

Album reviews: Don Dokken and Extreme

by John Glynn
Reporter

DON DOKKEN
UP FROM THE ASHES
(Geffen)

HOT SPOTS: "1000 Miles Away" and "When Love Finds a Fool"
GRADE: C-

Now that Don Dokken has ended his bitter seven-year relationship with his former band Dokken, Dokken has returned with a new project and all new band members. Dokken picked up John Norum (guitars, vocals) formerly of the band Europe, Peter Baltes (bass) previously of Accept and Mikkey Dee (drums) from King Diamond.

Don's special find is guitarist Billy White of Austin, Texas. Dokken was writing songs at Bobby Blotzer's (Ratt) house when he needed a tape to put down a song and pulled out one that was in a box filled with about 400 tapes. When Dokken played his song back, he heard a guitar player ripping it up. Blotzer said that the tape had been in the box for about two years and that some kid in Texas had thrown it on stage at a concert. Needless to

say, Dokken brought White in from Texas, and the two hit it off.

After hearing the new album, I am now convinced that Don Dokken had the biggest part of running Dokken. This album sounds as if Dokken never broke up and that Don Dokken told the new band to try and copy the Dokken sound. Sitting down and playing such songs as "Give It Up" and "Crash N Burn", no one would be able to tell the difference between the "new" Don Dokken and the "old" Dokken.

Dokken may have expanded his ego a bit but the band still sounds the same. He could have tried to mix up the sound with the input of all the other members of the band, but he didn't! Dokken fans, this album is along those same lines. Try something else.

EXTREME
PORNOGRAFFITI
(A&M)

HOTSPOTS: "Decadence Dance", "More Than Words" and "Get the Funk Out"

GRADE: B+

Don't let the title or the name of the band drive you away. These guys are hot. I have to admit



Don Dokken

when I first got this tape, I thought these guys would be thrash metal to the max. After a once over, I discovered a band with loads of talent and style.

I don't think that I am going out on a limb to say that Nuno Bettencourt is the best guitarist to come around in a long while.

This guy also plays the keyboards and piano. He plays a great acoustic guitar on "More Than Words" and Gary Cherone (vocals) has a terrific voice. This song has the Beatles bleeding out of it. Songs such as "Decadence Dance" and "He-Man Woman Hater" mix exciting heavy guitar riffs and even Dweezil Zappa shows up playing

his guitar. "When I First Kissed You" sounds like old Frank is going to follow the song with "New York, New York."

This band is so unpredictable that it makes them exciting. These guys will be around a long time. Check them out some time and watch out in the future!

The Sax Man and the soulful singer

by Angela Ramsey
Staff Reporter

Michael Bolton and Kenny G performed together at the Thomas & Mack Center on Sept. 25 and treated fans to a memorable evening.

Michael Bolton, who is enjoying commercial success as a singer, pleased the crowd with such hits as "Soul Provider" and "How Can We Be Lovers?"

In tribute to a long running writing career, he also performed a unique medley consisting of songs written for other artists. This arrangement featured Cher's "Since You've Been Gone," Barbara Streisand's "We're Not Making Love Anymore," and KISS' "Forever."

The tall, soft-spoken singer often treated the fans to between-song conversation.

The audience went wild when Bolton first shared the stage with the saxophonist Kenny G. Together they performed another early Bolton creation, "How Am I Supposed To Live Without You?"

Kenny G remained in the spotlight after Bolton's 50-minute set and wooed the crowd with the echoes of his horn. His limitless style, although gentle and melodic, did not lack power. Through a six-piece band with two percussionists, his distinct sound prevailed. The jazz/pop soloist performed such favorites as "Songbird" and "Silhouette."

Kenny G fulfilled his trademark as a performer who plays



Michael Bolton

amidst the crowd rather than at the crowd. Occasionally, one would have to search for the curly-haired saxophonist as he frequently wandered through the audience while playing. Bolton seemed to share Kenny G's affection for the fans when he returned to perform a rendition of "Georgia On My Mind" in the crowd with Kenny G. The audience listened

as the horn player screeched out his final bluesy fills and the singer belted out the last notes of the concert.

Kenny G's diverse style and Michael Bolton's strong voice complimented each other. Judging from the response of the nearly 8,000 fans, the combination was a success.

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