Arts & Entertainment

Petty's hot live set should put Cougar, the Boss to shame

By Charles Lieurance
Senior Reporter

Editor's note: The following are reviews of several current albums.

The Jesus and Mary Chain, "Psychocandy," PVC Records —

The formidable sound of 10,000 stereo televisions tuned into the mosquito races at full volume, Jesus and Mary Chain create as much noise as The Velvet Underground and as much melody as The Beach Boys.

Although these walking, talking haircuts are too popular in Britain to last for long (the next big thing lasts as long as the average sneeze), this album is a magnificent novelty. "Just Like Honey" is an ethereal piece of psychedelia punctuated by The Chain's trademark feedback. Maybe it will strike the charts in America.

Record Review

GPA 3.2

Fetchin' Bones, "Fetchin' Bones," Db Records —

Fetchin' Bones is yet another ripple heading our way from the musical ground zero of Athens, Ga. The Bones play hoodoobilly rock with a tendency toward the hallucinogenic and gothic.

Howler Hope Nicholls sounds like Pearl Harbour (of The Explosions fame) and wails out her circuitous Escher-like lyric images with all the fervor of a frothing evangelist.

The band is fixated with disparate musical styles, and that makes this debut a stylistic enigma. Guitarist Aaron Pitkin has an affection for long, shrieking, bluesy guitar solos that seem out of place but interesting in rockabilly songs. Suddenly in the middle of some desloate southern spiritual the band can insert a psychedelic interlude. Strange.

This is a rough-sounding beast, especially the minor key Batman theme clone, "Kitchen of Life." Fetchin' Bones holds their hoedown in the cemetery and raise some ravaged old musical corpses into a post mortem jig.

GPA 3.5

Review copy courtesy of Dirt Cheap Records.

Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers, "Pack Up the Plantation," MCA Records —

Poor Tom Petty is lost somewhere in the miasma of working class, gravel-voiced champions of electric folk.

Somewhere between the grandiloquence of Bruce Springsteen and the insipid sermonizing of John Cougar Mellencamp, between the drawling metaphysics of REM and the greenhorn sentimentality of Bryan Adams, falls the shadow — Tom Petty.

Petty's shadow does not often make itself felt on the music scene, but its absence would be tragic.

"Pack Up the Plantation," Petty's new live album provides the shadow with a body. The timely use of cover tunes like The Isley's "Shout," Sonny Bono's "Needles and Pins," The Byrds' "So You Want to Be a Rock 'n' Roll Star" are an absolutely exhilirating manifesto for the new folk rock. They are a more legitimate successor to Dylan's pioneer electric folk on "Blonde on Blonde" than all that has come between.

As live albums go, this is proof of a major talent.

GPA 3.9.

Review album courtesy of Dirt Cheap Records.

The Cramps, "Can Your Pussy Do the Dog?", EP Records —

My heart leapt. Visions of zombies dancing, UFO sex maniacs, insatiable dining habits and fuzztone euphoria danced through my head. It was a new Cramps album. I got fever, the shakes. . .

OK, so The Cramps aren't all that great anymore. They're into sex kitten porno stuff now. Where are the monsters? Where are the radioactive mutants? Where are the B-movie script lyrics? Where's my dose of brain soup psychedelia?

It ain't here.

The Good News: There's still the fuzztone guitar.

GPA 2.5.

Famous conductor, soloists in 'Messiah'

1985 comemorates the 300-year anniversary of the birth of George Frideric Handel, England's well known composer famous for his oratorios. His most famous oratorio "Messiah," will be presented in conjunction with a four day symposium at the UNL Kimball Recital Hall Tuesday and Wednesday at 8 p.m.

Courtesy of Kimball
Hogwood

"Messiah," which Handel wrote in three weeks, is the story of Christ, and contains many famous musical pieces including the chorus "Hallelujah". The oratorio divided into three parts, the first of which celebrates Christmas, the second, Easter, and the last a preparation for the return of Christ.

Christopher Hogwood, one of Great Britain's most-acclaimed conductors, will direct both performances of "Messiah." Hogwood has made a major contribution as scholar, arranger and performer devoted to the cause of authenticity in the presentation of Baroque and classical music.

In addition to Hogwood, each of the soloists is internationally acclaimed. Emma Kirkby, soprano, has contributed to more than 30 recordings, radio broadcasts and television programs.

Contralto Catherine Denley was a member of the BBC singers and today is much in demand as an oratorio singer. She performs in festivals throughout Great Britain.

Ian Partridge, tenor, has attained international recognition and acclaim for his recitals and recordings. He has recorded with most of the major British orchestras.

Davis Thomas, bass-baritone, regularly performs with high-caliber orchestras, conductors and singers. He recently did a recording of Mozart's "Requiem," with Hogwood.

The "Messiah" performance will also include performances by the Lincoln symphony Orchestra and the UNL School of Music. The 55-voice University Singers will be featured in the performance. They are directed by Virginia Covert Colla, UNL assistant director of music.

Tickets for the performances are sold out, but the Dec. 11 program will be telecast live over the Nebraska ETV network with a simulcast by KUCV-FM.

Courtesy of Kimball
Kirkby

Letterman book tops bestseller list

Following are last week's bestsellers at the University and Nebraska bookstores:

University Bookstore

1. "Late Night with David Letterman: The Book," Merrill Markoe, editor, (Villard, $8.95).
2. "More Than Winning," Tom Osborne, (Nelson, $12.95).
3. "Lake Wobegone Days," Garrison Keillor, (Viking, $17.95).
4. "So Long and Thanks for All the Fish," Douglas Adams (Pocket, $3.95).
5. "World's Fair," E. L. Doctorow, (Random House, $17.95).
6. "The Hunt For Red October," Tom Clancy (Berkeley, $4.50).
7. "Galapagos," Kurt Vonnegut, (Delacorte, $16.95).
8. "The Cat Who Walks Through Walls," Robert A. Heinlein (Putnam, $17.95).
9. "Penguin Dreams & Stranger Things," Berke Breathed, (Little, Brown $6.95).
10. "I Never Played The Game," Howard Cosell, (Morrow, $18.95).

Nebraska Bookstore

1. "More Than Winning," Tom Osborne, (Nelson, $10.95).
2. "So Long And Thanks For All The Fish," Douglas Adams (Pocket, $3.95).
3. "Lake Wobegone Days," Garrison Keillor, (Viking, $14,95).
4. "Garfield Rolls On," Jim Davis, (Ballantine, $5.95).
5. "Late Night With David Letterman: The Book," Merrill Markoe, (Villard, $8.95).
6. "The Hunt For Red October," Tom Clancy, (Berkely, $4.95).
7. "Job: A Comedy Of Justice," Robert A. Heinlein (Del Rey, $4.50).
8. "The Talisman," Stephen King and Peter Straub (Berkeley, $4.95).
9. "Valley Of The Far Side," Gary Larson (Andres, McMeel & Parker, $5.95).
10. "Good War: An Oral History of WWII," Studs Terkel, (Ballentine, $4.95).

Opens Friday, December 13th
At A Theatre Near You.