

## 'Lambs Eat Ivy's' debut

 repetitive, goofy, abnormalBy John Payne
Senior Reporter
Lambs Eat Ivy
"Lamby Cake"
"Lamby Cake" is the debut re rease from the Baltimore-based Lambs Eat livy, but an apt subtitle may have been "As Gooty as They Want to Be ." The album cover alone is enough to get you wonder ing: "Are these guys for real?

Adorned in grass skirts and hair


## DEDP

UNDERGROUND
bows, the trio of Nancy Andrews, Emma Downing and Michael Willis ce
lot. . looks like a strange
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 in roll staples, but then again, the Lambs aren tyour run-of-the-mil band. The brief instances of electric guitar sound more like sitars i ed of a tuning
Their overall sound is a hill- And of course, one can take the $\begin{array}{ll}\text { Their overall sound is a hill- } & \text { references to decaying corpses and } \\ \text { billy folk that borders on psyche- } & \text { serpents only so many times before }\end{array}$ billy folk that borders on psyche-
delia. 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 waiung for them to get down kind of like listening to a band kind of like iistening to a band arm up all night.
Downing writes most of the with God, snakes, childbirth more snakes. She handles lead vocals as well, with a rippy lwang that pierces the inner ear like Grace Slick on helium. Chaos is also
Chaos is also a big theme on the Lambs agenda: Shiva is god of late/ Shiva sits amidst the corpses/ Shiva wears the living snakes.
That kind of bizarre imagery on "Lamby Cake" is certainly disurbing at times, and Downing's gothic poems do grab your attention: "Reptile eyes glisten and shine/ eptile 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 ntire 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 wind enough becomes enough

THE FAR SIDE
By GARY LARSON


## All

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delicious combination. It's Stevenson and Egerton who put the "power" Reynolds drifts into, vocainstScou melodicism drits into college radio corming All into the barrage, transnetic quartet. netic quartet.
nity to show off his pipes. Harmonies and vocal solos prevail here, while Egerton delivers sporadic, thick chords.


On the opposte end, "Simple the guy - but it's good just to hear Minds" is All's high-gear rocker, really this deranged style of playing over tearing up any last shred of doubt something melodic.

Something actually beautiful. Reynolds' lyrics aren't anything new, either. But again, somehow, Al is a refresher course in post-punk members of All have kept heir head through tough times. ip through tough times.
is one of the more addictive albums of the year. For real angst, nothing beats it. So take a chance You might be surprised.

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## CrOSSWOrd Edited by Eugene T. Maleska



