

Jones, Total, and DMX makes way to the top

All reviews by \$VEGAZ\$

\$ Put it back on the shelf
 \$\$ Buy it used!
 \$\$\$ Good material with minor holes
 \$\$\$\$ Find space on your shelf for it!
 \$\$\$\$\$ Magnum opus: Hip-hop classic!
 (¢ -half a \$ like half a mic)



Quincy Jones
 From Q, With Love
 Quest/Warner Bros.

Quincy Jones releases a double album with 26 of the greatest songs ever written and performed.

No boot knocking, lick-your-body-freaking for this veteran producer/arranger. With 'Q' at the helm, the love will be sumptuous, the vocals on point and the sound as deep and rich as plush carpeting. Needless to say, it's a slightly old fashioned demo style, but not without its merits. Jones always manages to find great singers and coax great vocals out of them. On this collection compiled from over the past 32 years of his career, the songs will be familiar to R&B fans from Michael Jackson's near perfect

"Human Nature," James Ingram's lovely "100 Hundred Ways," and the lip-smacking "Secret Garden Suite" with Barry White and others. Patti Austin and James Ingram work their pillow talk magic on "How Do You Keep The Music Playing?" Sarah Vaughan and Take 6 serenades your ears with their "Septembro (Brazilian Wedding Song)." The album also has 4 new tracks that includes a duet by Siedah Garrett and El DeBarge on "I'm Yours." Rump shakers, beware. This is grown up stuff. Luckily, grown up may mean shimmering and seamless, but it



doesn't always mean dull. \$\$\$\$

Total
 Kima, Keisha & Pam
 Bad Boy

The three sex-crazed bad girls of Bad Boy Entertainment are back. Total return with their sophomore album titled "Kima, Keisha & Pam," which are the group member's names. Total comes back

stronger and their singing skills are better than ever. The album starts off with their first single produced by Missy and co-produced by Timbaland titled "Trippin'."

Everyone knows when Timbaland is near a song.

The song will have a synthesized sound with triple hip hop beats. I can truly say that this song and others on the album are a better improvement in beat production than the last one.

On the second track on the album "I Tried," the beat could have been a slower beat with piano playing instead of the mass confusion of studio props. The constant bickering of the woman talking about her friend sleeping with her man throws the entire mood of the song. Other than that, Total does use some good samples throughout the entire album.

"Sitting Home" uses a sample from the Whitehead Brothers song "Forget I Was a G," while "Press Rewind" features Carl Thomas using beats from Curtis Mayfield's "Little Child Runnin' Wild." One of the things that enhances the album are the skits performed.

All together the album is better than their first.

The lyrics are good and the beats have improved, but Total still needs to come farther in the singing world. \$\$\$

DMX
 Flesh of My Flesh, Blood of My
 Blood
 Def Jam

DMX steps up, not even a year after

his debut album, "It's Dark and Hell Is Hot." DMX is blowing up the radio spot as well as on TV. Viewing the album cover sets the tone for an hour's worth of hardcore beats and grisly imagery.

"Bring Your Whole Crew" is a good example of DMX's ruff rydin' over a track from PK.

The track opens with a blood-curdling scream by DMX. With this opening salvo, we know he isn't taking us on a tour of Mr. Rogers' neighborhood. Instead, he lets us inside the horrifying 'hood inside his head.'

"The Omen" is another bizarre track that opens with a skit of a woman praying for a dying friend.

Then, when the scary, skeletal beats begin, DMX starts barking like a dog (DMX's trademark).

This time, despite the farcical delivery, the production does a good job of conveying a mood with its minimalist drum track and spooky organ. Plus, on this track, DMX teams up with one of the most controversial rock stars of the 90's, Marilyn Manson.

As a whole package, "Flesh of My Flesh..." came out needing an extra few months to fine tune everything. Since his last album, DMX's delivery has improved, as well as the production. His new album isn't half bad, but he really could have fine tuned this project and waited another year to put this one out. \$\$\$¢

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Wanda) will be journeying with Burke on the tour.

The hot spot for many freshmen and sophomores seem to be at home and visiting family. The key word here being "home." Freshmen Brandy Newton, Lesna Hollback, Jamica Wilkerson, and Willietta Gibson will be having a "good 'ole time." They all plan on "going home, spending time with the family, and hanging with each other." Their tentative plans are to go to Carowinds and be with each other meeting their "extended" family.

Jason Smith, an out of state student from Colorado and the entertainment editor for The News Argus says, "I will either go home or go see my dad in Florida."

Some students, out-of-state, as well as in-state, students say that if the school is open they plan to stay on campus, if not, they will have to find some way to get home. They say that there is nothing for them at home since they have done everything there is to do and that most of

their friends are at school.

Of those interviewed, there were a few who were so skeptical and superstitious about their plans that they didn't want to share. "I would tell you, but if I told someone, it probably wouldn't happen," remarked one "nameless" student who would wish to remain anonymous. Better safe than sorry.

As for most students, the consensus are "to get drunk and find the best parties."

If you're one of the few who are still undecided or shaky in your vacation decision, you'd better think fast. Spring break begins March 5, only a few weeks from now.

If you're looking for a place that has a sand and surf type of atmosphere, try Daytona Beach, Fla., or Myrtle Beach. These are great vacation spots for college students because they have a variety of attractions with our interests in mind. We guess the sun and fun always beats hitting the books.



Courtesy of Cortney Hill
 Myrtle Beach is a popular spot for many students during spring break.