

Michel'le album well worth the money

By Michael Clayton
YELLIN' REBEL

To hear Michel'le (pronounced Mee-Shahl-Lay) speak you'd think that you were talking to one of Alvin the Chipmunks' sisters. This woman has a very high pitched voice that suggests that you were listening to a baby rather than a grown up. Her speaking voice is like listening to a British/English speaking person speak. You wonder where the accent went.

Michel'le's singing voice is as different from her talking voice as night is from day. It in no way underlies or detracts from her talent as a singer. Her recent album delivers strong, powerful vocals that smother any apprehensions arising from her speaking voice. This becomes evident when she does voice-overs in her songs.

The self-titled album, which has mercurially climbed the billboard charts, has been received as a cross-over, mainstream offering. Michel'le's current hit, "No More Lies," can be heard on almost every pop station in the Vegas Valley.

The most striking aspect of the

album is Michel'le's confident handling of both pop and soul vocalizations. Just when you expect to hear another up-tempo beat Michel'le subverts your expectations with soul ballads.

This album, produced by Ruthless Attack Muzic and distributed by the Atlantic Recording Corporation, would be a healthy addition to anyone's music library.

Michel'le's album opens up with the sassy, chart climbing "No More Lies." The song begins with a guy insisting that Michel'le is the "only girl" for him... "Of course you're the only girl..." To which Michel'le retorts, "Chill out Pinnocchio, your nose is growing..." Michel'le insists on "No More Lies."

The following cut, "Nicety," is Michel'le's firm assertion that she is neither a gutter viper nor a prude. She sings, "Some people think I'm nice...some people think I'm nasty." She then announces herself as "Nicety"—a cross between nice and nasty. The beat is smooth and crisp, and Michel'le says more than a mouthful. In keeping with current trends, the song is interspersed with

insightful rap.

Just when you expect more of the same Michel'le takes you for a twist with a soulful love ballad entitled, "If?" The song is a duet sung with Michael Holmes (who's tenor voice doesn't wane when he climbs to falsetto).

"If?" poses the question, "If I make love to you will I see you again?" It begins with an Isley Brothers' type sax accompaniment and ends with a classy piano fade.

Equally stirring is the tune "Something In My Heart," in which Michel'le chimes, "There's something you should know...there's

something in my heart that's got me hooked on you..."

Side Two is launched with "100% Woman." The song is a illusory as Michel'le's voice. It starts off as an up-tempo pop tune. Mid-way through, the song is smoothly interrupted by two men talking. They are entering a nightclub and as they make their way in they spot a group of ladies and proceed to ask the objects of their desire for a dance.

At first Michel'le is stubborn, but the guy who has approached her is insistent that they dance. He asks the DJ to play a slow song and

"100% Woman" metamorphoses into "Silly Love Song." This is one of the easiest transformations I've ever heard. She may have succeeded at introducing a new style of transformation from one song to another (unlike the gimmicky philosophy used, or the common fade.)

Side Two gives us "Never Been In Love," "Close To Me," "Special Thanks," and a reprise of "If?" Pay close attention to "Close To Me"—definitely love mood music.

Michel'le's album scores a solid "A." It is certainly worth making part of your collection.

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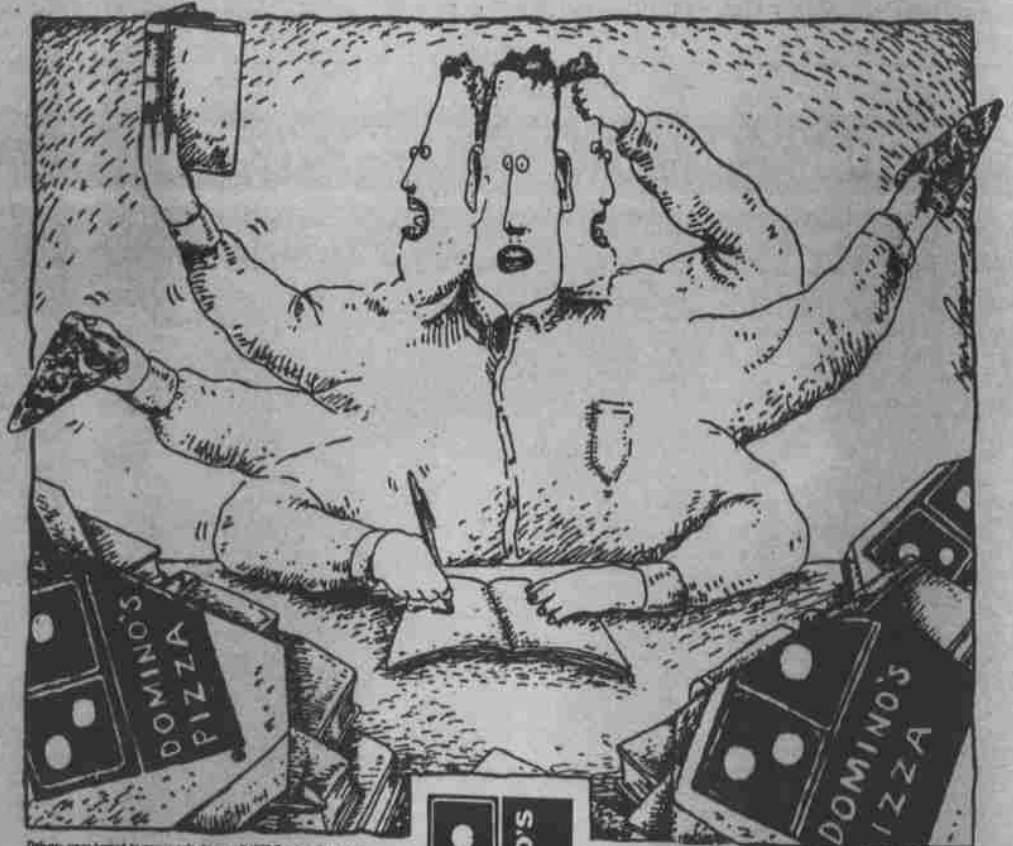
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