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Reviews



Nirvana album spirited, gripping

"Nevermind"
Nirvana
Sub Pop

Once in a great while there is an album that will shake you into numbness. Hüsker Dü's "Zen Arcade" still gives a similar gripping sensation. So does old Dinosaur Jr. and Soul Asylum.

"Nevermind," the latest album from Seattle's Nirvana, sort of twists you in that same way. "Nevermind" marks Nirvana's welcome incorporation of near-pop hooks. These guys still crunch out ear-bleeding noise, but not every minute. They even include an all-acoustic number called "Polly" about tied-up-loving:

"Polly wants a cracker/Maybe she would like some food. She'll ask me to untie her."

It's nice to see that the spirit of the band remains.

"Smells Like Teen Spirit," the first single, opens with 10 seconds of entirely clean guitar strums before using the effects pedal for big, crunchy

noise. Vocally, the song ranges from clear to growling - like any good song should.

"Drain You" and "In Bloom" are reminiscent of the Dinosaur Jr. days



Courtesy of Sub Pop Records

of "You're Living All Over Me" with a wandering range of vocals and bundles of power chords. Nirvana's sound, however, is more controlled than Mascis' bunch.

And Nirvana's joy and spirit of the band is a self-fulfilling one. The inside cover features a blurry likeness

of the band flipping off the world - or at least those who open the album jacket.

Musically, Nirvana is powered by the same attitude, and in this case, big and bad is good.

In "Lithium," the band screams and sings the perfectness of the world of Nirvana.

"I'm so happy because today I found my friends/They're in my head/I'm so ugly/That's okay, 'cos so are you..."

Likewise, "On A Plain" is imbued with the same awareness of the perfectness of self.

"I love myself better than you..." Lines like these are only part of the bargain of "Nevermind."

The album is by far one of the biggest and best of the year. It pays homage to SST's founding spirits of noise-and-roll, a la Hüsker Dü and The Minutemen.

Nirvana's lyrics tell you where to go and the music leads you there just as easily.

-Michael Stock

Baldrige

Continued from Page 9

your kids will learn to do it. They'll even help each other to figure out how it's done.

Trust me on this one - a kid can watch MTV for six hours straight without food or water. I can, too, come to think of it. If the good folks at MTV could be persuaded to run subliminal chemistry courses during the video breaks, we'd soon outstrip even the wiley Japanese.

It's an idea whose time has come. Already, MTV runs "Feed Your Head" spots where passages from famous books are read and dramatized. I imagine that few kids go on to read any more of these stories, but they probably end up with the same kind of knowledge that we got from the old reliable Cliff's Notes.

No one ever reads those books anyway. It is enough to be able to talk about them.

If America is to be competitive, we're going to have to go forward, not back. The good old days of readin', ritin' and 'rithmatic are gone for good.

Let's compete where we're strongest. Down with Science! Down with Literacy! Here's to the days of Trivial Pursuit, and Doctorates in Television.

And hey, that's not a bad idea. Maybe I'll do my thesis on Pee Wee Herman.

Baldrige is a senior English major and a Daily Nebraskan A&E columnist.

Chorus

Continued from Page 9

alities fit the available parts. During the interview each dancer performs a number that expresses his or her hopes, fears and past failures as a dancer.

Over the years the show has created several stars, including Baayork Lee, who originated the role of Connie. Lee recreated her part in 1989, but has since hung up her dancing shoes. She directs and choreographs the production coming to the Orpheum.

Writer Michael Bennett also made a name for himself with the show. "A Chorus Line" was the result of Bennett's unique concept: a dance musical about dancers, performers who follow their work and have no permanent home. The audience is given insights into the lives of the unknown and unrecognized dancers who work in supporting roles in chorus line productions.

"A Chorus Line is as close as we could come to rendering the

truth, the subtext of many hours of discussion among a group of dancers whose lives revolve around

Broadway," Bennett said.

The concept worked. In its 15-year run, "A Chorus Line" won nine Tony Awards, a Pulitzer Prize for drama, five Drama Desk Awards, The New York Drama Critics Award for Best Musical and a Special Tony Award as the longest running show in musical history.

While the touring company no longer employs many of the show's original dancers, it does feature several of the Broadway cast's later members. Performers include Wanda Richert-Preston (Cassie), Kevin Chinn (Butch), Cherly Clark (standby for Sheila, Cassie), Randy Clements (Zach), Michael Biondi (Larry), Morris Freed (Frank), Michael Gorman (Bobby), Doug Friedman (Greg), Michael Danek (Don), Janie Casserly (Judy) and Melinda Cartwright (Connie).

The shows at the Orpheum will start tonight and Wednesday at 8 p.m. and Thursday at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$27.50 for section-one seating and \$25.50 for section-two seating. Tickets are available at all TicketMaster locations.

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