

REVIEWS

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songs on Nirvana's *Bleach*, the benchmark of albums where the lyrics mean nothing to the song. And "Don't Have Time For You" is a cool mood song, sounding like it was recorded in a basement with one mike hanging from the ceiling in the middle of the room.

But the shining moment of the album is the title cut. If you're a sucker for songs with loud guitars and sudden drum-filled breaks a la Helmet, this song will kick you in the teeth.

Creep Diets is not a perfect album, but it's hard for many bands nowadays to come up with a sound that is original, not to mention 11 or 12 songs within that sound that are original.

Neither Fudge Tunnel nor Season To Risk are all that original, but at least Fudge Tunnel do a respectable job of reworking an all-to-familiar sound into a listenable album.

- Dave Charbonneau
Oregon Daily Emerald



PERFECTLY GOOD GUITAR

★★★

GROUP: John Hiatt
LABEL: A+M

John Hiatt's new album, *Perfectly Good Guitar*, is just that. It does not have the lyrical soul of Hiatt's last three solo efforts, but it stands up as a very entertaining romp through his mind.

Hiatt's main concern in the past five years has been family narratives and matters of love. This time around he is just having fun.

Hiatt has left behind his band from the last two albums and brought in some new blood for this album. The main musical difference is that Hiatt has gone to a more electric, but not industrial, sound. He has wandered

from the country sound he had been toying with for a while and tries to just play rock 'n' roll.

Most of the songs hover around the theme of trying to break out of the mold.

The first track, "Something Wild," is about just that. He is tired of the sedentary family life and needs to return to his wild roots. There is nothing complicated here. It's just straight rock.

There is nothing new on the title track either. "Perfectly Good Guitar" is a simple lamentation of the energy that is often wasted in the modern music industry by creating elaborate production rather than just enjoying good music.

Hiatt may be playing with musicians half his age, but he has not forgotten his audience. He may love the energy of the young musicians, but he has not abandoned the average, middle-age-guy image that makes his music so palatable.

For those of you who do not know who John Hiatt is, do not try matching his face with anyone on MTV. Hiatt's fame has mostly come on the inside of the album cover where the writers are listed. Although he has been recording his own material for two decades, Hiatt is known as a writer.

His career began when he turned 18 and left his home in Indiana. From there Hiatt has become one of the most prolific writers in the business. He has written songs that have been recorded by performers ranging from Emmy Lou Harris to Iggy Pop. His own sound leans toward folk and hard southern rock, but the songs are so pliable any performer could take one and mold the song to his or her own style.

"Perfectly Good Guitar" is an album for anyone who likes purity in music and lyrics alike. In a world of over-produced albums and videos, this album is a sanctuary.

- Scot Clemens
Oregon Daily Emerald

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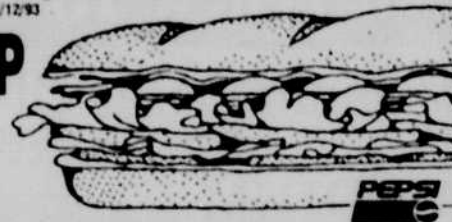
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