

MORE CD REVIEWS

The Carnival

Wyclef Jean
Ruffhouse/Columbia

As the CD's title might suggest, Wyclef Jean's *The Carnival* is a hodge-podge of musical styles, packaged and presented in a festive, merry tone. Wyclef's first foray into the market as

a solo artist following his astounding success with the rap/pop outfit The Fugees is, despite its noble ambitions, bound to be viewed as a disappointment, both in terms of quality and sales.

Ignoring major industry trends, Wyclef displays both originality and guts on the album. Significant are his attempts to portray interpretations of his

many influences, such as soul, disco, rap and — most pervasively — traditional, classic and contemporary reggae. For this he should be applauded.

On the same token one must fault him for failing to do anything new with the styles he performs. "Mona Lisa" sounds very much like Marvin Gaye, and "Gunpowder" bears a strong resemblance to later Marley songs, but

both fall far short of the masters' original work. Furthermore, "Anything Can Happen" and "We Trying To Stay Alive", the latter complete with a Bee Gee's sample, were poor choices for singles, as they are possibly the most half-hearted and unfortunately annoying tracks on the CD. "Jaspora", the album's best track, is a dancehall jam reminiscent of a young Shabba Ranks.

Wyclef also has two other major failings on this album. First, the fact that he can't really rap is unmercifully exposed. Second, Clef fails to tie in his numerous stylings in any sort of cohesive manner. The end result is a confusing and careless collection of sugar-coated cuts, full of fun and ambition, but void of skill and cohesion.

SOHRAB FARID

Tubthumper

Chumbawamba
Universal Music/ MCA

These guys rock! They have a great beat, a great sound and provoking lyrics. A punk band gone synth-pop and it works. You can even hear a bit of the old English punk sound.

The beats are so catchy that I'm presently typing to them. The music is really dynamic and doesn't feel the least bit repetitive.

The first song on the album, "Tubthumping", is most definitely the highlight of the album. The song is about what a wastefulness of the bar scene. The chorus line "pissing the night away" says it all.

Some songs seem slightly nonsensical, others are politically pointed and some are probably a bit of both. The jest and sarcasm of this band allow them to say just about anything without being too offensive. Besides, by the time you realize you're being insulted, you've already been pulled in by the beat.

The only sad thing about *Tubthumper* and Chumbawamba is that the band have been around forever and no one has known about them. Now I have to go search for their other seven albums.

TAMARA BOND

Karma
Delerium
Nettwerk

Delerium's creation, *Karma*, is a completely entrancing collection of music that creates a distinct mood wherever it is played. This album is amazing because it combines the sounds of the pop world's well known



new-age artists while incorporating a great deal of originality in their sound.

Following in the footsteps of groups such as Enigma, Dead Can Dance and Sarah McLachlan (who incidently does some work on this album), Delerium have created a truly unique world of their own that is haunting and ethereal.

Highlights of their musical range include Spanish guitar riffs, eerie, yet melodic vocals and occasional Tibetan monk chants. It can honestly be said that there is something for people of all tastes on this album. Some songs, such as "Euphoria (Firefly)", receive a fair bit of airplay because of their melodic dance-pop nature. However, songs like "Enchanted" and "Duende" have sampling and other sound effects that just make it sound downright creepy.

The only disappointment in this album was that the lyrics sometimes go astray to facilitate the style of the singing, which is a damn shame, because the lyrics are for the most part great. Overall, what makes the album stunning is merely the aura it creates every time it is played.

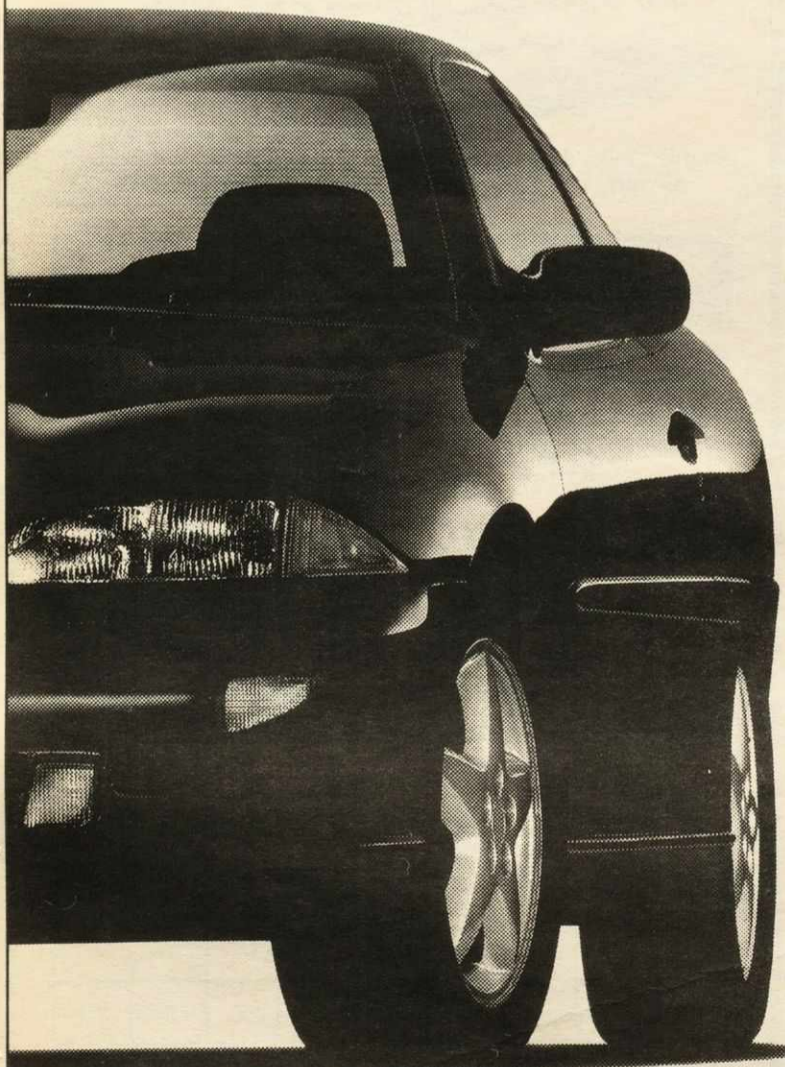
JANET FRENCH



Sold for a Smile
The Gandharvas
Watch Music

A little lighter, a little simpler, a little more raw, the third offering from the mystical minstrels indicates a definite change in musical direction. It's Rock 'n Roll! The band recruited local producer Laurence Currie and recorded *Sold For a Smile*
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