

# Tori Amos' 'To Venus And Back' not as solid as previous albums



**Tori Amos**  
"To Venus And Back"  
Atlantic Records  
Grade: B

Tori Amos carved herself a niche in the music world many years ago with "Little Earthquakes," and she's never looked back. Her career has been filled with ups and downs, solid albums and

one less than great album.

Originally, "To Venus And Back" was to be an odds 'n' ends compilation—mostly B-sides—but instead, the muse struck, and Tori whipped out an album and packaged it with a disc full of live tracks.

Is it as good an album as "From the Choirgirl Hotel"? No. Is it a solid release worth buying? Sure is.

The first disc is a collection of originals, and the main criticism is that they aren't great—they're merely good. A few of them descend into the nonsensical gibberish of lyrics that plagued "Boys For Pele," but for the most part, they are solid, enjoyable tunes. Only a few of them are truly memorable, such as "Concertina" and "1000 Oceans."

The live disc is where Tori really shines. The live group backing her up brings new definition to old classics such as "Little Earthquakes" and

## New Releases

"Cornflake Girl." Songs once lacking that extra power at live concerts have more life breathed into them. The occasional chatting between songs gets old, but on the whole, it's a solid disc.

"To Venus And Back" feels a little rushed, though. The music never seems to flow from one song to another, making it easier to pick up and put down and harder to listen to as a whole.

And, to nit pick, a cardboard case might be cheaper to produce, but it also makes it easier to scratch your CDs. Better alternatives to this packaging are out there.

As a whole, Toriphiles already own this CD, while us casual Tori fans will find something to like, but little to love.

—Cliff Hicks

# Flashy attitude makes 'Trickstyle' fun

**Game: Trickstyle**  
**Publisher: Acclaim**  
**System: Dreamcast**  
**Grade: B**

Way back when the movie "Back to the Future Part II" came out, people who watched Michael J. Fox's character skate on a hoverboard thought, "That looks so cool. I wish I could do that." Welcome to "Trickstyle."

One of the launch games for the Dreamcast system, "Trickstyle" is part racing game, part skateboarding game and all flashy attitude. The storyline? Dismiss it. It's the future, no one works, everyone plays, and hoverboarding is in. That's all you need to know.

At the outset, it's clear there's a ladder to work your way up. At first, you have only a handful of tricks and just one hoverboard to choose from. As you beat challenges, new tricks and boards open up.

Make no mistake about it; "Trickstyle" can be hard. The last race is so hard the Marquis De Sade stares in awe and goes "Damn, that looks tough."

## Game Reviews

Other than this last track, the rest are great. They have hidden shortcuts, places designed just for people to show off and, best of all, they backtrack.

Unlike most racing games, the idea of "Trickstyle" is to open a sense of free space. Each group of five tracks is designated a set location—the United Kingdom, the United States and Japan. Sometimes, a track seems identical to another until you realize you're racing backward. Other times, you merely cross a location you raced through before. This gives you a little help on knowing when to show off.

And, man, can you show off. In either you-against-the-computer mode or when racing another player, the score for tricks may not win you anything. But they're a constant source for one-upmanship. Being first isn't always as important as looking good, and a combination of backflips, 1080s and boogieluges can win you points for style.

Graphically, the game looks great. The control can be a bit touchy, but "Trickstyle" is a good game for anyone who fondly remembers days spent playing "720 Degrees" in the arcade.

Yeah, baby!

—Cliff Hicks

Thursday is **Swing Night**  
(Dance lesson at 8:30)

**Friday, Oct. 8**  
**BOSSPHILLY**  
w/opening band Toot-Sweet  
Classic Rock Rhythm & Blues  
(21 and over show)

**Sunday, Oct. 10**  
**SANDY CREEK & PERFECT STRANGER**  
(Country Western Dance  
Lessons at 7:30)

**Pla Mor BALLROOM**

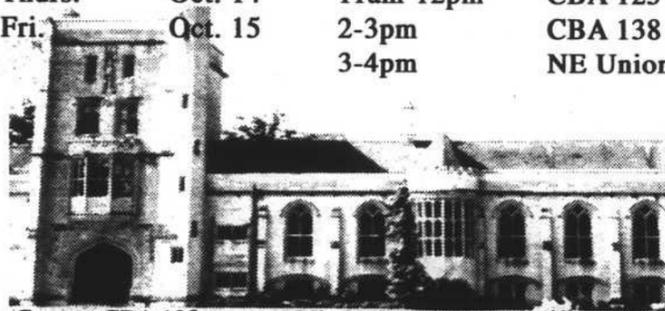
**Parking Problems?**  
**Need a Place to Park?**  
Guaranteed Parking

Park by Day \$2.00  Park by Month \$25

Don't Fight for Parking  
Enter at 8th & S Streets, 1 block west of Memorial Stadium  
National Garages, Gold's Galleria, Suite 120 • 474-2274

**Discover Oxford University - Earn 6 Credit Hours**  
**ALL MAJORS WELCOME!!!**  
Attend an information session:

Mon.	Oct. 11	3-4pm	CBA 222
Tues.	Oct. 12	11am-12pm	CBA 125
Wed.	Oct. 13	2-3pm	CBA 138
Thurs.	Oct. 14	11am-12pm	CBA 125
Fri.	Oct. 15	2-3pm	CBA 138
		3-4pm	NE Union



Contact CBA 138, contact Mindy Nowak 472-2310 if you have questions.

