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'Peacemaker' preview becomes sleep-maker

NUCLEAR from page 9

able to pull off a perfect rifle shot to save the day.

Sadly, the performances from Kidman and Clooney are not enough to save the roles given to them. Julia is always playing catch-up to the gung-ho Davoe, and except for the inevitable "white-knuckle" climax, her character is given very little strength or depth.

"The Peacemaker" isn't a bomb, but it isn't anything to save the day, either.

The Facts

Title: "The Peacemaker"

Stars: George Clooney, Nicole Kidman

Director: Mimi Leder

Rating: R (violence, language)

Grade: C+

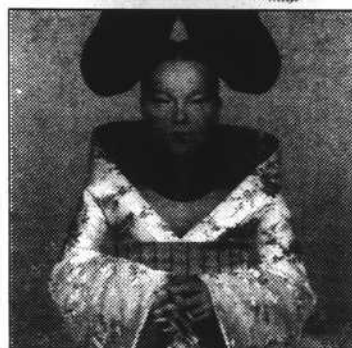
Five Words: Nuclear bomb to detonate ... somewhere



Techno darkside pulses in album

Björk
"Homogenic"
Elektra Records
Grade: A-

Music



The little pixie's whacked.

For those who thought Lilith Fair represented the cutting edge in female artists, Björk's new album, "Homogenic," will sound like a soundtrack for a nuclear winter.

Björk has never been content with making happy dance-club songs, but she's never sounded as dark as she does on "Homogenic." Just when you think she begins to soothe your edgy nerves with "I'll heal you ..." she growls, "With a razor blade/I'll cut a slit open and the luminous beam feeds you, honey" in the song "All Neon Like."

With groups like The Prodigy and The Orb taking the spotlight for the techno-music craze, "Homogenic" would seem to fit in perfectly this year. Surprisingly, "Homogenic" doesn't fall into the techno category.

Unlike Björk's unnecessary "Telegram" album last year, most of the songs on "Homogenic" strive for a balance of different styles. Elaborate orchestral arrangements are used as often as drum machines on the album.

Musically, "Homogenic" is immensely dense. While some choruses and beats on previous Björk albums "Debut" and "Post" seem to jump out and grab hold of you, "Homogenic" takes a great deal of exploring.

That's not saying some songs don't have immediate appeal. "Bachelorette" sounds as though it should be the theme song for the next James Bond movie. "Alarm Call" is another song with catchy hooks that appear and fade just as

quickly. If you've listened to any of Björk's past albums, "Alarm Call" will shock you when she lets loose with her most explicit lyric ever — "I'm no f—ing Buddhist but this is enlightenment."

Other songs will take further exploring. Björk's work with RZA of the Wu-Tang Clan is evident on "Homogenic." Tracks like "Unravel" and "Hunter" are menacing without being overbearing. The only time Björk's experiments go unlistenable is in the song "Pluto," where Björk gives her trademark shrieks for almost an entire minute over a headache-inducing bass line.

One unfortunate aspect of Björk's music is that it can only be listened to on a decent car- or home-stereo system. A \$20 RCA cassette player just won't do it for "Homogenic." However, that's usually the case when you make an ambitious album.

Few people will jump on Björk's tripped-out "Homogenic" bandwagon. It's as much a fan's album as Tori Amos' "Boys for Pele." Give "Homogenic" some time to set in and you may be surprised: This may become your favorite soundtrack for the winter.

