

'Cheese Omelette' would be funnier on video

By Michael Deeds
Senior Editor

Jeff Altman
"I'll Flip You Like A Cheese Omelette"
Polygram Records

Funny men Sam Kinison and

album REVIEW

Andrew "Dice" Clay finished the '80s power-style.

Kinison is guest-starring in music videos, movies, and anything else he can scream in. Clay made a couple of small movie appearances, got thrown off MTV forever and lost his ABC television series -- but everybody

knows about him.

So it's no surprise that another comedian is trying to cash in on the popularity of the funny man.

His name is Jeff Altman. He looks like a geek. He dresses like a geek. He talks about butt steak a lot.

Altman has been around for a while. And he is a smart guy -- the comic has a degree from John Hopkins University.

It's safe to say it isn't a Bachelor of Comedy Albums.

Altman is funny. That's a fact. He is one of the most frequent guests on "Late Night With David Letterman." His film credits include "Easy Money" and "Soul Man."

But, on record, he has a problem.

Altman is a talented writer and tells jokes in a goofy style. But much

of his comedy is quite dependent on his look -- when he depicts "Leonard Moon," the man who will knock out Mike Tyson, he gets by, because the humor is in the speech. But when he does more diverse comedy, seeing him becomes important because his actions reinforce what he says.

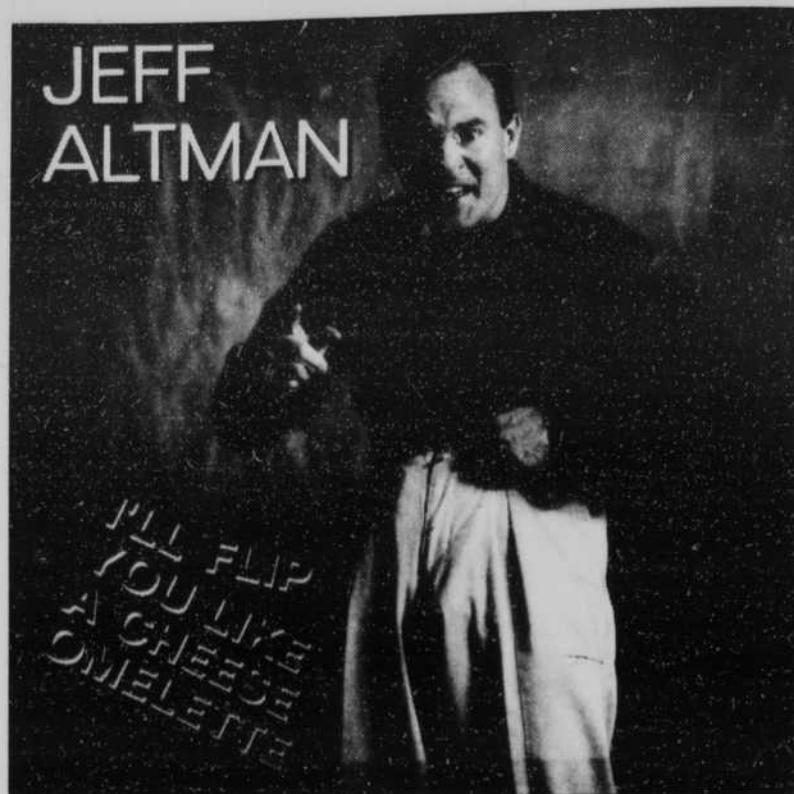
Listening to the crowd laugh at Altman while he makes faces and gets weird becomes frustrating because, as the listener, you see nothing.

Altman covers the typical array of comedy material -- sex, dating, women vs. men -- and he does come up with some original stuff.

But looks are important to some comedians, and Altman is one of them. He comes on stage looking like a nerdy family attorney and transforms into a schizo of multi-faceted characters. Altman is a good impressionist, and even resorts to imitations of the legendary Rodney Dangerfield. But again, it would be nice to see the bug eyes.

"I'll Flip You Like A Cheese Omelette" is a decent release for a comedian. But maybe Altman had better do what "Dice" did -- release an album AND a video cassette.

That way, the audience will really flip.



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The Big F's 'Big Flop' album starts off as a big treat and ends in boredom

By Brian Meves
Staff Reporter

The Big F
"The Big F"
Elektra

What does the "F" in the The Big F's debut album stand for?

It could be The Big Flop. On the band's self-titled album, the Los Angeles-based trio introduce a hard, elementary sound which is

The opening song, "Killing Time," begins with loud guitars and tribal drum beats that shoot straight at your ears. The lyrics are ground out as if they were extracted from a dead man in excruciating pain. And, as an added bonus, the band includes a long, catchy

instrumental mixed in the middle. The next song "Kill The Cowboy," is by far the best of the rest. The tribal drum beats are still here, but the guitars are toned down for a harmo-

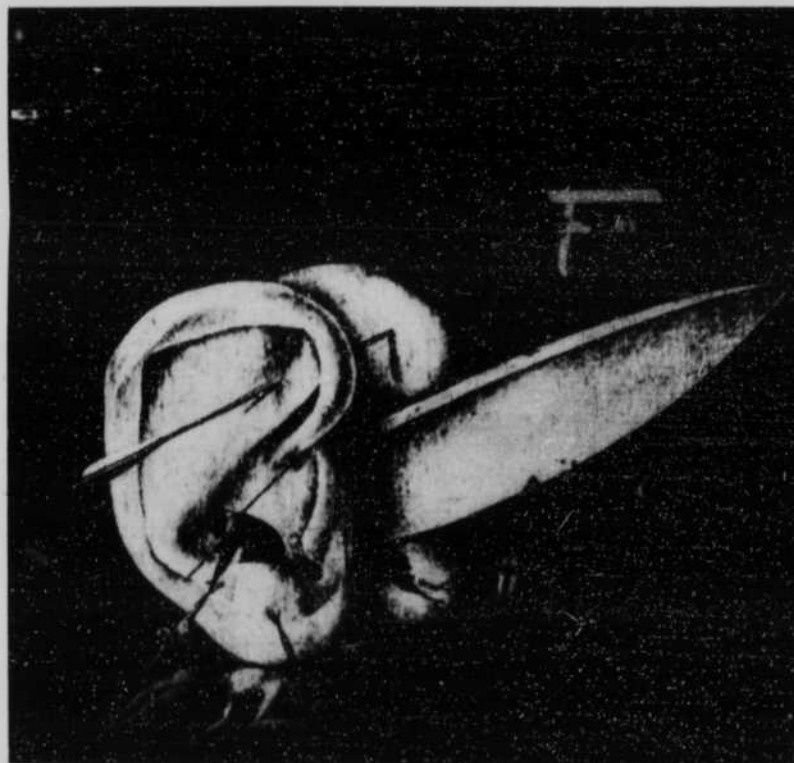
See BIG on 11

SOUNDS

actually pretty boring. "The Big F" relies primarily on basic, heavy guitar, drowned-out bass and pounding drum beats.

The most interesting part of the album is the lead singer's Ian Astbury-like voice and his excellent yelling ability. At times, it sounds like he is auditioning for a stereotypical heavy metal band with meaningful lyrics or he has just swallowed a mouthful of gravel.

After listening to the first two songs on "The Big F," you may be led into believing that you are in for a real treat. Unfortunately, aside from two bright spots, the rest of the album is long, monotonous boredom that starts to wear on you after awhile.



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