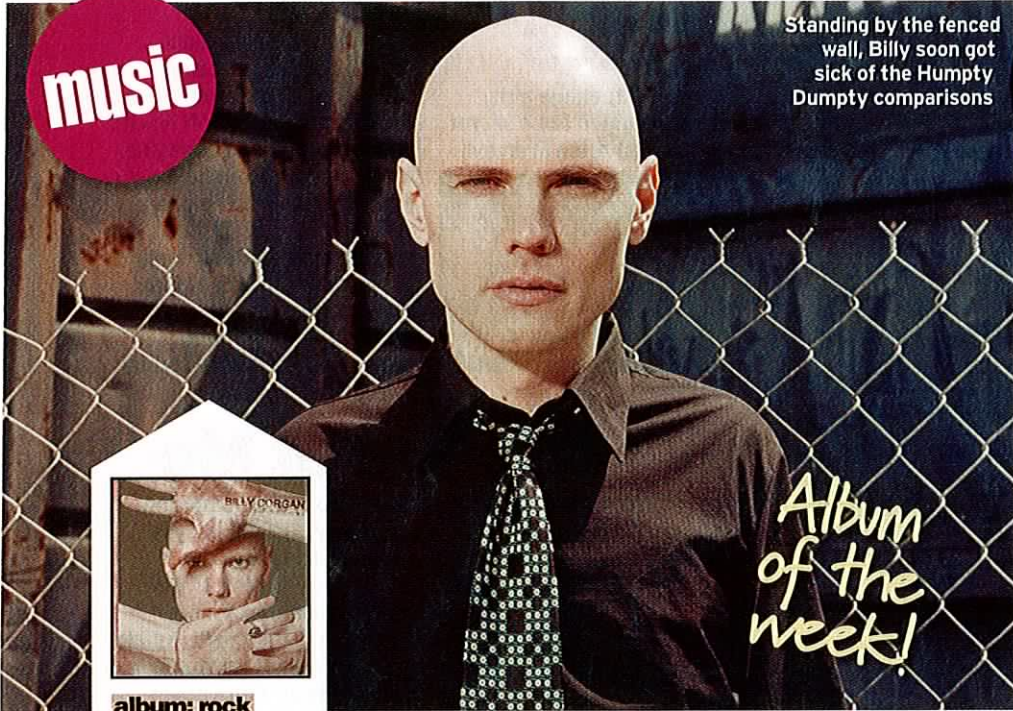


music



Standing by the fenced wall, Billy soon got sick of the Humpty Dumpty comparisons

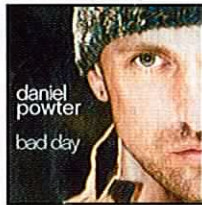
Album of the week!



album: rock

The Future Embrace Billy Corgan

The former Smashing Pumpkins frontman finally releases his long-awaited solo album. And the wait was definitely worth it. From ballads to fast-paced tracks, the staples that have made him a star - his beautifully poetic lyrics and plaintive, strangely uplifting vocals - shine through. Add to that surround-sound instrumentals which continue to push the creativity barrier by making clever use of all the electronic gizmos the studio has to offer and this is a definite winner. The only weak point? A cover of the Bee Gees hit *To Love Somebody* sits strangely in the mix. ****



single: pop

Bad Day Daniel Powter

Meet Daniel Powter - a Canadian singer/songwriter/pianist you'll be hearing a lot from this year. Daniel's debut single *Bad Day* has been garnering a "next big thing" buzz in the pop world. Given his ability to cover sorrowful lyrics with a smile and a beautiful falsetto, we'd tend to agree with that verdict. *Bad Day* is a sunny take on depressing subject matter - and Daniel delivers it with style. Add two beautiful ballads and you're hooked by this talented newcomer. ****



EP: rock

Anniversary EP Jebediah

Having started at a Year 12 formal in 1995, Jebediah figured their 10-year anniversary was an event definitely worth celebrating. So not only have they organised a nationwide tour, but the local band have also headed into the studio to rerecord some of their biggest hits to go along with it. Fans of the band will be treated to some of their best moments all over again, including three acoustic numbers. A must-have EP for collectors. ****



single: pop

Desire Geri Halliwell

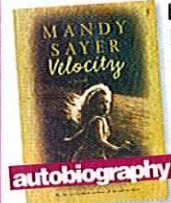
A huge step forward (*It's Raining Men*, anyone?) for the gal formerly known as Ginger. Geri's often given a hard time about her less-than-stellar vocal abilities, but - let's face it - she's had the most pop chart success post-Spice than the rest of the Girls combined. Her smart song choices tell why. A sassy, synth-driven number, Geri delivers a pop-tastic dance-floor filler. Positively dripping with her trademark attitude, *Desire* is bound to do well for Ms Halliwell. ***

books

Velocity: A Memoir

Mandy Sayer

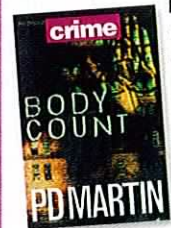
Sydney-based writer Mandy Sayer has written a rich depiction of life as the child of a drummer father and vagabond mother. It's initially full of hilarious moments - an encounter between her dad and mother-in-law is side-splitting - but the laughs don't last. Sayer's parents drift apart and her mother unravels through drinking, unsuitable boyfriends and a gypsy lifestyle. Amid the pain, there's the sense the author never lost herself. (Vintage) **The bottom line:** It's fast, and fascinating ****



Body Count

PD Martin

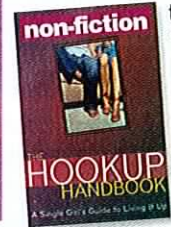
First-time novelist PD Martin has done a terrific job presenting a smart, sassy serial-killer-in-our-midst story that uses all the tricks in the book but never seems laboured. Sophie Anderson is an Aussie working in the US as a profiler for the FBI. As a killer turns up the heat in Washington DC, Sophie's dreams become more and more vivid and nightmarish. Admitting to a colleague that she "sees" the killer in her dreams raises eyebrows. This is a promising debut from a local writer - look forward to seeing more of PD Martin. (Macmillan) **The bottom line:** It's a solid body of work to count on ****



The Hookup Handbook

Andrea Lavinthal and Jessica Rozler

This "handbook" is a condescending and cringing collection of advice, hints and tips on hooking up with men - it's *Sex And The City* with a humour bypass. Including pop quizzes and tips on tracking down "the boys", the only thing that offers food for thought is how one potentially amusing subject has been scraped so thinly across 232 dull pages. (Simon & Schuster) **The bottom line:** Hook, line and stinker *



top 5 singles

1 We Belong Together
Mariah Carey

2 Incomplete
Backstreet Boys

3 Don't Phunk With My Heart
Black Eyed Peas

4 Hollaback Girl
Gwen Stefani

5 Feel Good
Inc. Gorillaz