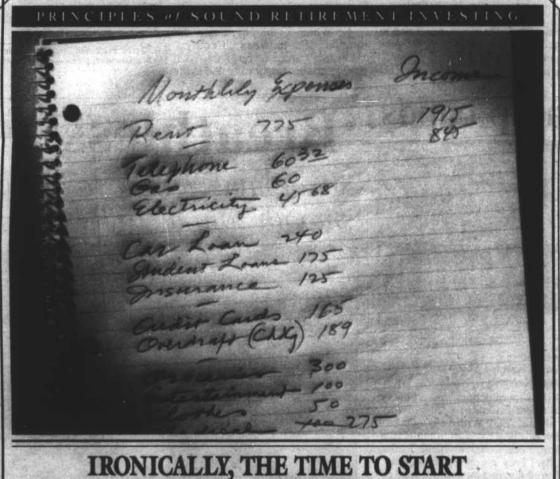
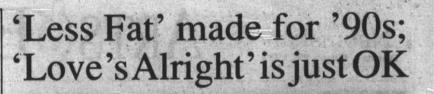


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Courtesy of Motown Records

Eddie Murphy "Love's Alright" Motown

Daily Nebraskan

Eddie Murphy made it big by making people laugh. He is, and always will be, "the f- you guy."

But that hasn't stopped him from releasing his third musical venture, "Love's Alright."

Musically, the new release is miles beyond the 1985 album that turned out "Party All the Time." The first release was more laughable than listenable, and Murphy has matured musically in the years since.

But Murphy's new style — his self-proclaimed "psychedelic psoul" — is far from great. It's stomachable.

The album, Murphy's first on the Motown label, is peppered with cameo appearances from some real musicians-including Shabba Ranks, B.B. King and Michael Jackson - and "The Yeah Song," a track Murphy cut to benefit his own social-reform organization, features more than 25 celebrities, including Garth Brooks, Heavy D, Johnny Gill and Paul McCartney.

Regardless of why they appeared, they lend some credibility to the album.

Gone, however, is the subtle sexuality and humor that made Murphy's last release - 1989's "So Happy"so good. Without it, Murphy comes across as a more serious musician. Unfortunately, he just isn't that good.

In fact, the best performances on the album belong to Murphy's guest stars.

Supposedly, Murphy plans to hit the road with a show that combines his stand-up and his singing. Now that would be funny.

- Chris Hopfensperger

Chris Mars

Courtesy of Island Records

Seventy-Five Percent Less Fat" **Island Records**

Somewhere between the music of Sonic Youth and They Might Be Gi-ants is Chris Mars and his album, 'Seventy-Five Percent Less Fat." It answers a musical question: What would happen if Nirvana sang through Bob Dylan's nose?

The Replacements fired their drummer, Mars, in 1991. Once bitten, he has become a solo, multi-instrumental artist, tooting all his horns on his new album.

Mars has taken what was good about the Replacements and stream-lined it for the '90s. The Minneapolis group's gentle sense of humor is present in Mars' style, but the exdrummer mixes it with a faster pace and wilder imagery.

If there is a chink in Mars's armor, it's the same affliction of age that has affected the Ramones, Sonic Youth and other grizzled punks: As punk songsters like Mars mature, they seem prone to fret over the future and mental health of their young fans.

It's hard to fault the caring atti-tudes of these rockers turned teen counselors, but it's also hard to feel tough listening to a song about selfhelp.

"Seventy-Five Percent Less Fat" sounds too darn pleasant to succeed with the "sullen-only" sect of alternative music; it's relatively Angst-free.

"Fat" has no industrial-brand bitter hatred, nor the "my girlfriend and the world hate me, so I hate them both, too" martyr complex that writhes through Nine Inch Nails and its thousand-fold, wretched kin.

- Patrick Hambrecht



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