

Bob Dylan Live 1975: The Rolling Thunder Revue (Columbia-Legacy, \$24.98) by Bob Dylan

This two-disc "bootleg" on Bob Dylan's own label, taken from a series of concerts in late 1975, is delightfully all over the map — full of mid-70s flavor, but also a genre-hopping, era-blending trip through the master's music.

Simultaneously built up and stripped down, it's the work of a Dylan 10 years into his electric period who has clearly already heard early Bruce Springsteen and even — horrors — presages anthem rock at times, in the best kind of way.

It ain't Me, Babe, crisp and energetic, has a funk flavor to it. A Hard Rain's A-Gonna Fall lacks the Vietnam-era plainness of the original; instead, it's dynamic and driving, a road song for an era of interstate, not Highway 61.

The flattest spots on *Bob Dylan Live 1975: The Rolling Thunder Revue* are the acoustics — not because they're boring but because they sound largely like the originals — and the too-folk duets with Joan Baez, which throw off the rhythm of the ride. The standouts: *Hurricane*, which crackles with energy; and *One More Cup of Coffee*, a haunting rendition with a perfect finger-nails-on-the-chalkboard fiddle to back it up.

The Dylan of this CD, just after *Blood on the Tracks*, is exuberant and in control; the shy boy so many girls wanted to protect has become the maestro. The band follows its master, and the master leads. At one point, someone in the crowd yells for a protest song. But by 1975, itself now so distant, that Bob Dylan was long gone.

— Ted Anthony, AP Writer

Tim McGraw and the Dancehall Doctors (Curb, \$18.98) by Tim McGraw

Tim McGraw has taken his road band, the seven Dancehall Doctors, from his *Set This Circus Down* stage, into the studio. The result is *Tim McGraw and the Dancehall Doctors*, a 10-song, 66-minute collection of keepers.

From the opening snare riff of *Comfort Me*, solid performances are matched by an equally strong variety of songs with stories to tell — from back-seat romance and its consequences in the poignant *Red Ragtop* to the wry unentangledness in *That's Why God Made Mexico* and the video-ready emotion of *She's My Kind of Rain*.

There's also the Elton John tune *Tiny Dancer*, complete with McGraw's falsetto hooks and backed by Kim Carnes. Eagles members Don Henley and Timothy B. Schmit add their trademark sound to "Illegal."

It's clear throughout this album that instead of going into the studio to do a day band's work, McGraw and his

collaborators were determined to do their very best. — Tom Gardner, AP Writer

Does This Look Infected? (Island-Def Jam, \$18.98) by Sum 41

There's nothing sadder than watching a band with talent turn in a routine, boring album so early in their career. That's what Sum 41 has done with *Does This Look Infected?* — an album infected with punk-pop mediocrity when they could have offered more.

Every song sounds the same. And all the songs whine about an unnamed personal frustration without making the listener care.

The Hell Song is too preachy, and *My Direction* has lyrics any high-school keg band could have written. You can't take seriously any song that says "perfection is my direction" followed by "it's a new generation of childhood frustration."

Green Day did it first, and better, so there's no need for lesser bands to cover the same

territory unless they've got something new to offer. Sum 41 doesn't. — Ron Harris, AP Writer

Emotional (MCA, \$18.98) by K-Ci & Jo-Jo
Brothers K-Ci & Jo-Jo, former members of Jodeci, like to fill their albums with R&B and pop songs.

It worked on *Love Always*, but there's little crossover appeal on their new CD, *Emotional*.

Their vocal styling remains strong, but the music sounds like a relish of melodies from 1980s soft rock. *Down for Life*, *Goodbye* and *How Can I Trust You* lack the catchy soft pop and genuine appeal of their crossover gem, *All My Life*.

The results are better on

their R&B tunes. Their bluesy, gospel-styled vocals hammer the songs into your soul.

Special is a jamming, midtempo hand-clapper. *I'm Through With You* is a danceable jam that's full of funk. So *Emotional*, with its superb harmony and sweet, yet darkly experimental funk rhythms, is a throwback to the brothers' days with Jodeci.

If there's anything to get *Emotional* about on this album, it's the R&B.

— Lynda Lane, AP Writer

Dru World Order (Island-Def Jam, \$18.98) by Dru Hill
Dru Hill was one of the hottest male R&B groups around when they took a hiatus four years ago, in part because their spotlight-stealing lead

singer, Sisqo, embarked on a solo career.

But now that the *Thong Song* warbler's career has waned, Sisqo, Nokio, Woody and Jazz, plus new member Scoola, have gotten back together for *Dru World Order*. And it's Dru Hill at their best: strong vocals, excellent harmony and deep-soul R&B.

The entire 13-track CD is a pleasure, from the intro, *Love Me-Hate Me*, to the danceable *If I Could*, a "hip-hop meets R&B" jam. Each member gets to showcase his vocal skills on a verse or two.

Dru Hill retains their gift of singing sometimes freaky, sometimes passionate love songs on this predominantly ballad-based CD.

— Lynda Lane, AP Writer

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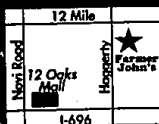
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