

'Lambs Eat Ivy's' debut repetitive, goofy, abnormal

By John Payne Senior Reporter

Lambs Eat Ivy "Lamby Cake **Merkin Records**

"Lamby Cake" is the debut release from the Baltimore-based Lambs Eat Ivy, but an apt subtitle may have been "As Goofy as They Want to Be." The album cover alone is enough to get you wondering: "Are these guys for real?"

Adorned in grass skirts and hair



bows, the trio of Nancy Andrews, Emma Downing and Michael Willis certainly looks like a strange lot

Musically, these guys have scrapped the norm in every way. There's very little bass on "Lamby Cake," and virtually no percus-sion. In their place are murky smatterings of washboard, violin and banjo. Not exactly rock 'n' roll staples, but then again, the Lambs aren't your run-of-the-mill band. The brief instances of electric guitar sound more like sitars in need of a tuning.

Their overall sound is a hillbilly folk that borders on psychedelia. The vocal harmonies are

purposefully listless, which tend to push "Lamby Cake" further into the doldrums.

After a while, you get the feeling that Lambs Eat Ivy just went into the studio to experiment. You keep waiting for them to get down to business, but they never do. It's kind of like listening to a band warm up all night.

Downing writes most of the tunes, which deal predominantly with God, snakes, childbirth and more snakes. She handles lead vocals as well, with a trippy twang that pierces the inner ear like Grace Slick on helium.

Chaos is also a big theme on the Lambs' agenda: "Shiva is god of destruction/ Shiva world annihi-late/ Shiva sits amidst the corpses/ Shiva wears the living snakes.

That kind of bizarre imagery on 'Lamby Cake" is certainly disturbing at times, and Downing's gothic poems do grab your attention: "Reptile eyes glisten and shine/ Reptile brain waits evolution.'

But for a band that trys so hard to break new ground, this effort is as repetitive as they come. The banjos and violins are fun at first, but the Lambs shouldn't have expected the novelty to carry the entire LP.

Add to that Downing's singing, which never sounds completly serious, and you've got an album that's just a little too silly for its own good.

And of course, one can take the references to decaying corpses and serpents only so many times before enough becomes enough.

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delicious combination. It's Stevenson and Egerton who put the "power" in this pop. Meanwhile, vocalist Scott Reynolds drifts into college radio melodicism over the barrage, transforming All into a unique and magnetic quartet.

"Prison" give Reynolds opportu-nity to show off his pipes. Harmonies and vocal solos prevail here, while Egerton delivers sporadic, thick chords.

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campus notes

HI DEB, DO 40U WANT TO GRAB A CUP OF COFFEE OR SOMETHING AFTER CLASS?

1 Change

5 Pro -

direction

9 Tropical cactus

tearing up any last shred of doubt



about the band's tightness. Here Reynolds gets mean, and All leans into hard rock seriousness.

original - Greg Ginn must have taught

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SHELLYTOE

On the opposite end, "Simple Minds" is All's high-gear rocker, really



Egerton's leads are by no means

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rossword Edited by Eugene T. Maleska ACROSS

24 Dorothy Gale, to 45 "Lamia" composer: 1897 46 A Cy Young Award winner: 1988 48 Aprile Millo, e.g. 27 More dreadful 49 "Happy

the guy - but it's good just to hear this deranged style of playing over something melodic.

Something actually beautiful. Reynolds' lyrics aren't anything new, either. But again, somehow, All is a refresher course in post-punk. Bright, energetic and positive, the members of All have kept their heads up through tough times.

"Allroy Saves" is one of the more addictive albums of the year. For real angst, nothing beats it. So take a chance, Bob Mould fans, even R.E.M. freaks. You might be surprised.

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By GARY LARSON



'C'mon! Keep those stomachs over the handle! Let the fat do the work! . . . That's it!"

1 They fail to pass the bar	crustaceans
3 Supper club	30 Plastered
Lists of things to be done	32 — Speed- wagon (rock group)
Part of T.G.I.F. Famed British	33 Song in "A Chorus Line"
baron	34 Cicada sounds
Angela, '	37 Stillen
1928 song Existence:	40 Certain rural deities
Comb. form	41 Orphan Annie's
2 Bias	Oriental friend
African nut tree	43 Ultimate goal

Em

26 Amatol

ingredient

28 Shrimolike

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZ

A B A D A N A L O	S BO A SOM T E L A	ME OTOE TEARING	1 Famed lexicographer- author 1758-1843
MIN	ISTER	FORCES	2 Cash's "Ballad
CALCULAR DE	RETS	TREWEN	of Haves"
REO	MERI	TSERUM	3 Stout's
AAB	BBBT	AB DOCE	Wolfe
BRI		SAL SAG	4 Affairs of honor
SA	UNTER	PAMELA	5 Thesaurus man
	CIRC	AIDA	6 Mimic
PAR	ADEW	EDDINGS	7 Lacrosse team
EDI	TAPA	UL DALL	8 City in Okla
TUT	ODEC	OYOVEN	9 Strong-scented
STE	RSUS	UFENS	mint

	1977 musical
	50 Chandelier or earring
	52 "Tin ——," 1987 film
	53 What Aaron's rod became
5	55 Manorial manager
•	57 Jefferson, Paine et al.
	58 Spartan slaves
S	59 Marriage portions
	60 King Canute was one
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lexicographer- author	10 Marsh birds	27 A Count of Monte	39 L.
1758-1843	11 Corrupts	Cristo portrayer	40 Fi
2 Cash's "Ballad	12 Cruised	29 And not	42 Tu
of —— Hayes" 3 Stout's ——	13 Twig cut for	31 Make lace	44 Fc
Wolfe	grafting	34 Fired	46 0
4 Affairs of honor	15 European river	35 X x X	47 B
5 Thesaurus man	18 Fourgon	36 New Orleans	50 N
6 Mimic	21 Wind instrument	eleven	51 La
7 Lacrosse team 8 City in Okla	23 Affinity	37 Spatter	54 R
9 Strong-scented	25 Vase-shaped	38 Weather	R

conditions

39 Lingers close by
40 Fixed charges
42 Turf
44 Fortitude
46 Outlets
47 Built up the pot
50 Nudnik
51 Layer of tissue
54 Religious, in Roma
56 Succeeded