Defending the galaxy

Since Men At Work already have their second album in the can, we thought we would take this opportunity to make certain that you don't pop them up first. This is a magnificent album — the first in a long while on which the entire first side is excellent, no song excepted. Side two has a slower beat and is not as catchy as the first but definitely worth a few listens.

A List of Songs:

1. "Who Can It Be Now?"
   - The album jacket has received the group's angular style to the other bright yellow albums in the store. In addition to providing amusing tunes, the album will give you the chance to ponder the meaning of terms like "vegemite sandwich" and "chunder."
   - We have only one complaint with this album: every copy we've seen has been badly pressed. Most of the discs are warped and even without the warp, the "c" sounds are scratchy and the high end lacks clarity. Columbia originally released this as a new artist album and appears to have sold the quality out of the pressing.

Spring Session M. Missing Persons on Capitol Records.

This album, named with an anagram of Missing Persons, is a superb debut LP: following close behind the group's extended play four-song package. It includes the same versions of "Words" and "Destination Unknown" as the EP does, albeit with lyrics this time around. The remainder of the package is not as punk as the flip side of the EP is, but Dale Bozzio's voice continues to define a new wave effect in the music.

There are quite a few songs here which may never get air play which are worth owning. The one problem with the album is that it doesn't seem to lead anywhere. Most of the songs have a similar ring to them, much as the Gs' first ones do. While it doesn't get boring yet, we hope the Missing Persons can come up with a few time to their tunes next time around.

Stuart Gitlow

Ziggy's a star

Ziggy's Gifts by Tom Wilson, Andrews and McMeel, N.Y.

This December America can watch yet another T.V. Christmas special, this one dreamed up by the release of a book adapted from it called Ziggy's Gift. Combining a plus similar to How the Grinch Stole Christmas and a cute underdog hero as in Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, the story tells about Ziggy's quest to spread Christmas goodwill in a basically mean-spirited world.

Although the publishers think that the book will appeal to readers of all ages, it is probably best for young children. The storyline and humor also appeal more to children. It might make a good gift for a young sibling or friend.

Unfortunately, the book borrows too many features from other stories, and it lacks originality. The story follows Ziggy in his work as a street-corner Santa where he is plagued by competing Santas, an evil pickpocket, and a policeman who thinks Ziggy is a crook. Note that this is a crook and his dog Fuzz, who manage to befrend a stray kitten and a stray Christmas tree in the midst of all this.

Corey is the only way to describe many parts of the story. The keriel magically starts to glow... and even if Ziggy needs some for his philanthropy. Once the pickpocket starts to give his stolen things away, as if by magic, the Pickpocket's bag begins to glow. Out of it comes wonderful presents. A teddy bear. A choo-choo train. The story, of course, has a happy ending, with everyone learning the joy of giving.

The book is attractively layed out, but the illustrations (more than 300 of them) follow one another like a movie storyboard, each very similar to the one before. This is well-used in some parts of the book where the pictures tell stories separate from the text, but in other parts the pictures become redundant. A cute addition to the book is a flag at the end.

A note for Christmas-special fans and kids-at-heart: the program airs on Dec. 1 at 8pm.

Suzanne L. Horine