

☐ RECORDS

Bee Gees rebound with innovative new album

Bee Gees
'E.S.P.'
★ ★ ★ ★

You may remember them from their better days of "Saturday Night Fever" when lapels were bigger than the Hulkster's biceps and you're best friend's mother knew the steps to the Hot Chocolate.

Millions of fans across the globe have been wondering where the hell Barry, Maurice and Robin have been. Yes, it's

the Bee Gees and they are finally among us again with their 25th album and some of their most innovative and compelling work to date.

"E.S.P." is their first release in six years, which has the Gibb brothers' taking us into the realm of the supernatural with such intense lines as "Nothing That We Know Is Real," "The Enemy Is The Mind," "Maybe, I Could Be Your Magician," and the haunting "Oh, Oh, Oh,"

Their 50th American single

"You Win Again" only hints at the artistry that re-occurs throughout this LP. By combining the likes of Wham and the Outfield, the Bee Gees have updated their sound to take advantage of the newest technology. The Gibbs have mastered drum and bass sequencing to a fine art and they add keyboards and strings as needed to create an LP "chock-full" of gorgeous melodies.

The touching "Live Or Die" and "Angela" are two beautiful numbers ideal for dedication to your loved one anywhere they may be. The hottest dance numbers are "E.S.P.," "Giving Up the Ghost," "Crazy For

Short Spins

By Chris Metzler

Your Love," and "This Is Your Life," which recaps such familiar lines like "Stayin' Alive" and "Jive Talkin'." My feet were dancing so hard on the first listen that my neighbor overheard and joined in.

The Bee Gees are a critical band in these turbulent times and this stunning release demands every bit of your attention. At least I know that I'll be tearing up the floor's at Guido's and Confetti's when those DJs wise up to these veteran hipsters.

Jesus and the Mary Chain 'Darklands'

★ ★

"This year's Mary Chain just ain't as rambunctious as they once was. Instead, they're looking kinda rusty," exclaimed farmer McDonald on a recent listen of the group's second LP, "Darklands."

Gone is the wiley feedback and the total distortion and all we have left is a wimpy cross between The Cramps and the Velvet Underground.

Leaders Jimmy and Billy Reid construct the simplest possible melodies that are meant to leave a happy and sweet feeling in your heart when you feel nothing is going your way. Though most of the album consists of songs about rain and darkness, these English boys somehow obtain an Oregon spirit as they sing "There's something warm about the rain... There's something good about you." Now, isn't that a delightful thing to say.

The first two singles, "Happy When it Rains" and "April Skies," have a metalish din to them. Though much too gutless for KZEL's Metal Zone, they still had me rolling my head.

"Nine Million Rainy Days" is my favorite song probably because the Stones are written all over it. "Cherry Came Too" follows up on their surf sound from one of their previous B sides "Kill Surf City." I'm gonna be bummin' major when those death rockers start crowding out my wave.

The Mary Chain may be making a lot of new fans with their new accessible sound but they will be losing a lot of old ones as they fall into the abyss of "I wanna lotta of money." But doesn't it always happen.

All is not lost as I have formed a cure for this record. First, record the album as loud as possible on the cheapest cassette you can find. Second, play the cassette on that cut-rate car stereo of yours with the volume and treble turned up all the way. Third, sit back and dig heavily.

Crazy 8's 'Out Of The Way'

★ ★

Those wacky 8's are at it again with their third release "Out Of The Way." Originally from the city of excitement, Corvallis, the 8's have now relocated to the hub of the universe, Beaverton. (We're talking God's chosen band.) Most of this album was recorded a year ago when there were

still eight musicians in the band, but a departure earlier this year by keyboardist Casey Shaff leaves a Crazy 7 and still no record deal.

The 8's are currently touring, and they have hired an agent to land them a major label deal, but this has not stopped them from releasing a quality product on their own Red Rum label.

As for the music, basically the first side sounds like Chicago 69 meets up with some idealistic muppets in the Ukraine — in otherwords it sucks. The second side completely saves the record, unlike their last strained LP, "Nervous in Suburbia," when the entire album stunk.

The obnoxious cover art is also "homegrown," created by Portland's Pandor brothers who are currently drawing Max Headroom for Marvel comics.

Robert Cray's keyboardist Peter Boe plays on the first cut "Naked Party," which contains the line "Get to the frumpin', it doesn't matter if your freaky, straight or gay" just so long as you use a condom everyday...right? I guess they're not the pasteurized born-again Republicans I thought they were.

The second side makes up two-fold for the lameness of the first by breaking in with the hot "At the Beach" that ends with an 8 taking a shot at a seagull. This brought me back to those action-packed nights of cow-tipping in Corvallis and the flying sea-rat hunting at sunrise along the majestic Oregon coast.

The next cut "Courage and Conviction" should be the dance hit as it incorporates the catchy fat horn lines that originally brought the 8's their fame and fortune.

"Out of the Way" is the kind of record that you never have to turn over but instead keep letting the changer do the job. You should also get this album because it helps the local economy. Like Neil, I say, buy Oregon first.

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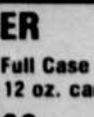
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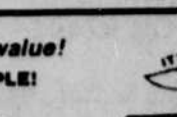
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