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# Pop music returns with vengeance

By William Rudolph  
Staff Reviewer

Gabba gabba hey, gabba gabba hey, pop music is back with a vengeance, and in Transvision Vamp's debut LP, "Pop Art" on UNI Records, the British group lets the world know that music still can be fun.

Self-proclaimed "undying" believers in "the transcendent power of the ultimate pop song," Transvision

## album PREVIEW

Vamp reminds listeners of a happier time when music didn't have to mean anything — and if it did, so what?

Strong echoes of the past, especially of Blondie and David Bowie, ring in every track of "Pop Art," from the Velvet Undergroundesque "Andy Warhol's Dead" to the entrancing "Sister Moon," which, according to lead singer Wendy James, contains "the famous 'Louie Louie' progression, our attempt at a classic three-chord pop/rock ballad."

**'There's no scam or grand plan behind Transvision Vamp.'**

— James

But influences aside, James cautions that, "We don't copy or steal from the past, and I don't see the point in rehashing what's been done. A great band should acknowledge its influences, then strive to make something original out of them."

In addition to James' Deborah Harry-tinged vocals, the backup work from Nick Sayer, Dave Parsons, Pol Burton and Tex Axile evokes memories of quintessential "who-cares-we're happy" melodies, like early B-52's works.

The LP's 10 tracks all support the group's transcendent aims. From the opening "Trash City" to the happy "I Want Your Love" and the bubbly current single remake of Holly and the Italians' "Tell That Girl to Shut Up," Transvision Vamp shimmies and shakes its way through one happy song after another.



Courtesy of MCA Records

Perhaps the music isn't serious enough for some listeners. Perhaps the lyrics, such as James' warning that she'll do physical harm to any little filly that comes between her and her male friend, don't embrace anything deeper than a bubble gum beat.

Big deal. "Pop Art" is fun music to dance to, party to and enjoy without worrying about what it all means.

As James says, "There's no scam or grand plan behind Transvision

Vamp. We're simply writing rock'n'roll songs, playing gigs, making records. If our music's good enough, we'll last as long as we make good records and play good gigs... soapbox rock bands only delude themselves and everybody else."

Produced by Duncan Bridgeman and Zues B. Held, the man behind the bigger Dead or Alive hits, Transvision Vamp's "Pop Art" lives up to its title.

## Harler sings angels' songs

Soprano Donna Harler, associate professor of voice in the University of Nebraska-Lincoln School of Music, will present a recital 8 p.m. Sept. 29 in Kimball Hall.

Harler, accompanied by Michael Cotton, will sing selections that were written about or written to angels.

The evening's program shows the prevalence of angelic themes

throughout musical history.

The program will include Henry Purcell's "The Blessed Virgin's Expostulation," Paul Hindemith's "Argwohn Josephs," and works by Handel, Schubert, Robert Schumann, Mahler, Hugo Wolf, Debussy, Ravel, Francis Poulenc, Erik Satie, Ivor Gurney, Britten and H.T. Burleigh.

The recital is free and open to the public.

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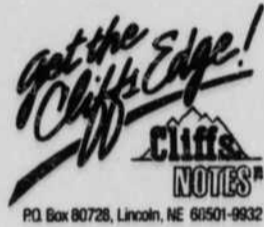
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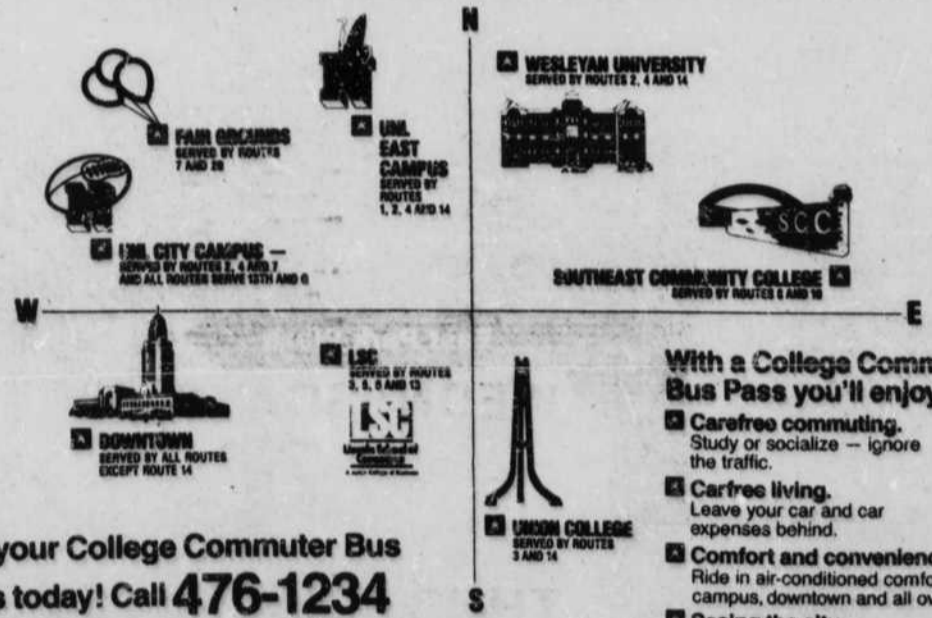
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