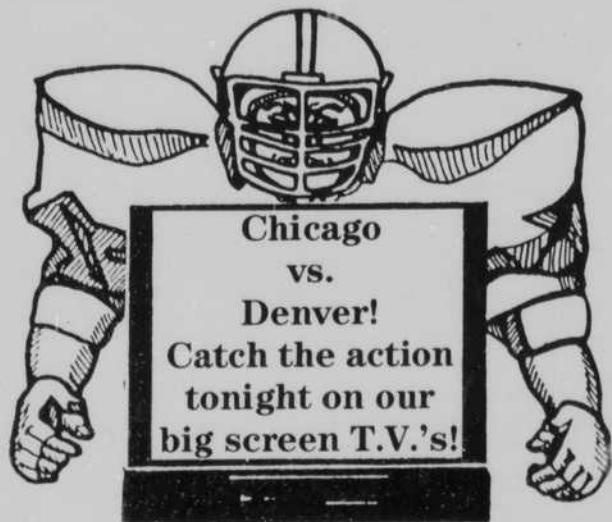


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CHESTERFIELDS

Guadalcanal Diary's two albums evoke landscapes, poetry, beauty

By Geoff McMurtry
Staff Reporter

It was just a couple of springs ago.

Anticipation was in the air. There was a going to be a free concert on the beach. Everyone was looking forward to seeing Modern English, and hearing "I Melt With You," that popular and upbeat hit single from the movie, "Valley Girl." The opening band was going to be somebody by a name that nobody, save immediate family, had ever heard of.

The beach is really a beautiful place to be. During a concert, there is probably no better place to be.

Concert Preview

There's just nothing quite like the feeling of looking out at the crashing waves, alternately beneath and above the surfers and sailboats bobbing in the distance, then watching them roll over each other on their way to shattering on the beach. When all this is accompanied by thought-provoking music, played by a band that actually cares about what they're doing, it doesn't even have to be on a beach.

Modern English was a terrible that day. Listening to their shameless, blatant album commercials between every song, along with watching their self-conscious attempts at rock-star posing, liber-

ally interspersed with every crowd-pleasing cliché in the book, made a mesmerizing performance by the opening band seem that much more impressive. Perhaps even faith-healing.

The crowd, of course, consisting entirely of college students who'd journeyed to Daytona Beach determined to spend a hedonistic, carefree, alcohol-soaked week away from home in the sun and the sand, was baffled by the opening band's artistry, and spent the duration of Modern English's show alternately waiting patiently or dancing politely, as if they knew it was expected of them. They clapped, cheered, and stood up whenever the lead singer, with audacious show-biz patter, told them to. When, at long last, the band leaped into their hit single of a few years back, and the wait was over, the crowd roared excitedly, the way they do for touchdowns. They danced happily; the way they do for cover bands who always play their favorite ten songs at private parties. Then, with the show half over, they left. Luckily, an inspired, captivating performance by the unknown opening band was enough to make up for all that.

The opening band that day was Guadalcanal Diary.

Taking their name from the infamous WWII memoirs found on an anonymous dead soldier which later, in mutated form, gave

the world the plot to several John Wayne movies, Guadalcanal Diary was one of the first bands to be called "R.E.M.-influenced." The band emerged from the obscurity of their native North Carolina's picturesque, pine-forested swamplands in 1985 with the critically acclaimed, "Walking In The Shadow Of The Big Man." The evocative beauty of the album's hit single, "Trail Of Tears," made it a staple of college-radio airplay, and gave the band name recognition around the country.

Combining driving, hard edged guitars and poetic lyrical landscapes with the kind of melodic pop hooks that just won't go away, Guadalcanal Diary has, in just over two years, become one of the leaders on the innovative American alternative music scene. Their rendition of the old Boy Scout campfire classic, "Kumbayah," transforms what's usually thought of as an ode to juvenile homilies into a moment of transcendence.

The band's third album, "2x4," just out, from which the current single, "Litany," is from, represents a further step for the band's trademark sound and thoughtful, introspective lyrics.

Guadalcanal Diary will be at Omaha's Ranch Bowl, 1616 S. 72nd, tonight, along with Omaha's Perry Mason cover band, The Front. Doors open at 7:30 p.m., and admission is \$3.00. Minors are welcome.

Career Corner

Twenty companies have decided to pre-select candidates for interviewing through the Career Planning and Placement Center.

Students who want to be considered by a company must deposit data forms by the deadline date. The Career Planning and Placement Center will mail the forms to the companies.

Students can get information on requirements and deadlines for interviews from Career Planning and Placement in Nebraska Union 225.



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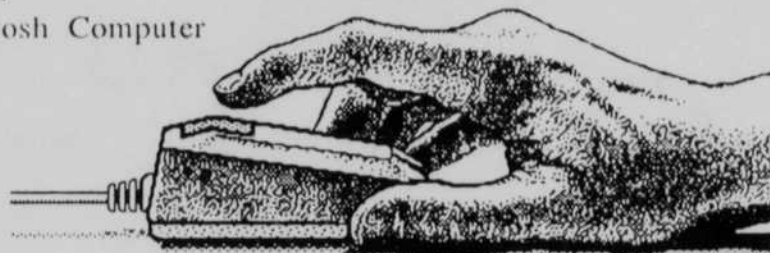


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