

# Arts & Entertainment



Courtesy of Chrysalis Records

## Down Under band plays rock 'n' roll

By Scott Harrah  
Staff Reporter

### The Divinyls, "What a Life!" Chrysalis Records

In the past few years, Australia exploded onto the international pop culture scene with fine films and new music. The Divinyls, a five-member band from Sydney, is no exception.

Lead vocalist Christina Amphlett, with her streetwise, sexpot posturing, skimpy cheerleader skirt and frenetic stage contortions, heats up the MTV

posed with Amphlett's intoxicating vocals, create an enticing basement rock atmosphere that never lets up in such songs like the sleazy "Casual Encounter" and the pleading anger anthem "Don't You Go Walking."

Amphlett is at her bad little good girl best on side two's "It's My Life," an upbeat social statement about an apparently bleak childhood and the Australian school system.

Throughout the L.P., Amphlett plays the chameleon, moving through various stances such as the sadistic lover in "Guillotine Day" to the surreal, child-like heroine in the whimsical track, "Dear Diary."

This album's most remarkable feature is that it could have been recorded 10 years ago. Their music isn't new-wave, punk or technopop; instead, it's merely good old fashioned rock 'n' roll, free of overproduced synthesizer sections and heavy mixing. And Amphlett, truly a unique vocalist, comes across as a sort of mischievous female Mick Jagger character, adding color and wit to every gravelly note she hits.

"What a Life!" shows enormous talent, energy and inventions with its vulgar insistence and irreverence. The Divinyls are undeniably one of the most fascinating groups to come from the land "down under" in a long time.

## Record Review

airwaves with the band's video to the single "Pleasure and Pain." I must admit that I was endeared to the Divinyls because of Amphlett's flamboyant image and voice. That raspy megaphone of hers sounds like a crass cross between the voices of Marianne Faithfull and Bonnie Tyler, and it more than complements guitarist Mark McEntee's smokin', raw riffs.

"Pleasure and Pain" was composed by Holly Knight, who has created some of the most popular music in the past five years or so. Its hypnotic chords, throbbing bass and percussion, juxta-

## Sheldon expansion delayed until Lied fund drive complete

By Kathy Shults  
Staff Reporter

Once fund raising for the Lied Center for Performing Arts is complete, the Sheldon Art Gallery hopes to realize its proposed \$5.5 million underground expansion, said gallery Director George Neubert.

Although Neubert said he supports the Lied Center as an important project, especially as a component in the development of a fine arts college, he did admit it temporarily has put Sheldon on the "back burner."

"Once the fund drive is complete, hopefully the university will re-address the expansion as a priority," he said.

The addition would double the museum's to 66,000 square feet. It will

contain gallery space, a research center and a cafe "where people can sit under palm trees in winter and read the New York Times," he said.

The Sheldon now houses a collection of 10,000 paintings, photographs and crafts from the late 19th century to the present. The collection's estimated value is \$25 million. Neubert said the gallery's holdings have quadrupled in the past 20 years, and to not expand would be "unwise" of the university.

"(The expansion) is not an ego trip," he said. "It will be used to better utilize the gallery as an educational tool."

A variety of classes already use the gallery, including sociology, psychology and English classes. It is not just a

resource for art education and art history, Neubert said. The addition will make more of the collection available to the students.

Neubert said the Sheldon, "one of the most aesthetically beautiful buildings in the state," was built in 1963 for \$3 million. It was designed by Phillip Johnson, one of the top 20th century architects.

The proposed addition was designed by John Hilberry and Associates and will be built by Davis, Fenton, Strange and Darling of Lincoln.

Fund raising for the project has yet to begin, although Neubert said he expects money for the expansion to come from the private sector.

"We are not relying on state funds," he said.

## Avoiding communication is key to keeping relationships going

All around me I see couples breaking up. Sometimes I'm sad to see these relationships come to an end. In other circumstances, some of these relationships were doomed from the beginning. So I will offer some advice to all the potential couples out there on how to keep a relationship going.



Stew Magnuson

Why am I qualified to give this advice? Well, I recently had a relationship that lasted three whole months, and three months is a long, long time.

### References

When starting a relationship, getting off on the right foot is essential. I can't really tell you how to find that certain special someone. If I knew that, I wouldn't be sitting in my apartment writing this silly column. But once you do find that someone special, get references.

And why not? You have to provide references when applying for a job, for graduate school and even when looking for an apartment, so why not demand references before giving your heart to someone?

This system, if put into widespread use, could greatly alleviate tensions when the big break-up comes. For instance, the unpleasantness of "Stew, I hate your guts. You're a slimy snake

and I don't ever want to see your ugly face ever again" could be changed to "Stew, I really like you, but things aren't working out. I think we should go our separate ways for a while. By the way, do you think you could write me a letter of recommendation for this guy I met last night?"

### First Date Dilemma

Another problem when starting a relationship is that age-old dilemma: How far should I go on the first date? Dr. Ruth says that you should never sleep with someone on the first date. You should get to know the person first.

The best way to get to know someone is to sleep with them. However, it's not wise to go to bed with a total stranger. So to unburden your conscience you should ask them five crucial questions before engaging in any intimate acts.

1. If you could be any animal in the world, what would it be and why?
2. If you were stranded on a desert island, and you could only bring three books with you, what would they be, and why?
3. What are your best and your worst attributes, and why?

4. Do you speak any foreign languages?
5. What is your favorite form of birth control, and why?

### Communication

Now that your relationship is off to a firm start, it's important to keep it going. The chief reason why couples break up is a problem with communication. There's far too much of it. I am firmly opposed to communication in relationships.

So for the sake of your personal happiness, don't talk about "personal feelings." Don't talk about your future together past the point of two weeks. Don't discuss with your partner the qualities that you dislike about him/her. Don't take your boyfriend/girlfriend home to meet your parents, and if you do, don't discuss the incident afterwards.

If you bring up any of these subjects, you will inevitably start to argue, feelings will be hurt and the next thing you know you will have to give yourself backrubs, and if you've ever tried to give yourself a backrub, you know just how difficult that is.

Magnuson is a junior English major.

## Poet to give reading

Marilyn Hacker, editor of "The 13th Moon" and an award-winning poet and writer, will give a reading April 29 at 3:30 p.m. in the English department library, Andrews 228. The reading, sponsored by the NU Research Council and the English department, is free to the public.

Hacker's first book of poems, "Presentation Pieces," won the National Book Award for poetry and the Lamont Poetry Selection Award.

For more information, contact Professor Robert Haller, Andrews 221, 472-1814 or 472-3191.

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