

America by train...

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Trivial Pursuit. Two women named Vicki and Margaret joined us.

None of us knew the answers to any of the questions and about 3 a.m. the beer ran out.

Dallas was our next stop. Dave found out when the first bus left and asked about the closest cheap motel. Dave and I went to a retaining wall, where we sat and waited for our bus. To my surprise, Vicki and Margaret also were waiting for a bus. They had been on vacation and were just getting home from Seattle.

When they found out where we were going to stay, which they said was a place to meet prostitutes, they asked us to stay with them. Of course we took them up on the offer and soon we were eating pizza and drinking beer in the women's apartment.

Dallas is a clean city. We wandered

around the town aimlessly, avoiding jaywalking tickets and generally terrorizing the downtown section with our tourist act.

Soon it was time to jump on the train again and we were on our way to Austin. By now it was time to assess our plans. We decided we would have to miss Padre and just find a cheap motel in Austin. Then we would get the next train heading for Nebraska, the good life, and a fresh dropping from the snow god.

On the way home, we traveled non-stop to make it back for school Monday. We took it easy and caught up on our sleep. I woke up outside Little Rock lying next to a large woman who had stolen my pillow during the night.

Across from me, a tall, shaggy-looking man seemed to be begging for someone to go to the lounge car with him, so we headed off for another deep, extended conversation.

As our eyes rolled around in their

sockets, Reed and I watched the flooded lands of northern Arkansas and southern Missouri. It was strange to watch all the wet people worry about the rest of their lives while we sat in the lounge car eating microwaved burritos and drinking Cokes.

The flood washed away trees and everything in its way, as well as a lot of garbage. The trip made me realize that trains are the last way to get a good look at America. An America that is abused too much, land of the free, home of the brave, and all that garbage. There are too few ways to really look at this land and the way people live outside the reach of interstates and the view of airplanes.

I doubt that trains will be saved. I can't expect Congress to see it my way, and I know that someday I'll think back to these days and I won't be able to tell my children about the freedom and honesty of trains and this train trip.

Reed player Washington improvises to popularity

By Rich Ayala
Staff Reporter

Inside Moves, Grover Washington Jr.'s new album, has a relaxed funk sound that is in line with dance music. This sound, which is getting popular among such artists as Chuck Mangione and Herbie Hancock, should allow this great reed player to get the popularity that he deserves.

song. It makes the exam you fail seem insignificant. When you feel blue, this upbeat, carefree song will pick you up.

For "Secret Sounds" and "Sassy Stew," Washington sets up a mysterious mood. "Secret Sounds," my favorite song on the album, allows us to hear some musical versatility. Washington varies his improvisational extremes going from being calm to being intense, almost wild. This variation, coupled with the mysterious mood, lets the mind drift, as if Washington, through his creativity, takes us on a journey of our mind.

The vocalist, Jon Lucien, is featured on "Watching You Watching Me," a slow ballad, and "When I Look At You," an upbeat song. These songs are repetitious, but Lucien and Washington, through the improvisational element, do a fine job of keeping them interesting. Lucien is backed by other vocalists, an orchestra and Washington playing a "background fills" role.

Although this album may be labeled commercial by diehard jazz fans, it provides an opportunity to listen to the excellent reed player. Get set to hear more quality music than you normally hear on a record as you listen to *Inside Moves*.

REVIEW **D.I.S.C.**

The title track opens with the rhythm section laying down a moving beat. Washington joins this driving, constant beat by playing a repeating melody. The song builds up, to a 16th-note interlude that lets the band exhibit some tight ensemble work.

When the smoke clears, Washington goes to work. He improvises up a storm on this tune, and on the other tunes throughout the album. His playing is so appropriate that it literally feels good to hear him.

"Jet Stream" has a similar beat, but there is more use of synthesizers to introduce the melody. This is a happy

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