'Undercover' proves the Stones still do it best

In the Daily Nebraskan's tradition of great reporting after the fact, I bring you the review of the "new" Rolling Stones album.

Mick and the boys have done it once again. Undercover proves they still can do it better than anybody else.

Jagger's voice seems to have regained some lost range. On Tatoo You and Emotional Rescue, Jagger



Chris Welsch

was great. He was wonderful. But his vocals didn't ever send shivers up and down your spine, like they do on his best work.

On Undercover he finds a groove and pushes his 40-year-old vocal cords until they can be pushed no more. Jagger sings like a blues king on "It Must Be Hell," and manages a jivey croon on "Too Much Blood."

Speaking of "Too Much Blood," the lyrics of this album prove as intriguing as Jagger's revitalized vocals.

Before I go on, however, I should say that the Stones can do no wrong in my eyes. So when I say, "Their lyrics were bland on the last album," or "Jagger's vocals were limited," I still maintain that anything the Stones do, even when they spit, is better music than most of the pop played on FM.

Lyrics. This album has blood, revolution, sex, love and more blood — but no boredom. On *Emotional Rescue*, the lyrics were a wee bit too repetitive, i.e. "She's So Cold." Jagger can breathe life into a dull epitaph with his voice. But on this album he doesn't need to. Even the lyrics in "She's Hot," a sort of typical Stones lust anthem, are imaginative, poetic and often unintelligible.

Jagger has said that Fats Domino told him never to sing the lyrics so that anyone could understand them. He often follows that advice. His voice often becomes just another instrument with the band. Not imparting lust or blood, but emotion and sound.

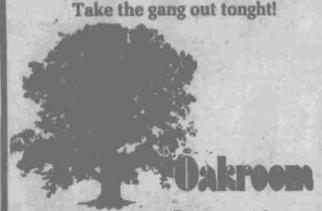
On almost every track at least one verse is beyond the ear's capacity to decode.

But it isn't important. The Stones' lyrics aren't very thought-inspiring, no matter how interesting they may be. On "Too Much Blood," Jagger tells a story in time with the strong rhythm. The story is this Japanese guy who cuts up this girl, puts her in the refrigerator and eats her, until, by chance, a taxi driver sees him getting rid of the bones. Well, that's all fine and good, but what does it say about society? There's Too Much Blood. The Stones don't waste time on subtitles. Good stuff for the literal-minded.

The music on this album isn't subtle, either. But its a perfect blend of blues, and every other type of music Jagger and guitarist Keith Richards have ever heard makes for vintage Stones.

I think it's stupid to try to describe what good or bad music sounds like, Buy this album. You won't be sorry.

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Record shops never slip a disc

Analysis by Randy Wymore

Lincoln: A town of churches. A clean town. A fairly small town. Although its size and pious nature limit some choices, we have a good selection of record stores.

There's Pickles, Dirt Cheap, The Record Shop and Marlowe's, to name all the biggies. Money's tight, so it's important that the records and tapes consumer puts some thought into where to buy albums.

Because of limited selection, and more importantly high prices, it is silly to shop at the Gateway or Centrum Record Shop locations.

Although their racks do include the most popular albums, in most area of music, their prices are quite high when compared to other choices. Why pay \$8 or \$9 for an album when the same record can be had for \$2 to \$3 less at one of the other stores? You shouldn't.

Now, let's talk about the other choices. Marlowe's Records and Tapes has some distinct advantages. Their prices are, for the most part, competitive. Most of the top albums cost\$5.99. When the album begins its descent on the charts, the price rises to about \$7 or \$8.

Their selection includes all the hits, some choice



midlines and even some more obscure new wave selections.

Because Marlowe's is located in the little shopping center at 3808 Normal Blvd., customers can pick up an album or two without going downtown or to Gateway or East Park Plaza. You might pay just a little bit more, but if you're not in the mood for parking hassles or crowds, go to Marlowe's.

There was a time when Dirt Cheap was the record store in Lincoln. And even today, it still is holding its own. Unfortunately, times change and so do prices. When dealing with Dirt Cheap, there is one particular thing to keep in mind: Prices are not consistent between the downtown and East Park Plaza locations.

The same album can cost you as much as \$1.20

more at East Park. Downtown, at 217 N. 11th St., most albums cost \$6.77.

Theselection at the downtown location is pretty broad. It has one of the best blues catalogues in Lincoln. At East Park, however, the options are not quite as numerous. The emphasis here is on rock, R&B and midlines with a smattering of other genres available.

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