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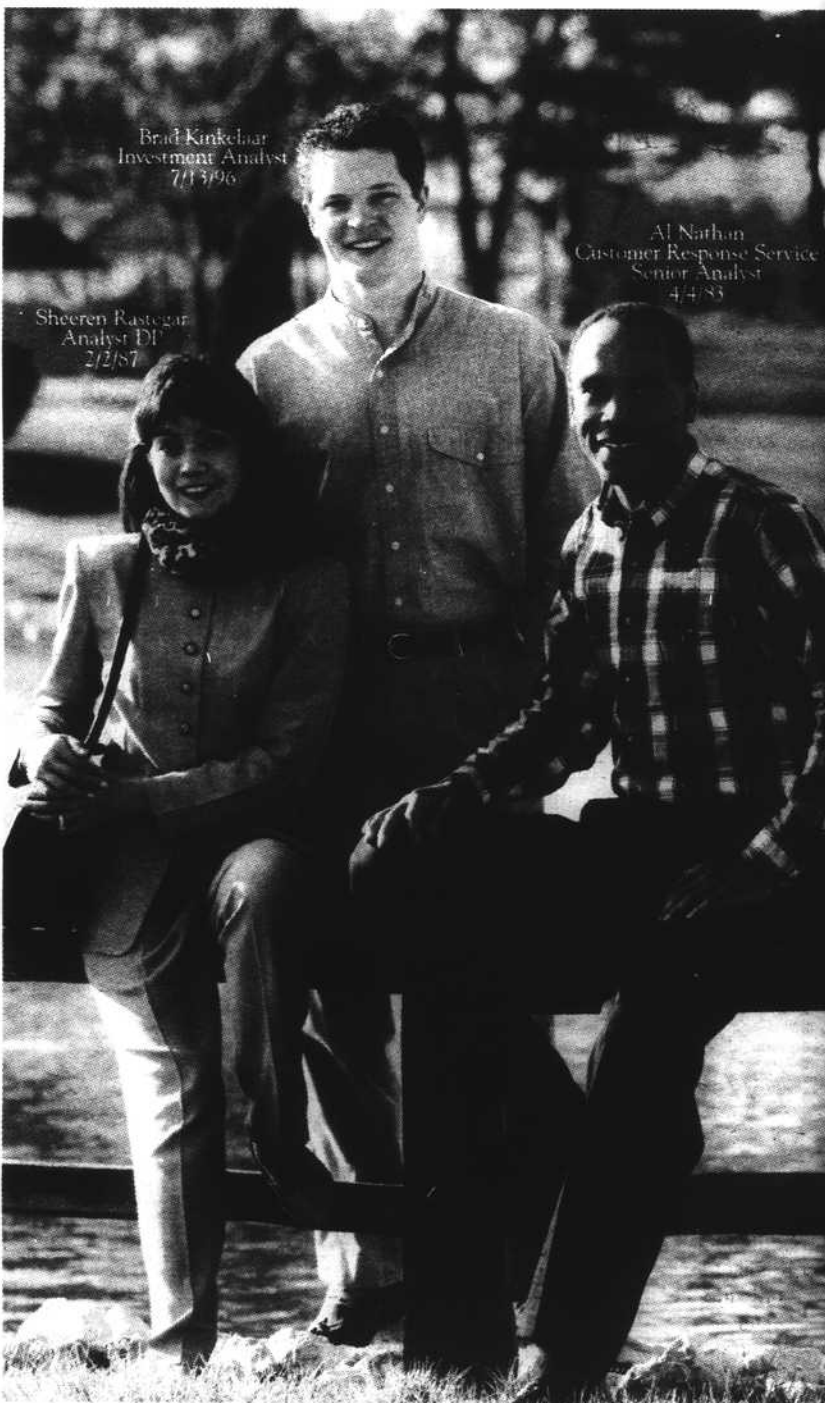
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Web page highlights selective accidents

DARWIN from page 9

dows of a downtown Toronto skyscraper. He crashed through a pane with his shoulder and plunged 24 floors to his death.

A police spokesman said Garry Hoy, 39, fell into the courtyard of the Toronto Dominion Bank Tower. He was demonstrating the strength of the building's windows to visiting law students.

Not all stories on the Darwin Awards page have to end in death. In some instances, the misfortunate may just lose their ability to reproduce.

One story tells of two Arkansas men who were seriously injured when their pickup truck left the road and struck a tree. The story came from a July 25, 1996, article in the Arkansas Democrat Gazette.

Thurston Poole, 33, of Des Arc, Ark., and Billy Ray Wallis, 38, of Little Rock, Ark., were listed in serious condition at Baptist Medical Center following the incident.

The accident occurred as the

men were returning to Des Arc after a frog-gigging trip when Poole's headlights malfunctioned. Poole and Wallis concluded that the headlight fuse on the older-model truck had burned out. Though a replacement fuse was not available, Wallis noticed that the .22 caliber bullet from his pistol could fit perfectly into the fuse box next to the steering wheel column.

Upon inserting the bullet, the headlights began operating properly and the two men proceeded on their way. After traveling about 20 miles, the bullet apparently overheated, discharged and struck Poole in the right testicle. The vehicle swerved sharply to the right, striking a tree.

Poole suffered only minor cuts and abrasions from the accident but needed extensive surgery to repair the really important wound. Wallis sustained a broken clavicle and was treated and released.

"Thank God we weren't on that bridge when Thurston shot his nuts off or we might both be dead," Wallis said of the misfortune.

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