

**John McDermott**  
*If Ye Break Faith*

This is yet another wonderful album by this Scottish born singer. It's full of songs that are associated with war and remembrance, among them are "The Green Fields of France"

(a personal favorite) and "I'll Be Seeing You". John's beautiful voice can add, as he shows, even more to such great stories/songs as "Christmas In the Trenches" and even the "Battle Hymn of the Republic". This is a great album, unless you're one of those

who doesn't appreciate John's voice, in which case the album is not for you — but that'd be your loss.

For those of you who are fans of John, it should be mentioned that he plans on returning for a concert this summer.

**Vanilla Ice**  
*Hard To Swallow*

What can I say, Vanilla is back, and he's pissed! It seems the guy has undertaken a metamorphic change (a la Alanis), his new album is full of hard rocking rap. It's produced by

Ross Robinson, the fellow behind Korn, and the hard core feel is definitely there. I expected this album to blow chunks. To my surprise, it's actually pretty good. It may not be great, but it's able to keep my attention for the en-

tire 13 tracks. Highlights include "Living", "Too Cold" and "Prozac". And one other thing, I should warn you that the Ice Man now requires a parental advisory (I suppose this newfound cussing can be attributed to his new image).

**Beck**  
*Mutations*  
(Geffen)

Geffen's put a lot of energy into publicizing the fact that this disc is "not the follow-up to *Odelay*." Why? It sounds almost nothing like *Odelay*, that's why. Perhaps they don't want Beck to scare away listeners. For shame, Geffen...have a little faith in Mr. Hansen. True, it's not what you'd expect after something like the last CD. But doesn't everybody know by now how diverse and multi-talented the guy is? With someone like

Beck, you need to throw away expectations. That gets in the way of listening to the music. The music on this disc is much simpler than the last disc. To 'compensate' for this, Beck puts a little more feeling into the singing and lyric writing. Not that they needed it. The music is more folk-like, of folk-rock. A couple of songs are almost pure country, with slide guitar, and that saloon-sound promo. In the middle of the disc is a Bossa-Nova style tune called "Tropicalia." The rhythm, horns, and melody in this song are so infectious. It's just so...cool. You have hear it

to know what I mean. A hidden song within the last track sounds like the Beck 'of old', giving what you might have expected. It's a good, but broken up tune. Maybe it's a hint of what's to come on the next disc. Maybe it was put on there just to please some poor Beck fan out there that didn't like the disc for some odd reason. Who knows. Who cares if it's an 'official follow-up'? It's a good compilation of good music. If you're a Beck fan, or enjoy quality music that is a little more on the folkish side with Bob Dylan, Neil Young and the like, go ahead and buy the disc.

**Top 20  
CIMN**

- |     |                   |                                     |
|-----|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1C  | Pluto             | Shake Hands with the Future         |
| 2C  | The Smugglers     | Growing Up Smuggler                 |
| 3C  | An Acoustic Sin   | Of Four Corners                     |
| 4C  | Screaming Beavers | Awambababaluwompawompbawhat         |
| 5C  | Skinny Puppy      | Remix Dystemper                     |
| 6C  | Strawberry        | Brokeheart Audio                    |
| 7C  | Jeff Buckley      | Sketches For My Sweetheart Drunk    |
| 8   | Murmurs           | Blender                             |
| 9   | Afghan Whigs      | 1965                                |
| 10  | Black Sabbath     | Reunion                             |
| 11C | Barenaked Ladies  | Stunt                               |
| 12  | Various           | 30 Hour Famine                      |
| 13C | Noise Therapy     | Myton Lowrider                      |
| 14  | Blink 182         | Dude Ranch                          |
| 15  | Eve 6             | Eve 6                               |
| 16C | Raindog           | A Killing in the Ketchup Field      |
| 17  | CIV               | Thirteen day Getaway                |
| 18  | MXPX              | Slowly Going the way of the Buffalo |
| 19C | MIC               | MIC                                 |
| 20C | Telepathetic      | 1-2-3-4                             |

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