

**New Releases**



**Santana**  
"Supernatural"  
Arista Records  
GRADE: B+

Long before Ricky Martin turned the world on to "Living La Vida Loca," the band Santana brought Latin music to the United States, earning critical and popular acclaim.

Santana was a product of the Haight-Ashbury music scene of the late 1960s, alongside the Grateful Dead and Jefferson Airplane.

Astonishingly, the band never had a major label deal until Columbia Records signed it on the spot after an incendiary performance at Woodstock in 1969.

The band's personnel changed throughout the years, which accounts for its musical evolution. But, in every incarnation, guitarist Carlos Santana guided the band.

Combining elements of rock, jazz and blues with Afro-Cuban rhythms, the band became one of the first in the genre of jazz-rock fusion.

While the new album features works by the new Santana lineup, it is primarily a collection of collaborations with other artists.

Santana influenced much of today's music and the compact disc "Supernatural" is a testa-

ment to that. Carlos still plays with the same passion that rocketed him to stardom 30 years ago and, for this album, he lends his distinct style to songs by some contemporary artists.

The first guest on the album is Dave Matthews, an obvious choice since he practices free-form improvisation in much the same way Santana does. Santana's distorted guitar soloing over the song nicely contrasts Matthews' mellow vocals and gives the song a rough edge.

Another notable guest on the album is Everlast, whose interplay with Santana resembles Matthews'.

The Fugees' Lauryn Hill and Wyclef Jean have separate duets with Santana, which proves that the guitarist's style lends itself well to a hip-hop groove. The duet with Jean and the Product G & B finds Carlos incorporating classical guitar from Joaquin Rodrigo's "Concierto de Aranjuez."

The first single from the album is Santana's duet "Smooth" with Matchbox 20's Rob Thomas. Thomas' vocals are surprisingly good and understated so as not to dominate the song.

The same holds true for singer Eagle-Eye Cherry, who, incidentally, looks frighteningly like Santana.

The album officially ends with an instrumental duet with another guitar god, Eric Clapton. While Santana and Clapton exchange some fiery solos at the beginning, the song fails to live up to its potential. Perhaps it would have been better to capture the two in a live setting rather than the confines of a studio recording.

Like so many other albums of this sort, the broad range of guest artists tends to make it sound disjointed. But the album is never disappointing.

- Patrick Kelly

# Fair fun feasible on tight budget

FAIR from page 11

Finally, after a good 45 minutes of walking, I found my first ride. A new one for this fair, it was called "Cliff Hanger."

Basically, this is a pretty low-key ride. You lay on your stomach in a fake hang glider, and it flies you around in circles, going up and down. It was pretty fun, but I needed something more bitchin' to make it worth my money.

The "Cliff Hanger" cost five tickets, which is approximately \$3, the same price as a regular corn dog.

After a quick walk past the rest of the death traps, I found my second ride, simply titled "Extasy."

I knew I had to ride it when I saw the sign, which featured an airbrushed painting of a half-naked woman with the word "Extasy" on her breasts.

The cost was six tickets, approximately \$3.60, or 60 cents more than a corn dog.

While waiting in line, I grew a bit nervous. I noticed that the jabroni running the ride was having trouble running the compact disc player. He finally found the play button, and the sounds of Limp Bizkit came blaring out from underneath the ride.

## STATE FAIR EVENTS

Aug. 30, 1999

5:30 - 7 p.m.	Lorena Prater & the Western Reunion	West Beer Garden
8 - 9 p.m.		
10 p.m. - midnight		
7 - 11 p.m.	Trim Kings	Hooters Beer Garden
8 p.m.	Toby Keith	Bob Devary Sports Center
8 p.m.	Duggan and Doyle	Ag Hall Stage

MELANIE FALK/DN

Once I was strapped in, the war machine started grinding around in circles. It had four arms hooked to a center shaft that spun the arms in a giant circle. Attached to the end of each arm were three pods that seated two people each. The pods also rotated, but in tighter and faster circles.

After about a minute of straight spinning, the pods mechanically turn on their sides, spinning you - the victim - in somersaults while continuing to spin you in circles. Then they go completely upside down, and the geek in the control booth says, "You guys want some more? You better scream!" And everyone groans.

The ride became more excruciating with every pass, because when you come by one section, you're hit in the face with a blast of exhaust that makes you choke. Then, you feel a mist of spit hit your face because other people are coughing from the fumes.

By the time this ride was done, I felt the two grilled cheese sandwiches I'd had for dinner making their way back up my throat.

After about 10 minutes of down time, I just felt dizzy and sick, but not as if I were going to vomit.

At this point, I had nine tickets left. Even though the "Extasy" wasn't my thing, I was still optimistic about finding a gnarly time with my remaining nine tickets.

I walked past the giant pool of oil and gasoline that the bumper boats drive around in and past numerous rides that are all essentially the same spinning motion.

Finally, I came to what would be my final ride, the

"Wind Sheer."

To be honest, I really didn't want to ride this thing at all, but I had to get my money's worth.

I gave the carry six more tickets and took my seat among the hoards of spaghetti-strapped junior high girls and their saucy boyfriends.

The "Wind Sheer" is basically two giant arms connected by two rows of seats. The arms go up, and the seats start rolling over and over, doing somersaults.

At first, I didn't think I could take it, so I shut my eyes. But, that turned out to be much worse than just facing the awful truth. It was way worse than any drunken bed spins I've ever had.

After just 30 seconds, I could feel those grilled cheese sandwiches making a comeback. Only this time, they brought with them some of the gin I drank the night before. I barely kept the vile mixture from breaking the seal and soiling the rest of the riders and the crowd of slack-jawed onlookers.

After that, I was left with three tickets, a headache, a disgusting taste in my mouth, a noticeable lack of balance and \$3.

As you can probably guess, I headed straight for the nearest corn dog stand and got a jumbo. I thought a little food might ease my turbulent stomach.

It didn't.

So after two hours, I headed home a broken man with a new theory. Yes, you can enjoy the Nebraska State Fair midway without spending a small fortune, but only if you don't ride the rides.

My new advice: Just buy \$15 worth of corn dogs, eat them and watch everyone else get sick.

**M-F 10-8**  
**Sat. 10-6**  
**Sun. 12-6**

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Call Luis at 472-7513 or 472-7450

**Sister Circle: African American Women's Discussion Group**  
Weekly on Mondays, beginning Aug. 30  
6:00 - 7:00 p.m.  
Women's Center, Nebraska Union 338  
Call Tolandra at 472-2597

**Gay Men's Discussion Group**  
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