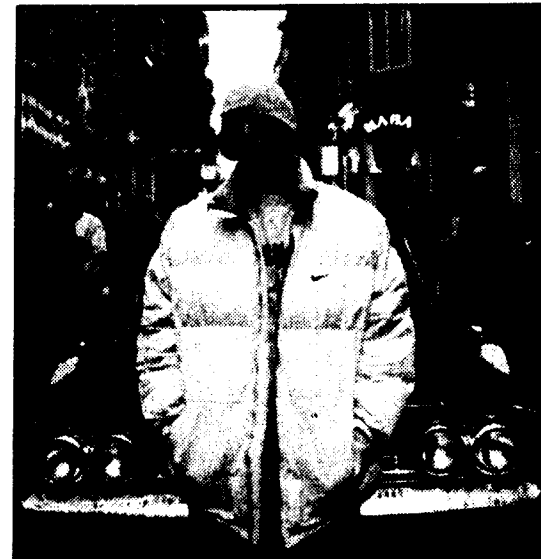
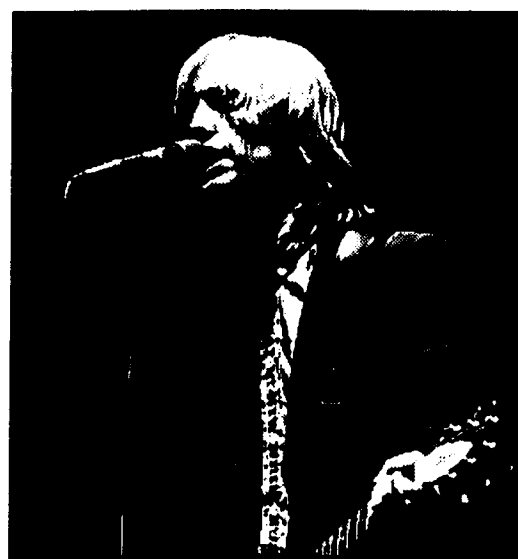


# 2002 music and movie review

## The best and worst in music



by Kevin Fallon  
editor-in-chief

### Good: The rock revival.

### Bad: It's already become trendy.

Bands such as the White Stripes, the Hives, and the Strokes brought real rock 'n' roll back into the spotlight and reopened America's ears to some fun, fresh, and raw music. The best part is these bands made it possible for more edgy, dangerous bands to come from the underground and find a larger audience.

The down side is, like everything new and fun, the music industry has already sunk its vampire fangs into this genuine rock 'n' roll, made it trendy, and sucked the lifeblood out of a great thing. Mediocre knock-offs, such as the Vines were the first to jump on the bandwagon. The Vines are to rock what Candlebox was to grunge and what Sum 41 is to punk: a cheap knock off.

But unlike other genres, rock 'n' roll is not a trend, people are just remembering how great it is. The masses have spoken: rock 'n' roll will never die.

### Good: Eminem brings the controversy.

You either love him or hate him; either way you must admit that Eminem was the only artist

to say anything shocking or edgy. That's what music should be about. Looking back, it did seem a little empty without him.

### Bad: Avril Lavigne the anti-Britney.

Lavigne was annoyingly marketed as the anti-Britney with such songs as "Complicated" and "Sk8er Boi." Not convinced? Well, Britney totally dresses like a preppy and Avril so totally dresses like a skater chick. Now do you see? Lavigne claims she writes her own songs. It doesn't really matter. She is still a product like Britney. At least Britney has her looks going for her.

### Good: Tom Petty smashes the industry.

With his latest CD, "The Last DJ," Petty blasts corporate rock and the evils of the music industry. Although, music has made Petty himself a bit of money, its still positive that a big name stood up for the little guy. Companies charge \$20 for a CD and then wonder why people download music. Forgive us if we don't feel guilty for stealing. Power to the people.

