

Arts and Entertainment

'Big Brother' probes human heart

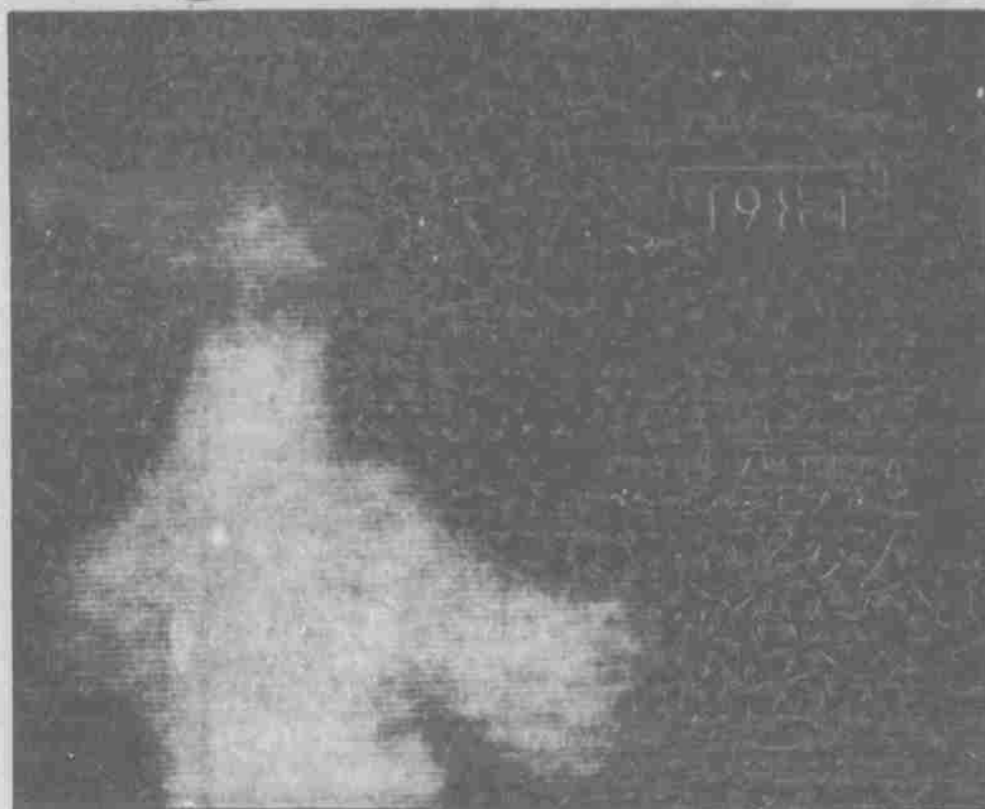


Photo Courtesy of RCA Records

Review by Scott Harrah
Daily Nebraskan Staff Reporter

The Eurythmics, the British synthesizer duo that was catapulted out of oblivion two years ago with the phenomenal smash "Sweet Dreams," has churned out the soundtrack for the film version of George Orwell's classic novel, "1984."

Like its previous album, *Touch*, Eurythmics' third opus, *1984* — *For the Love of Big Brother*, is experimental. It's so esoteric, eerie and bizarre that it won't be much of a commercial success. But artistically, it is a tour de force both in musical and lyrical content.

The album opens with the jaunty "I Did It Just the Same." Annie Lennox's voice is at its funky and

resonant best on the new single "Sexcrime," which ensues. The tune's cyberneticized back-up chorus bears a light resemblance to those cheap '70s disco ditties that tried so hard to sound futuristic, but Dave Stewart's staccato drum beats give the song a stringent sound.

The title track, "For the Love of Big Brother," keeps up the album's daze-like pace with some of Lennox's most cogent lyrics ever. The last two cuts on side one, "Winston's Diary" and "Greetings From a Dead Man," form equivocal images of people committing suicide, getting raped, starving and marching in war.

The second side is even more depressing, with the dismal dirge "Julie." This is a trenchant follow-up to "Jennifer," a song from the first album about a girl drowning.

Throbbing tribal drums bang out "Double Plus Good," a political number in which Lennox talks like an acid-dropping newscaster. She reports on South Africa, while a mixed-in chorus intones the tune's title. Phantasmagoric-sounding keyboards and languid instrumentals combine for the final efforts — "Ministry of Love" and "Room 101" — with nauseating enthusiasm and pizzazz.

1984 — *For the Love of Big Brother* isn't Eurythmics' best album, but it's the most powerful because with each song Dave Stewart and Annie Lennox seem to probe into the corners of the human heart, revealing the anguish, desire and conflict that plagues us all. It establishes the Eurythmics as one of the most cerebral bands to come out of the British pop scene in years.

Prince portrays Royal Badness in dazzling, disappointing video

By Scott Harrah
Daily Nebraskan Staff Reporter

Prince, "I Would Die 4 U." / *Baby, I'm a Star*: MTV currently is showing a 17-minute live concert clip of Prince performing at a recent Washington, D.C., concert during his *Purple Rain* tour. His "Royal Badness" is both dazzling and disappointing in this piece as he sloppily sings his way through an ignominious version of "I Would Die 4 U."

Video Reviews

Even though he isn't up to par vocally, his glittery white costume and sinuous on-stage dancing make the tune visceral. Just as you're about to change the channel, Prince starts into "Baby, I'm a Star." The range of his voice rises, the band sizzles and you can almost feel the flash of frenetic excitement that infects the crowd. Sheila "Glamorous Life" E. bangs her drums with bolsterous zeal as Prince closes the number with more dancing. And as the video fades, you'll be convinced that Prince is truly a star that's here to stay.

The Pointer Sisters, "Neutron



Photo Courtesy of RCA Records

The Pointer Sisters — "they're good at camp."

Dance": This video of the new hit from the soundtrack of Eddie Murphy's latest vehicle, "Beverly Hills Cop," is less nuclear than campy. But camp is what these saucy sisters do best, and it is as snazzy and abundant in this video as the gals' flowing gowns. Some great scenes from the film combined with lots of dancing and conviviality make this piece much more explosive than any neutron bomb.

Joan Jett, "I Love You, Love": Just two weeks ago, I had the dubious honor of reviewing this supposed singer's latest video. You'd think she'd give up after making that trash wallow, but now she's released another one with an even dumber concept. The video is a series of vignettes with fairy tale themes. Sounds good, right? Well, Joan decked out as Little Miss Muffet is just too idiotic to be believable.

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