of gangsta rap - and it's no disappointment to fans.

• DANIEL OYUSU-AFARI

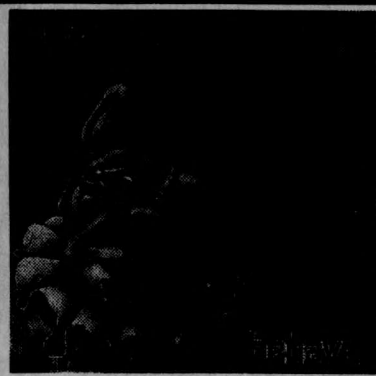


OUTKAST
ATLiens
LALACE RECORDS/BMG

This has been quite a long-awaited album, and Outkast fans are quite surprised and delighted to hear Outkast in quite a new fashion. They make effective use of background vocals, instrumentals and various sound effects, keeping you listening on the edge of your seat.

ATLiens boasts a most rich and intensive array of sounds and lyrics, characterized by the usual head-nodding Outkast rhythms.

• DANIEL OYUSU-AFARI



We realize that we reviewed these guys last week. We just thought we'd let you know that they still suck.

• PETER J. CULLEN & ANTHONY DAVIS

RESIDENCE REVIEW

If you do any of the following, this Review should interest you:

- live in Residence or at Magee House
- eat on campus, either in a dining hall or at the SUB
- find your apartment through Off-campus Housing

If the Review does interest you, please feel free to attend an open meeting for residence & off-campus students with the Review Team on:

Friday, April 4/97, 3:30 P.M. - 4:50 P.M., McConnell Hall

The Residence Review covers these activities handled by the following departments:

Dean of Residence Office

- Structure/Operation of Dean's Office
- Residence Life (programming, house activities, discipline, etc.)
- In-house Teams (Dons, Assoc. Dons, Resident Fellows, Proctors & ARPs)
- Academic Support (Living to Learn, liaison with Academic Facilities, etc.)
- Personal Support (liaison with Student Services such as counselling)

Housing & Food Services

- Structure/Operation of H&FS Office
- Residence & SUB Food Services
- Physical Operation of Residences (cleaning, keys, heating, etc.)
- Off-campus Housing Office
- Magee House Apartments
- Summer Residence Accommodation
- Summer Camps & Conferences

Given the busy time of year, pizza & pop will be served so the meeting can double as supper.