### Ugly. The dull Erie radio.

The rest of the country embraced new, edgier, and genuine rock music. However the few Erie

radio stations that play "new" music stayed fixated on commercial mall rock such as Creed and Nickelback, boy bands, and played-out nu-metal. When will Erie radio realize that people don't want to hear the same old thing. They need to take a chance and mix up their music selection. Remember when radio was supposed to keep listeners on the cutting edge of music? I don't either.

### Ugly. Still no student radio station at Behrend.

For years, there have been rumors that the students will finally get their own radio station to run. It still hasn't happened.

Not only would a student radio station provide a place for students to share music they like; it would also give students much needed experience. Although, WPSE promises to keep students glued to their speakers listening to stock market reports. Behrend rocks!

### Good. Christina Aguilera gets dirty.

Ok, so Christina Aguilera has always been on the dirty side, but this year she gave the phrase "scantily clad" new meaning. Her latest release "Stripped," is a departure from her "Genie in a Bottle" days. On one level this gets a "good" for

all the horny guys out there.

But on a more serious level, it represents a break from the teen-pop image. Unlike Britney Spears, who remains schizophrenic about whether she is a good girl selling herself to teens or a naughty girl selling herself to adults, Aguilera has made up her mind. This represents what we have all been waiting for: the end of the kiddie-music trend. No one shows this more clearly, than Aguilera.

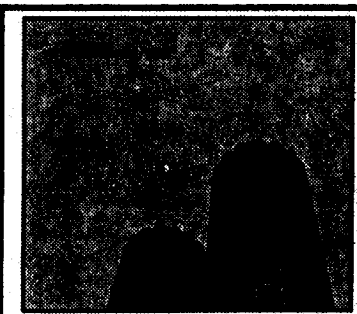
### Good: The new Nirvana song is released.

The surviving members of Nirvana and Courtney Love were finally able to settle the legal issues surrounding the unreleased song, "You Know You're Right." Okay, so maybe it is just one song, but it was what fans have been waiting for since "In Utero."

PHOTOS: Top from left: The White Stripes (from NME.com), Tom Petty (rollingstone.com), Christina Aguilera (blender.com), Eminem (eminemworld.com). Bottom from left: Avril Lavigne (rollingstone.com), The Strokes (thestrokes.org), Kurt Cobain of Nirvana (rollingstone.com), The Vines (rollingstone.com).

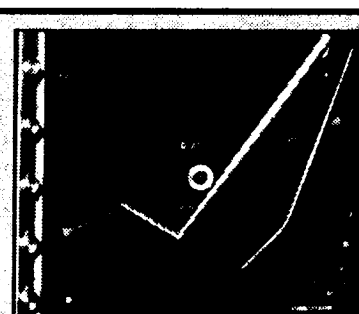


## The best albums of 2002



### Wilco: "Yankee Hotel Foxtrot"

The record label originally did not think "Yankee Hotel Foxtrot" would be a commercial success and rejected the album. The company told Wilco to fix the album or leave the label. Wilco, being a band who doesn't compromise, chose the latter. In an ironic twist of fate, Wilco made their best-selling album, and more importantly, the most beautiful record of the year.



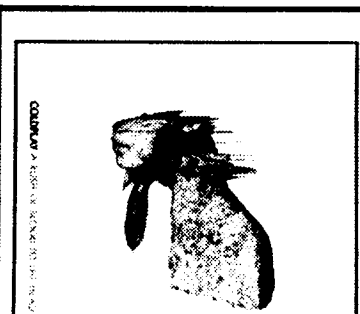
Glassjaw: "Worship and Tribute" Heavy and graceful at the same time, Glassjaw strays away from nu metal clichés to create an original, abstract, and terrifying sound. Essential line: "Fashion: war between the guilty and the guilty and the teen." Essential Track: "Ape Dos Mil"



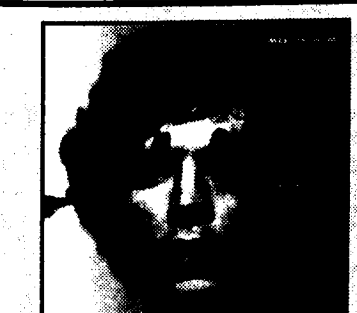
Eels: "Soul Jacker" The Eels prove that "life ain't pretty for a dog faced boy," with its electro-shock blues sound. "Soul Jacker" is smooth and funky. Essential track: "Woman Driving, Man Sleeping" Essential line: "You little punks think you own this town. Well someday someone's gonna bring you down. Life ain't pretty for a dog faced boy."



