

# The sweet sounds of music

The latest releases in rap, R&B, and hip hop

## RETURN OF THE BOOM BAP

KRS-One

by Ty Jefferson  
Collegian Staff

On his latest album project *Return of the Boom Bap*, KRS-One confirms his status as the ultimate MC. He doesn't lose an ounce of old school flavor or street-wise wisdom on this entire release, and that makes this compilation his best narrative lesson to date.

After kicking off with "KRS-One Attacks," he moves into the first released single, "Outta

Here," a lyrical autobiography recounted in narrowing detail. You won't miss his regal flavor because its accurately peppered throughout sinister cuts like "UH-OH" and "P is Still Free."

He flips philosophically on "Black Cop" and "Brown Skin Woman," flexing intellect and finesse with an indisputably hard care texture. While "Black Cop" serves as a historical lesson, "Brown Skin Woman" is a shout-out to women and a call to arms for men to treat them with respect.

The combined production expertise of Kid Capri and Gang Starr's DJ Premiere is the perfect complement to the smoothest vocal delivery hip-hop has to offer, and that makes *Return of the Boom Bap* another winner for raps true microphone champion.

## TRUE LIFE

## Funky Poets

by Dia Harris  
Collegian Staff

The name Funky Poets is misleading because form the sounds of it, you'd think they're rappers, but they're not.

They are seriously fierce R&B singers. Paul and Ray-Ray Frazier, Christian Jordan and Gene Johnson have created a buzz in the industry with their debut LP, *True Life*. This group uses music as a vehicle through which they'll tell emotional stories. Although they sing about dark and dirty subjects, they kick phat beats and silky smooth harmonies.

Each of these young men contributes lyrically and vocally to the group.

Guided by the principle, "It's the music that counts," the

Funky Poets credit Earth, Wind, and Fire, Bobby Womack, Blue Magic, Curtis Mayfield, & the Isley Brothers as their musical inspirations.

## SHAOLIN- TONGUE FU

Shyhiem

by Ty Jefferson  
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This must be phase two of the Wu-Tang invasion. Shyhiem's debut is *Shaolin-Tongue Fu*. This album offers a glimpse into the mind of a rugged child as he runs through the wild streets of Staten Island, NYC, preparing to assault your ears with his

astounding world premiere.

Hey, I was shocked! In the music world, the little bastard has some serious skills. It becomes even more impressive when you consider the fact that he wrote all of his own lyrics.

The lead-off single, "On and On," features the harsh reality of the ghetto.

The first song on the album, "Here Comes the Hits," lets you know the deal as the prime time manchild adapts to the gangsta nomad way of life - dodging lyrical death and paving the path for his sound to conquer the lost.

All in all, Shyhiem is one of the best shortie emcees out. I am looking forward to watching his style mature. Some want to understand the hard core, but then again the "life of a shortie shouldn't be so rough."

## "The Ref:" out of control with Denis Leary

by Jen Dugan  
Collegian Staff

Denis Leary, the fast-talkin', nicotine-lovin' stand-up comedian, is now in a feature length film, "The Ref."

His character in the movie, Gus, is a reflection of his stand-up material. Gus is a "career criminal" on the run and stealing to stay alive.

The movie begins on Christmas Eve. Gus is committing his biggest burglary yet; the one that will allow him to throw in the ski mask for good. Just when it looks like he's home free, he runs into a booby trap. He escapes and ventures to a small grocery store.

In the meantime, married couple Caroline (Judy Davis) and Lloyd (Kevin Spacey) are on their way home from a harsh

marriage counseling session.

They stop at the same small grocery store, where they meet Gus. Well, actually, get hijacked by Gus. Gus plans to hide out at their house. Now the fun begins.

Caroline and Lloyd fight like two little kids. Gus can't take it. "Shut up!" he shouts as he tries to figure out what to do next.

There's even more laughs when the rest of the totally dysfunctional family shows up for Christmas dinner.

I wasn't rolling out of my chair laughing over this film, but it is funny. If you are offended by "dirty" language and jokes, don't go see this movie!

I really like Leary's stand-up, and, although he doesn't have as big a part as I thought, you get a good taste of his comedy. It's definitely a film worth seeing.

## Eve's Plum: making Jan Brady proud

by Paul Lorio  
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Eve's Plum is a New York based quartet whose music rekindles a fire that many people thought burned out years ago.

Their name is a play on the actress, Eve Plumb, who played the middle sister, Jan, on "The Brady Bunch." (Rumor has it that the group leaves Plumb's name on the guest list at each gig they play.)

What makes this band so special is their lead singer, Colleen Fitzpatrick, whose voice can take on a plethora of emotions at once. Fitzpatrick sets a carousel of emotions spinning effortlessly during each song from their debut release, *Envy*.

In the song, "I Want It All," Fitzpatrick delivers the title with anger and determination that makes one's pulse quicken,

while delivering the next line with a sort of child-like innocence that has only been matched by Julianna Hatfield. This song is destined to be Eve's Plum's anthem of success, but this group isn't a "one song and out" type of group. They have so much more to offer an audience.

"Venus Meets Pluto" is a song in which Fitzpatrick's voice creates a dream-like state that sends the listener into a hallucinogenic state between restless sleep and stressful reality. The song doesn't end, but rather the listener snaps out of it!

But Eve's Plum isn't another of those "girl singers with other musicians" type band. No, this is a solid band that is very cohesive.

Michael Kotch comes off like he is trying to push his guitar to another level, while his brother

Ben Kotch drives the band with his exceptional drum arrangements. Also, Chris Giammaivo consistently injects his bass lines that makes Eve's Plum come together and gives them their distinctive musical edge.

Some other noteworthy songs off this debut include the opening track, "Blue," in which Fitzpatrick's voice takes on a desperate tone of someone who has just had salt poured on her wounds. Also the song, "On The Outside," shows a lighter, almost pop, side of the group.

To say that I liked this release would be an understatement. Eve's Plum has the talent and determination to make a huge impact on the music world. The only thing stopping them is the fact that they don't have the marketing team that commercial groups such as Pearl Jam and Nirvana have. Take a risk and give Eve's Plum *Envy* a listen.