**Tri Delta**  
**FLAP JACK SNACK ATTACK**  
All You Can Eat Pancakes!

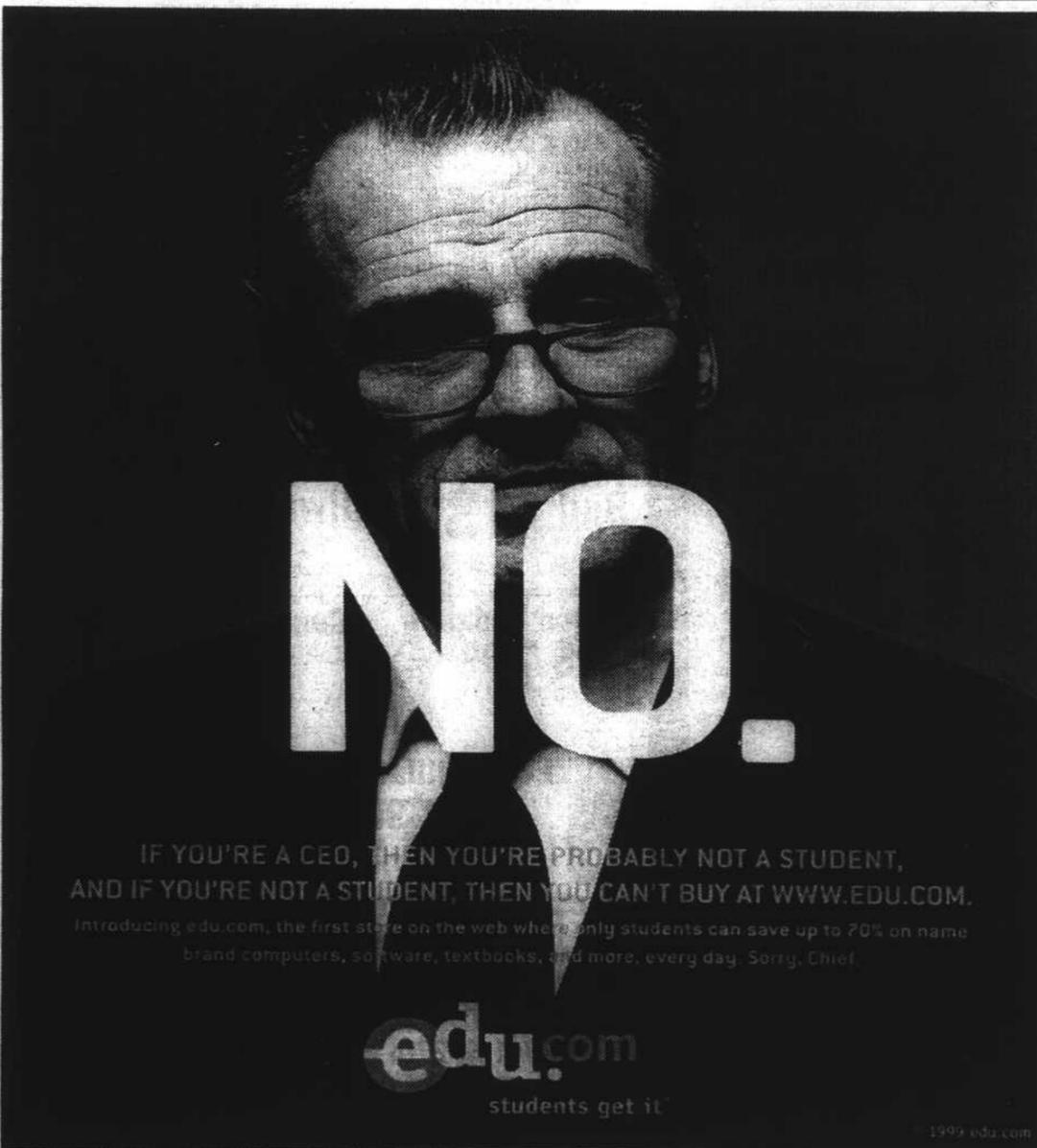


**Thursday, October 7th 10:00-2:00 am**  
**Delta Delta Delta Sorority 1601 R Street**  
Tickets \$3.00 & \$4.00 at the door  
Tickets will be sold at the City Union October 4th-7th  
-or-contact any Tri Delta member

**Lincoln Parks And Recreation**

**Adult Basketball Registration**  
**Monday, October 11th until Friday, October 15th**  
**Athletics Office - 3001 S. 9th St.**

**Basketball Officials Needed**  
Free Certification Training Provided;  
To get info mailed to you, call 441-7892

**NO.**

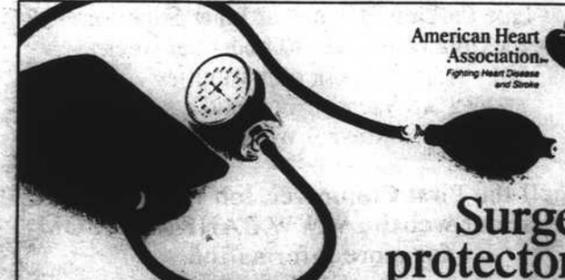
IF YOU'RE A CEO, THEN YOU'RE PROBABLY NOT A STUDENT, AND IF YOU'RE NOT A STUDENT, THEN YOU CAN'T BUY AT WWW.EDU.COM.

Introducing edu.com, the first store on the web where only students can save up to 70% on name brand computers, software, textbooks, and more, every day. Sorry, Chief.

**edu.com**  
students get it!

1999 edu.com

**American Heart Association**  
Fighting Heart Disease and Stroke



**Surge protector**  
Control high blood pressure

©1997, American Heart Association