

Music

God Lives Underwater
 "Life in the So-Called Space Age"
 1500 Records (Polygram)
 Grade: B

The band God Lives Underwater is a tesseract, wrapped around a complex, wrapped around an enigma.

On one hand, they are an up-to-the-minute, techno-inspired rock band, complete with mega-mixed synthesizers, odd rhythms, strange harmonies and the occasional hip-hop ripoff. But, on the other hand, they write some terrific melodies, which are not always enhanced by the unusual deadpan delivery employed by GLU's lead singer (sorry, they don't differentiate who does what on their album).

The best song on this album is called "Happy?". It speaks to those of us who are unhappy with our personal lives. This is one song where the lyrics and the music actually match rather than conflict. The lyrics state "I hope you're happy ... at least one of us is.

Maybe someday you'll see ... I need you to save me from myself." "Happy?" is the only song on the album delivered with genuine emotion, albeit in an ironic vein.

"Medicated to the One I Love" (love those witty song titles) is another song that holds its own, even though it does suffer from unnecessary, unemotional vocal delivery, as does almost every other song on this album. The music starts out in a strange, otherworldly manner before establishing an almost movie-theme-soundtrack mode. "I just can't figure myself out, or what's surrounding me ... or what I surround myself with," are typical lyrics. One atypical metaphor GLU employs in this song is that love is like a drug: when you can't have it, you crave it and you'll do anything to get it.

Granted, GLU isn't the first band in the universe to come up with this metaphor. At least three other bands in the last 15 years have used this type of imagery to propel their songs, but there is something about how GLU does it, as opposed to, say, Huey Lewis and the News, that makes the

metaphor come vividly alive.

Another decent song is "Rearrange." This song succeeds in creating a hypnotic, surreal mood in which anything can happen — and usually does. The lyrics include "It all depends on how your point of view can change ... round and round, rearrange." This is a good, danceable track suitable for "partying" music.

GLU suffers from some artistic, conceptually based problems, characterized by uneven, uninflected vocal delivery on most of their songs. But the music is first-rate, adept at creating a wide variety of stoned-out, spaced-out moods, without once being boring.

If you like your music without too much lyrical or emotional demands, and are heavily into electronica, sampling and synthesizers, this is the album for you.

This is interesting, pleasant music, without too many technical demands. A little bland and unemotional for my taste, but it might just be yours, heading into finals week.

—Barb Churchill

Community band to offer many styles

From Staff Reports

The Lincoln Community Concert Band, made up of amateur and professional musicians throughout the Lincoln area, will present its final concert of the 1997-8 season on Monday. The band is conducted by Lawrence Mallett, director of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln School of Music.

The LCCB will play music from many different styles, including marches, popular music, Broadway show tunes and more avant-garde fare in its quest to please the musical palates of many

types of individuals.

The LCCB will perform James Barnes' "Fanfare for West Point," Joseph Willcox Jenkins' "American Overture for Band," Frederick Fennell's arrangement of John Philip Sousa's "The Washington Post March," Julie Giroux-West's "Prisoner of the Ring" cycle, the John Cacavas arrangement of the "Sounds of the Carpenters," John Philip Sousa's "Semper Fidelis March," Jerome Kern's "Selections from Showboat" and Edwin Franko Goldman's "On the Mall March."

The LCCB concert will be on Monday at 7:30 p.m. in Kimball Recital Hall. Admission is free.

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