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MUSIC REVIEW

Vanessa Williams
"The Sweetest Days"
 Mercury
 Grade: B-

With the release of her third album, Vanessa Williams is hoping to make these "The Sweetest Days."

Since her 1988 debut album, "The Comfort Zone," Williams has made a name for herself as a terrific ballad singer while also sneaking in a few dance tracks.

On "The Sweetest Days," she maintains her formula for great music. Her strengths have always been her ballads. This album is no exception; eight of the 11 tracks are slow love songs.

But Williams tries some new tricks. Acoustic guitars are fronted in both "Higher Ground" and "Constantly." Strings on the former help make it one of the album's best songs, but the latter is strictly acoustic and does not work as well.

Strings appear on the album with varying success. The wonderful title track and first single blend them well with a synthesizer, but the strings are not used as well in the Patti Austin cover "You Don't Have To Say You're Sorry."

Producer/singer Babyface steps

in to write and produce "You Can't Run" and "Betcha Never." Both songs are more up-tempo and highlight Williams singing in a lower register, reminiscent of her style in Broadway's 1994 production of "Kiss of the Spider Woman."

The only really disappointing track on this album is "Ellamental," Williams' tribute to jazz diva Ella Fitzgerald. The hip-hop track does not suit Williams' singing.

Fans of R&B ballads should be pleased with this album, and with it, Williams should be able to continue her successful music career.

—Greg Schick

The Jon Spencer Blues Explosion
"Orange"
 Matador Records
 A-

Listening to Jon Spencer and his beloved Blues Explosion wail away on their latest effort is like taking a tortured trip through American music's angriest theme park.

But Spencer's hard-edged concoction of power-chord punk rock and mellow blues makes for one of 1994's best albums.

Spencer's voice belongs in a smoke-filled whiskey bar, and his guitar style manages to turn the most dissonant noises into undeniable grooves.

Russell Simins and Judah Bauer, the remainder of the Blues Explosion, provide a solid backing for Spencer with slamming drums, hook-filled guitars and the occasional background scream.

The absence of bass in this blues band is, to say the least, unique. The guitar takes the place of the typical walking basslines, and Spencer's growls overshadow any lack of bass.

"Bellbottoms," the first track, opens with a Shaft-like musical intro, complete with a string section, and then breaks into typical Blues Explosion fare.

Additional standout tracks include "Ditch," "Sweat," "Full Grown" and "Flavor" (which features guest vocals by a former MTV darling, Beck).

On "Orange," Spencer uses the influence of music legends such as James Brown, Muddy Waters and Sid Vicious to create something all his own.

—Jeff Randall

Eagles to play rescheduled gig Jan. 28 in Lincoln

From Staff Reports

The Eagles will come to Lincoln Jan. 28 to make up the show they canceled last fall.

The Eagles canceled their Oct. 3 concert because guitarist Glenn Frey suffered from a gastro-intestinal disorder.

After undergoing surgery, Frey will join the band for a 7:30 p.m. show on Jan. 28 at the Devaney Center.

Tickets are available through TicketMaster for \$90, \$65 and \$50. Tickets from the canceled show are still valid.

Two tickets will be given away Jan. 12 at a half-time shoot at the Nebraska-Kansas State basketball game.

Hurricane

Continued from Page 9

but it could be a fad," Way said. "I'd like to get back to the point where we run live music six nights a week."

But the dance nights provide support for local acts, he said.

"After people come and see us on free dance nights, they are more likely to come out on the weekend and pay the cover to see a local band," he said.

Josh Woodward, a sophomore architecture major and a Hurricane regular, said the Hurricane is proof that Lincoln is growing up.

"The intense industrial night is something that I've longed for ever since I've lived in Lincoln," he said.

Woodward said that he also enjoyed going to the Hurricane to see local acts.

"The Hurricane has the facility to give the ... local bands that we have here in Lincoln the chance to increase their renown," he said.

Way said the club tried to provide a variety of entertainment so that many types of people fit in.

"We've got pool tables, darts, whatever people want to do, they can do it even if they just want to sit on a couch and have a beer," he said.

There have been a lot of rumors that the Hurricane is going to close down, Way said.

"Lincoln is used to fad clubs opening up and then boom, they're gone," he said.

"We're here to stick it out and let people know that there's a place to come and watch live music and have a good time.

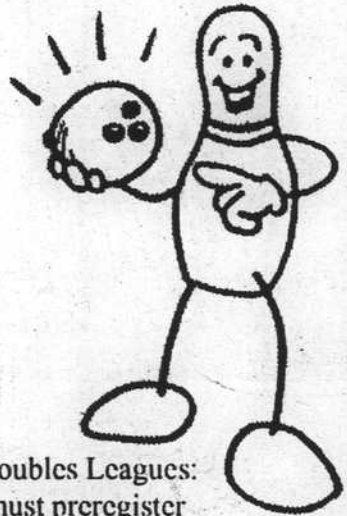
"People around here are too much in a rut," he said. "They need to see something and hear something new."

BOWLERS


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| Husker Doubles | Monday, January 23, 7 p.m. |
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| Pin Pounders | Thursday, January 19, 6 p.m. |
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Billy Frogg's

Continued from Page 9

they do," he said.

The Haymarket is a good location for a restaurant like Billy Frogg's, Hahn said.

"We feel there's a need for a bar and grill like we have in this area," he said.

Hahn said he hoped the Haymarket would become the restaurant center of Lincoln.

He also said the experience for the restaurant has been very good so far and this reviewer had a great meal with an inexpensive drink and exceptional service.

"We've gotten a lot of positive comments on the food, drinks, atmosphere and service," he said.

Billy Frogg's is open from 11 a.m. until 1 a.m., and offers happy hour specials on Monday through Friday from 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.



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| FOR SALE 000s | NOTICES 200s |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 02 Appliances | 200 Rides |
| 05 Bicycles | 203 Spring Break Trips |
| 10 Books | 205 Career Events |
| 13 Clothing | 210 Announcements |
| 16 Computers | 215 Meetings |
| 20 Furniture | 220 Greek Affairs |
| 30 Jewelry | 230 Student Government |
| 40 Misc. For Sale | 240 Personals |
| 45 Musical Instruments | 245 Lost & Found |
| 46 Office Furniture | 250 Wanted |
| 50 Pets | 260 Fundraising |
| 55 Photo Equipment | |
| 60 Sporting Goods | JOBS 300s |
| 65 Stereo/TVs | 300 Help Wanted |
| 70 Ticket Exchange | 310 Child Care |
| 90 Vehicles | 320 Work Study Jobs |
| | 330 Summer Jobs |
| | 340 Internships |
| | HOUSING 400s |
| | 400 Roommates |
| | 410 Housing Wanted |
| | 420 Rooms/Rent |
| | 430 Houses/Rent |
| | 440 Duplex/Rent |
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