

Album	The Makeover	Cover Clues	Creative Gambles	Key Lyric	The Verdict
Huey Lewis & the News <i>Small World</i> (1988)	The ultimate ESPN band changes the channel to CNN	Huey juggling a globe	An instrumental reprise of the title track; the awful reggae of “Bobo Tempo”	“Now we can fight one another like they do on TV/Or we can help one another the way it’s supposed to be”	The only HL&N album with no songs you’d recognize. Huey scurried back to the sports bar for 1991’s <i>Hard at Play</i> .
The Fat Boys <i>On and On</i> (1989)	Tubby novelty rappers try a concept album	The word “rappera” (yes, seriously)	A dancehall/ragga excursion called “T’ings Nah Go So”	“Man, all these problems in our world today/I just don’t know what to do, man”	Failed to find relevance (or an audience) in the age of NWA and Public Enemy.
Green Day <i>American Idiot</i> (2004)	Aging pop-punks outgrow drugs ‘n’ masturbation	A fist holding a grenade shaped like a heart — whoa	Not one but two nine-minute, five-part suites; not one but two lighter-waving ballads	“One nation controlled by the media/Information age of hysteria”	Made Green Day massive again. We weren’t seeing them on Letterman and <i>SNL</i> in 2003, were we?
Chubby Checker <i>Chequered!</i> (1971)	Portly dance-craze merchant goes psychedelic funk	Chubby’s pensive, brooding stare	All of it, from the woozy “Stoned in the Bathroom” to the Hendrix freakout “Gypsy”	“My mind comes from a high place”	Released only in Europe and disavowed ever since by Chubby himself, but easily his most interesting work.
The Dead Milkmen <i>Soul Rotation</i> (1992)	’80s laff-core brats ponder “The Secret of Life” in the grunge era	A cartoon Earth, dizzy and exhausted	Brass-driven funk on “Big Scary Place” and ska on “Shaft in Greenland”	“We are trapped inside a prison all around the world/ And we’re the ones who hold the keys/We are our own worst enemies”	They were clearly more comfortable with lyrical concerns such as “Takin’ Retards To The Zoo.”
The Beastie Boys <i>Paul’s Boutique</i> (1989)	Frat-rap poseurs start taking hip-hop seriously	No band name listed	Closing with the twelve-minute, nine-part epic “B-Boy Bouillabaisse”	“Living on borrowed time and borrowed money/Sleeping on the street, there ain’t a damn thing funny”	Commercial letdown now unanimously hailed as an unassailable classic.