

music jukebox

Ben Folds – *Rockin' the Suburbs* ★★★★ (out of five stars)

Whatever and Ever Amen by Ben Folds Five is one of my favorite albums of the 1990s. It wasn't the same with their follow-up album, *The Unauthorized Biography of Reinhold Messner*. I've never been more disappointed in a band. The only good song on that CD was "Army."

Due to this, I wasn't sure what to think when Ben Folds split up with Ben Folds Five (who actually never had more than three members) and decided to release a solo album.

Most of the time when an artist releases a solo album, it sounds like a cheap imitation of the band they used to be in (hmm...mm...mmm...Chris Cornell, Rob Zombie and don't forget David Lee Roth).

I decided to buy the CD anyway, and I'm glad I did.

There's a lot of songs on *Rockin' the Suburbs* that have the familiar Ben Folds Five sound, but there's a lot more experimentation and the use of a variety of instruments that you would never hear on a Ben Folds Five disc.

The result is a more interesting, mature and fuller sounding album.

But don't be fooled when I say mature. Ben Folds still has some of the funniest lyrics you will ever hear.

It's nearly impossible not to laugh when you hear the bridge of the title track, and hear Ben Folds chanting "You don't know what it's like...being male, middle-class and white."

Some other great tracks are "Annie Waits," "Not the Same" and "The Luckiest."



By Jon Arndt
Columnist

Jimmy Eat World – *Bleed American* ★★★★ (out of five stars)

Before I say anything else, I'm going to make it known that *Bleed American* by Jimmy Eat World is the best album of the year, if not the past couple of years.

You might not have heard of them yet, but along with *Rolling Stone*, I'm predicting that Jimmy Eat World is about to blow up.

Their first single, also titled "Bleed American," has been on heavy rotation on the local radio stations during the last month.

They have also been featured in

nearly every music magazine there is.

Jimmy Eat World is considered by most rock critics to be part of the current emo explosion.

What is emo? It's described as punk rock, except it's slower, more melodic and based upon peoples' emotions rather than rebellion.

Other groups that have been put into this group include Weezer, The Get Up Kids, The Promise Ring and Sunny Day Real Estate.

In my opinion, Jimmy's *Bleed*

American sits high above any of these groups or any other groups' recent CDs. At one minute you'll be inspired to jump and dance around ("A Praise Chorus"), while on other tracks the music and lyrics are so strong and beautiful that it gives you goosebumps ("Hear You Me").

These guys have a tremendous range in their style, and I guarantee that you will not be bored one minute if you listen to this CD. I bought the CD the first day it came out in July, and it has been in my CD player ever since.



Slipknot - *Iowa* ★★★1/2 (out of five stars)

songs like "Left Behind" (the current single off *Iowa*) and "Wait and Bleed" (a Slipknot classic). Those tracks are aggressive and loud, but at the same time are melodic and contain a little harmony.

Overall, I think this is a pretty good CD. I guarantee you will not get easily bored of *Iowa*.

If you're into the sounds of Korn, Static-X or Mudvayne, you'll definitely dig Slipknot.

Some highlights of the disc are "My Plague," "Everything Ends" and "Left Behind."



System of a Down – *Toxicity* ★★★★1/2 (out of five stars)

Speaking of Slipknot, one of the bands they're touring with recently released an album.

System of a Down released their second album, *Toxicity*, in September.

I have nothing but praise for the album.

All the band's elements, even if they are a little weird, came together to create an amazing sound.

While System of a Down makes a lot of political statements in their

music, they also know how to rock and create good music. They don't let their political views overlook the music they create.

The lead singer, Serj Tankian, has a voice that at moments can be loud and eccentric. At other times it can be soft and Cat Stevens-ish (if that's possible).

If you've heard "Sugar" or "Spiders" off their first CD, you probably know what I mean.

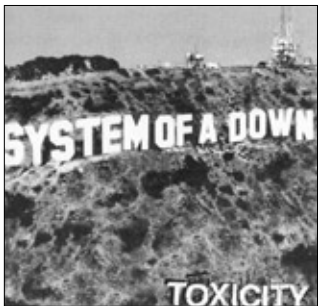
"Chop Suey!," the first single off

Toxicity, has more shifts and hooks in it than you can count.

Sometimes this formula doesn't work, but System of a Down uses this formula to turn "Chop Suey!" into a masterpiece.

Other tracks that stand out are "Deer Dance," "AWTA" and "Aerials."

System of a Down's *Toxicity* will keep you entangled in its haunting sound until the album's last second.



National radio stations pull songs in wake of tragedy

By Ben Schroeder
Sports Editor

In case you haven't heard Dave Matthews Band's "Crash Into Me" on the radio, it is because it is one of the many songs radio stations have pulled from the airwaves.

Radio station programmers have voluntarily stopped playing songs they feel are inappropriate after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

According to the *Denver Post*, program directors for Clear Channel Communications have made a list of more than 150 inappropriate songs.

These songs have been pulled because of lyrics referring to fires, planes, plane crashes and absent loved ones.

This did not seem silly to me at first because I can sympathize with families that have lost loved ones in the attacks. I would not want to listen

to Soundgarden's "Fell on Black Days" after taking that kind of news. It is safe to say America is not in the mood to listen to R.E.M.'s "It's the End of the World as We Know It" or "Click Click Boom" by Saliva.

But as time goes on and the mood of America changes, I am expecting the songs to make their way back on the airwaves.

I had to shake my head and wonder why Don McLean's "American Pie"

made it onto the pulled list. "What a Wonderful World" by Louis Armstrong was another that made me wonder if things had gone too far.

"American Pie," written back in 1973, had nothing to do with terrorist attacks. In 1968 when Armstrong first recorded "What a Wonderful World," it was written totally out of context from the Sept. 11 attacks.

The only thing that stopped radio stations from playing the songs was

the station itself. I was glad that each station could decide on what to play and what not to play. So far, there is no national board that can tell stations what songs are inappropriate or not.

Yet for now, radio stations are walking the line between censorship and sensitivity. While America grieves, the radio stations will stop spinning the Metallica and Black Sabbath songs.