

albums

B(if)tek – 2020 (Murmur)

Even though there's a lot of talk by B(if)tek's Kate Crawford and Nicole Skeltys about their 'corporation', it really wouldn't mean anything if the music amounted to nothing. *2020* builds on the duo's insidious plan for world domination by remaining calm, cool and connected.

Both members of underground electronic crew Clan Analogue, B(if)tek manages to balance less commercial sounds with a tongue-in-cheek futuristic kookiness that seems to be boundlessly charming. This accounts for their cover of Cliff Richard's 'Wired For Sound', with vocalist Julee Cruise (which also deserved much better coverage when it was released as a single).

They have an ear for the odd sample and an impeccable feel for a funky beat – both collide to perfection on 'Ultimate' where ma-



chine plays the obscure object of desire. One of B(if)tek's greatest strengths is that they seem to be able to take themselves both seriously and comically at the same time, and surely that helps when you're running any company.

(★★★★)

MOCK

Time off – 30th August 2000