

## Counting Crows' second album trades angst for upbeat sound

By **CLIFF HICKS**  
Music Critic

All good things to those who wait, the saying goes; this time, it's the truth. Counting Crows have just released their new album, "Recovering the Satellites," their first in 3 1/2 years and it's about time.

In February 1993, the band released their debut album, "August and Everything After," a blend of acoustic guitars, swooning organs and depressing lyrics.

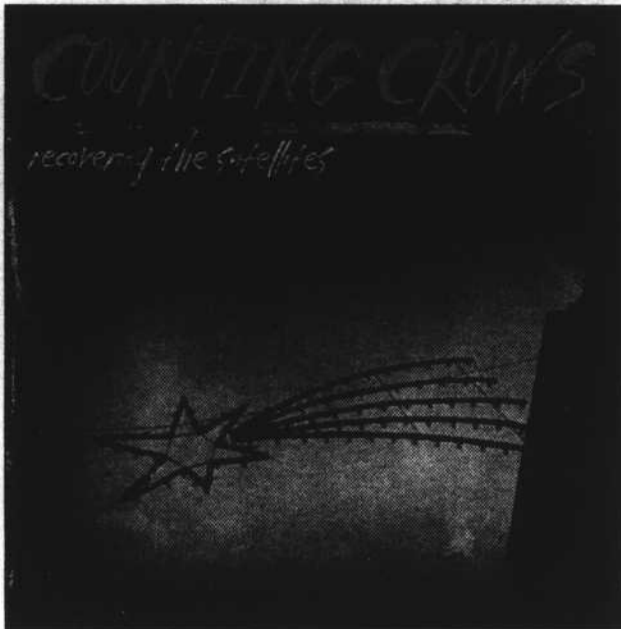
It was one of those albums that was perfect for its time. Its success, mainly based on the optimistic single "Mr. Jones," could almost be seen as prophetic of the later success of the "quiet-rock" band, Hootie & The Blowfish.

The only piece of work between "August" and "Recovering" was a song called "For An Eggman (Einstein on a Beach)" which appeared on "DGC Rarities, Vol 1." The interesting thing about the track was that it was recorded on an answering machine. In the liner notes, lead singer Adam Duritz said it didn't go on "August" because it was too "happy." This new, upbeat outlook showed where the band was going and, in fact, where they are now.

"Recovering the Satellites" is more uplifting. While "August" was full of sorrowful, pessimistic lyrics, "Recovering" jumps right out with bravado rather than blues — not perfectly happy, but alive.

It's this rising up that makes "Recovering" a great follow-up to "August." "August" was the kind of album to listen to at the end of a relationship. The kind of introspective, moody background music that frames the self-sympathetic state of mind perfectly. "Recovering," is more about its namesake — getting up off the ground and getting on with life.

"Recovering" takes awhile to get



Counting Crows  
"Recovering the Satellites"  
DGC Records  
Grade: B+

used to. It's hard to fairly judge it the first time around. The brain says, "This is Counting Crows?!" After that stage is passed, though, the actual music starts to sink in.

Still solid with their Dylanesque blues-rock style, the Crows haven't lost any of their musical workmanship which made "August" into the fine piece of work that it was.

Pianos, used extensively throughout "August," helped the Crows stand out among the vast array of bands on the scene today who try to capture the listeners. Against the numerous electric guitars wailing, a soft piano plays and when the guitars fade, the piano continues.

On "August" the piano didn't give the guitars an inch. "Recovering" lets the guitars step forward and the piano moves back a little.

The title track is also one of the album's best. The lyrics blend well with the music and the broken-hearts theme is one the Crows know well.

"Goodnight Elizabeth" is by far the

album's best song, with an acoustic guitar, slower tempo and Duritz's crooning voice. It stands out like the brightest diamond at a jewelry shop.

Lyricaly, Duritz keeps churning out intelligent songs with well-thought out verses about the things that make up everyday life: love, loss, motivation, time and hope.

Themes of grayness and rain still factor into several of these songs, with references to Duritz retaining his position as the "Rain King" (a song off "August"). The rain is starting to let up and the gray sky is starting to clear, the album says. We may even see sunlight on the next release.

In comparison to "August and Everything After," which captured late fall and early winter, "Recovering" is an album which reflects the end of winter and just the first few hints of spring.

The track "Miller's Angels," therefore, sticks out like a penguin among

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## Psycho siren



COREY ROURKE/DN

**ANNIE DANIELEWSKI** was only 10 years old when she went to a costume party dressed as "The Masque of Red Death," but the name of the author of that story, Poe, has stayed with her as a moniker and stage name well into her adulthood. After finishing her tour as Seven Mary Three's opening band less than six months ago, Poe is beginning to make a name for herself. She is no longer the opener, but the headliner, even if it's only for small shows like Monday's performance at The Ranch Bowl in Omaha. Poe is currently on a private tour, sweeping across the country from Los Angeles to her hometown of New York City. Her show, which includes an electric cellist and a lengthy stint of singing through a megaphone, will return through the Midwest, with a possible stop in Lincoln as early as January.



JIM MESHING/DN

## Madonna enters motherhood, welcomes healthy baby girl

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Madonna's a mama.

The 38-year-old pop diva and actress gave birth Monday to a healthy 6-pound, 9-ounce girl, Lourdes Maria Ciccone Leon.

Madonna, baby and daddy Carlos Leon were resting comfortably, spokeswoman Liz Rosenberg said. It is the first child for Madonna Louise Veronica Ciccone. The 30-year-old father is her personal trainer and boyfriend.

The girl was born at 4:01 p.m. at Good Samaritan Hospital, Rosenberg said. She and hospital officials declined to release other details of the birth, including whether it was a natural birth or a Caesarean section delivery.

Dr. Paul Fleiss, father of Hollywood madam Heidi Fleiss, told TV crews as he left the hospital that he was the baby's pediatrician.

Fans all over the world celebrated the news of the baby. MTV ran a series of Madonna videos along with congratulatory messages from fans on the bottom of the screen.

The New York Daily News reported earlier this month that Madonna wanted a natural childbirth, took birthing classes, considered having the baby at home and planned to breast-feed the girl.

Gossip columnists had also said she would name her baby "Lola." Instead, she settled on Lourdes. It is the name of a French city where millions seek healing each year at a shrine to the Virgin Mary. Maria is Leon's mother's name.

TV camera crews, reporters and tabloid photographers continued to stake out the hospital entrance Tuesday, but it was unclear whether the maternal girl was even there.

“

*I was stunned when I saw on the ultrasound a tiny, living creature spinning around in my womb...I could have sworn I heard it laughing.”*

EXCERPT FROM MADONNA'S DIARY

Months before announcing her pregnancy, Madonna told ABC's "Primetime Live" she planned to take out a personal ad to find a suitable candidate for "the fatherhood gig."

Leon got the job but Madonna did not use him as a "stud service," she says in November's "Vanity Fair," which published excerpts of a diary she kept while filming "Evita" in Argentina.

Madonna says she didn't get pregnant for "shock value," and in one entry describes first seeing her fetus during an ultrasound test:

"I was stunned when I saw on the ultrasound a tiny, living creature spinning around in my

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