

MUSIC REVIEW



Courtesy of David Geffen Company

"In Utero"
Nirvana
David Geffen Company

Seattle's infamous Nirvana has shoved its new release, "In Utero," in the face of all those who doubted the band's ability to recover from the popularity pit of despair.

The album bursts with the energy that has endeared Nirvana to so many fans, and yet it continues the band's mission to re-alienate itself in the music world.

"Scentless Apprentice" and "Tourette's" are two noisy, chaotic songs sure to disgust subscribers to Teen Beat magazine.

But the band has not abandoned its proven formula heard again and again on songs like "Rape Me" and "Frances Farmer Will Have Her Revenge on Seattle." "Heart-Shaped Box," a likely choice for the album's first single, plays on catchy but evil melodies underscored by Kurt Cobain's diseased, growling vocals.

These songs enter in suspiciously calm, then commence with Cobain's guitar on puree and baseball bats in drummer Dave Grohl's hands. It has become a predictable formula—but it is as powerful and effective as ever.

"In Utero" combines free-form, all-out Nirvana with raw, simple tunes like "Dumb," harking back to

"Bleach," the band's first album. And for all those who firmly believe Cobain is the master spewer of nonsense, his lyrics are reprinted in the liner notes of "In Utero." They are scary, but they do make sense in Cobain's unique, twisted world.

Cobain and Grohl, along with bassist "Krist" Novoselic — the man not afraid to break out the fuzz bass—prevail not as precise musical technicians but as a tight band with raw emotional power rarely seen.

Old-time fans may not want to admit it, but Nirvana has risen above its skyrocketed fame and returned to the music that got them there.

— Glenn Antonucci



Courtesy of Dali Records

"Happy Days Sweetheart"
Ethyl Meatplow
Dali Records

No matter who you are — or what socioeconomic class you belong to — you have better things to do with your money than buy Ethyl Meatplow's debut LP, "Happy Days Sweetheart."

Ethyl Meatplow is a Los Angeles-based trio which is not quite industrial, not quite funk, and not quite interesting enough to warrant any further labeling.

Without any good music or lyrics on most of the album, the band is forced to resort to sound effects and obscenities to generate interest.

Still, the four-year-old band's wild stage reputation has enabled it to gain enough of a following to get "Happy Days Sweetheart" on the Billboard dance charts.

But there are less than a handful of moments on this disc that justify such acclaim.

"Devil's Johnson" is a catchy pop song with anti-crack lyrics, and "Feed" sounds like Snoop Doggy Dog jamming with the cast of Hee-Haw; but that's as close as Ethyl Meatplow gets to making good music.

The disc starts and ends like a punk record. The opening song, "Suck," features a lot of angry shouting and the closing song, "Sad Bear," is almost all feedback.

Although Ethyl Meatplow deserves credit for trying something different, they only prove that they make as bad a thrash band as they are a dance band.

The band tries in vain to hold the listener's attention with variations of its industrial-funk style, including a remake of the Carpenter's "Close to You."

It's always fun to do covers of cheesy '70s songs, but this effort is neither funny nor good, forcing one to ask, "What's the point?"

The press release for "Happy Days Sweetheart" encourages the listener to "Eat it, wear it, love it, lick it." That's fine; just don't buy it.

— Bryce Glenn

New science-fiction story twists, turns theme



"Virtual Girl"
Amy Thomson
Ace Science Fiction

The story of man creating life in his own image is the basis for one of the oldest sci-fi tales, Mary Shelley's "Frankenstein."

The theme is also the subject of Amy Thomson's redoing of that theme, "Virtual Girl." Despite the vintage nature of the topic, Thomson still gives it a good turn.

Set in a twenty-first-century world, where global warming has inundated coastal cities and Artificial Intelligences are outlawed, "Virtual Girl" centers on the robot Maggie. Maggie was constructed by computer genius Arnold Brompton, who is in hiding from his tyrant, billionaire father.

Unable to get along with most people, Brompton builds Maggie for companionship. He also creates the AI out of a sense of pride and his general tendency to break the law.

At first, Maggie's programming has a few bugs, but eventually Brompton socializes her to the point where she can pass for human. Forced to flee from his father's security,

Brompton and Maggie take to hopping freight trains.

Their luck runs out when they are accosted by a mugger. When Brompton is severely wounded, Maggie kills the mugger.

Thinking her creator is dead, Maggie flees, losing part of her memory in the process.

Her wanderings take her to the remains of New Orleans, where she meets Turing, another AI, who unlocks her memory and more fully integrates her personality programming with her security codes.

Maggie discovers that Brompton did not die and is now head of his father's corporation, which builds computers. Under Brompton's guidance, the company tries to get the robotics laws lifted — so the company can corner the market.

Maggie eventually is reunited with Brompton, but it is a confused and bittersweet reunion. Maggie gets an overhaul, and she gives Turing a prototype body.

Thomson's first novel is a worthy debut with a readable style and just enough computerspeak to make it believable, but not so much as to make it unintelligible.

Her characters, especially Maggie, are well drawn, and the process by which Maggie goes from complete innocence to worldliness rings true.

"Virtual Girl" is an excellent short read.

—Sam Kepfield



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3 Applications for 1994 UPC available at 117 NU, 200 U and 300 U			Wacky Wednesday 6	7	8	9
Lovers (Spain) 10 International Film Ross Theater 3, 5, 7 & 9 pm \$3 UNL Students \$5 General Public	Homecoming Events	Homecoming Events Sneak Preview RUDY Ross Film Theater 7 pm Free	13 Homecoming Events Lavena Couch Concert Culture Center 7 pm Free UNL Students \$2 General Public	14 Homecoming Events	15 Homecoming Events	16 Homecoming Events UNL Cornbuskers vs. Kansas State 1 pm
17	18	19 Wacky Wednesday	20 George Wallace Centennial 8 pm \$10 UNL Students \$15 General Public	21 Applications due for 1994 UPC	22	23 UNL Cornbuskers vs. Missouri 1 pm
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