Queens of the Stone Age: "Songs for the Deaf" Backed by guest-drummer Dave Grohl, "Songs" is vicious stoner rock for the masses. We only hope your speakers can handle the rumble. Essential tracks: "No One Knows," "Millionaire"

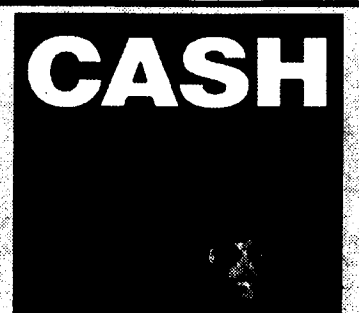


Coldplay: "A Rush of Blood to the Head" Brit-rockers Coldplay follow up their 2000 debut "Parachutes" with an elegant and passionate album. "A Rush of Blood" is little more in touch with the rock side but no less romantic. Essential tracks: "The Scientist" "Green Eyes" "Politik"

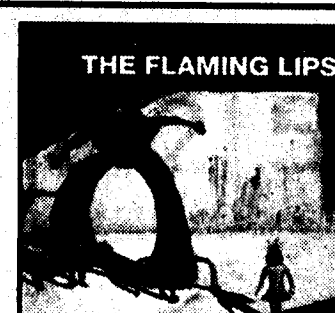


### Beck: "Sea Change"

Beck gets his heart broken and we get the best album of his career. Just like the music, it's bittersweet. "Sea Change" departs from Beck's wild-funk side and is a sad acoustic tale of a broken-hearted cowboy. Essential track: "Lost Cause"



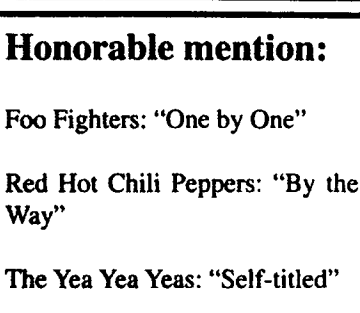
Johnny Cash: "American IV: When the Man Comes to Town" Although his health may be failing, Cash's voice is in top shape. The man in black returns with covers of Nine Inch Nails and Depeche Mode. The new original songs are some of his best. Essential line: "I killed a man they said, I smashed in his head, and I left him layin' dead, damn his eyes" Essential tracks: "Hurt," "Personal Jesus," "Sam Hall"



Flaming Lips: "Yoshimi Battles the Pink Robots" The Kings of spaced-out acid-rock sing about life, love, and killer robots. This is Barry White for robots, the sound of machines making sweet, sweet love. Essential tracks: "Fight Test," "Do You Realize??"



N.E.R.D. "In Search Of..." One of the most successful production teams, The Neptunes, release their debut album as a breath of fresh hip-hop air. "In Search Of..." brings some soul, funk, and politics back to hip-hop. Word to the N.E.R.D. Essential line: "You can't be me, I'm a rock star. I'm standin' on the top of a cop car"



Honorable mention:  
Foo Fighters: "One by One"  
Red Hot Chili Peppers: "By the Way"  
The Yea Yea Yeas: "Self-titled"  
Eminem: "The Eminem Show" and "8 Mile Soundtrack"  
The Roots: "Phrenology"  
The Hives: "Veni Vidi Vicious"  
Bright Eyes: "Lifted or The Story is in the Ground, Keep Your Ear to the Soil"  
Pearl Jam: "Riot Act"

section by Kevin Fallon