

# MUSIC

## Pavement continues to develop their sound on 'Wowee Zowee'

**P**avement is the archetypal indie rock band for the '90s. In 1992 Pavement was just an unknown band from Stockton, California, when they released a brilliant debut LP, *Slanted and Enchanted*. Soon critics and listeners spread the word about Pavement.



Wowee Zowee  
Pavement

★★★★

Their fusion of Lou Reed style singing, Sonic Youth-like guitar experimentation, pure pop melodies and a slacker attitude caught people's ears. In a couple of years, Pavement rose from obscurity to stardom. But throughout this time Pavement has managed to keep a low profile, their indie status and uphold their integrity.

Their second album, *Crooked Rain, Crooked Rain*, was a bit less abrasive and quieter, but it was by no means commercial. It was simply the result of a band moving towards a different musical direction and exploring other styles.

*Wowee Zowee* continues this trend, and in the album's 18 songs Pavement delivers a variety of high-quality material.

Like *Crooked Rain, Crooked Rain*, the new album continues the shift toward more mellow and slower songs, although there are a couple of fast ones. Vocalist Malkmus also seems to sing more and actually uses his voice, as opposed to how he used his voice on *Slanted and Enchanted*, where it was more of a constant drone.

The album starts off with "We Dance," a slow song where Malkmus sings with a melancholy voice to a gentle guitar strum and a tinkling piano. The song has a Beatle-esque air to it, with a perfect melody that makes you smile. With "Rattled by the Rush," Pavement speeds up the pace, and most of the songs fall somewhere in between. "Serpentine Pad" and "Flux=Rad" are more punk, and they sound out of place on this album. There

are a couple of weird tunes as well, like "Brinx-Job," which sounds like a track off a Beastie Boys album.

*Wowee Zowee* finds Pavement experimenting with some new sounds and instruments. "Father to a Sister of Thought" has a definite country sound to it. On "Fight this Generation," there is a use of a violin, which sounds like Built to Spill. Also there is some use of keyboard in a few songs.

The lyrics haven't changed too much, although a few songs actually seem to make sense like "Grounded."

"I know the medical world could knock you out, to sell the coins that you made the last Thursday, dine by the candlelight and hold your savings tight, you never know when the bridge falls apart."

But on some material, the listener is as puzzled as ever when it comes to the meaning of songs. Like in "At & T": "Maybe someone's gonna save me, my heart is made of gravy, and the laps I swim from lunatics don't count, open up your sock and pull out all the things you never wanted from room service calls..." Of course the lyrics don't matter because the music is so great.

*Wowee Zowee* is a further progression of a band developing their sound. It's nice to see that Pavement haven't sold out and made an album to conform to today's trends. This record is more like *Slanted and Enchanted*, because it is more experimental and has a more varied sound throughout, but the sound is more mellow and similar to *Crooked Rain, Crooked Rain*.

Like all of the band's work, the songs are really good and the album is well worth it. If you are a Pavement fan, you will go and buy this, and if you aren't a fan, it's never too late.

— LES ZACZEK  
Oregon Daily Emerald

# TV

## 'NYPD Blue' star takes different role in TV movie

LOS ANGELES (AP)— Buoyed by her success as office assistant Donna Abandando on the hit series *NYPD Blue*, Gail O'Grady said to her agent: "Get me something completely different from Donna."

She got it. O'Grady stars as Navy Lt. Paula Coughlin in ABC's Monday night movie *She Stood Alone: The Tailhook Scandal*, based on the notorious 1991 convention of Navy fliers in Las Vegas and also starring Hal Holbrook, Rip Torn, Robert Urich and Bess Armstrong.

Coughlin, whose ambition was to become a Navy fighter pilot, found herself the victim of ribald

conventioners who forced women to run the "gauntlet" in a hotel corridor while the men molested them sexually. After Navy brass stalled in acting on her complaints, she went public with her story.

O'Grady remembers being appalled by news reports of the Vegas bacchanal, but thought no more about it until ABC proposed she star in *Tailhook*.

The problem: What to do about *NYPD Blue*, in which she appears in every episode?

The solution: O'Grady got to miss three episodes, with a story line explaining Donna needed a rest, as well as to escape from her persistent suitor, the over-

bearing Detective Medavoy (Gordon Clapp).

The Tailhook affair was prime material for a TV docudrama, and naturally the gauntlet is depicted in closeup detail. A tough scene to play?

"Actually it was," O'Grady said. "Probably one of the toughest scenes I've ever had to shoot. I wasn't expecting that. The producers and the director kept asking me, 'What can we do to make this easier?'"

"I was thinking to myself, 'I'm an actor, and this is just another scene.' When we were shooting the actual scene, I can't even explain the sensations and feelings that arose from that."



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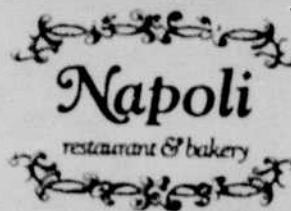
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