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a couple of action-packed scenes that kill off a lot of people, at least.

If you go expecting fine acting from an fine lineup of fine actors, then you will be pleased ... with Val Kilmer and Michael Biehn, at least.

And if you go expecting just to be pleased, then you will be pleased ... maybe — it depends on what you expect. Kurt Russell stars as law-

man-turned-businessmanturned-lawman Wyatt Earp in the Arizona town of Tombstone in another role where lead-actor Russell is overshadowed by a supporting cast of name actors, such as in recent films Unlawful Entry and Backdraft.

How couldn't Russell be upstaged in this film? Along with Kilmer and Biehn are Powers Boothe (Extreme Prejudice), Sam Elliot (Gettys-

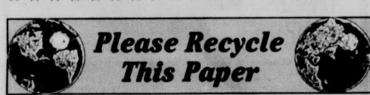
burg), Bill Paxton (Trespass). Dana Delany (China Beach). Jason Priestley (need I say, Beverly Hills 90210) and Charlton Heston (everything).

Although none of these characters (with the exception of Kilmer's death-wishful Doc Holliday) are developed well at all, it's hard to keep focused on the Earp character for too long with half of Hollywood walking across the screen during the whole movie.

But the characters of Holliday and Johnny Ringo (Biehn) save what easily could have become a disaster, as both represent the trash-talking gunslinging cowboys that movie fans have come to expect from and love in West-

And this is because both are played by two of the more underrated actors around, Biehn and Kilmer, who can save average movies from being bad much like Gene Hackman and Tommy Lee Jones have often done.







## Dave gets lucky with Nirvana

By Dave Charbonneau

When I picked up my tickets to see Nirvana at the Salem Armory, I figured there was no way in hell the show would actually happen. It was, after all, scheduled a week and a half before Christmas, the flu bug was running wild and the show was in Salem.

I was so wired about this show, I figured something would go wrong. Cobain would get sick, the band would be sick of touring or something crazy would happen to the infamously unlucky band, forcing them to cancel the show.

Well, the show happened and, much to my surprise, was one of the most well-organized and powerful shows I've seen since my first concert back in 1983, which featured Rick Springfield.

Unheard of 10-minute breaks between bands, short sets by the opening bands, and a sharp, powerful set by the headliners made this a show one to remember.

The show was scheduled to start at 7:30. "Yeah, right," 1 thought. But surprisingly, Nirvana mentors the Melvins took the stage at 7:31. About the only good thing about the Melvins set was it started on time.

Don't get me wrong, it's cool Nirvana asked the band (who were high school buddies with Nirvana guitarist/vocalist Kurt Cobain and bassist Krist Novaselic) to open for them, but the Melvins pounded through a loud

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SLOW set of eight-minute songs that seemed like they were ending after every verse, but didn't. Maybe I'm just not hip enough to appreciate creeping, slop metal. Luckily, the band played for less than 30 minutes.

Then came sudden superstars the Breeders. The band, led by twin guitarists/vocalists Kim and Kelly Deal, played another short (40 minutes) set of their catchier tunes from the recent album Last Splash, and 1990's Pod. The band got the crowd rolling and laughing as the two sisters joked in between songs about each other's guitar-playing abilities and other discussions sisters are so prone to have.

Of course, the medium- to small-sized Armory really started bouncing when the Breeders launched into their anthem of late, "Cannonball."

Fifteen minutes after the Breeders finished, Nirvana took the stage. The moment Nirvana took the stage to the pounding drum intro of "Radio Friendly Unit Shifter," the floor began bouncing, while those in the stands sat in awe of the band's presence.

Kobain stood in front of his mic the entire show, occasionally leaning back to play his distorted solos. Wearing his geographically conscious Tom Peter-son shirt, Kobain hardly said a

The band - with Novaselic bouncing around in the middle of the stage and new guitarist, Pat Smear, to his right - ripped through all the classics. They even played a serious version of 'Smells Like Teen Spirit," which in the past had been a song the band purposely refused to play

Before the song "Serve The Servants," Kobain announced, "This next one is the first song on our new album," taking a line from Cheap Trick's Robin Zander. That was as much as Kobain said the rest of the night.

"In Bloom," "Rape Me" and "Heart-Shaped Box" sounded incredible with drummer Dave Grohl confirming his reputation as one of the loudest and hardest-hitting drummers in rock.

Nirvana threw in a David Bowie cover and also played nearly every song from Nevermind and the new In Utero, and occasionally throwing in a song from Bleach.

They played about 25 songs in the hour and 45 minute set, taking less than 10 seconds in between every song, and everyone went home happy, sweaty and ready for Santa to come.

But they didn't destroy their instruments at the end of the show. Damn!

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Recently they released a self-titled album that showcases their incredible talent. The band started out under the name Death Angel that made them known far and wide, and the Organization is representative of their maturing musical

Former Eugene band Jolly Mon will lend their punkafunkapsychodelia to the show. Jolly Mon released their first compact disc, Sailing, in August and they are featured on the Northwest Ungrunge compilation that was also put out by Elemental Records. The band recently added guitarist Jay Sanders to their line-up.

Far's lead singer Ionah Matranga describes his band as "a study in differences." Far's music "travels seamlessly from clean, soft songs into hectic, head-slamming crunch without losing the listener or the essence of the music." The mix of diverse sound encompassed by Far is sure to lead them to great success.

Eugene's Elgin will also help concertgoers grind the night away. Elgin is named after a small Northeastern Oregon town where two of the members were raised, and it is also the town in Illinois where another member is from. Jazz, funk and hypnotic melodica are all part of Elgin's sound.

Ring in the new year and grind 'til you drop it's cheap at \$5 for students



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