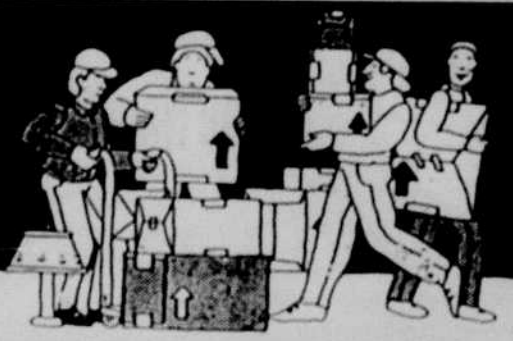




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MUSIC

The Joykillers mediocre at best

Epitaph has been one of the best independent labels for punk music. Since the '80s, the label has produced great bands like Bad Religion, L7, Rancid and others.

But the label didn't hit the jackpot until last year when the Offspring, shot its way up the charts to No. 1.

This is largely attributed to the recent phenomenon of ex-heavy metal listeners switching to a certain brand of punk music.

Unfortunately, Epitaph has realized the huge market for this music and is signing and promoting mediocre bands. The Joykiller is one of these.

The members of The Joykiller were in various Southern California punk bands in the '80s, but their debut doesn't show they remember much from those



The Joykillers
The Joykillers

★★

bad, nothing is really good, either. Sure they have a decent rhythm section, and the vocalist is not too bad.

But there just isn't anything about them that makes them worth listening to. The songs have a typical punk/metal sound to them with shout-out choruses and short guitar solos, but they aren't catchy enough.

times, except how to play their instruments.

Mediocrity is the best term to describe this band. Although nothing on this album is really

The lyrics are also typical. There is the standard social commentary: "Show me the system and I'll show you the violence, I'll show you the killers and the sellers of children."

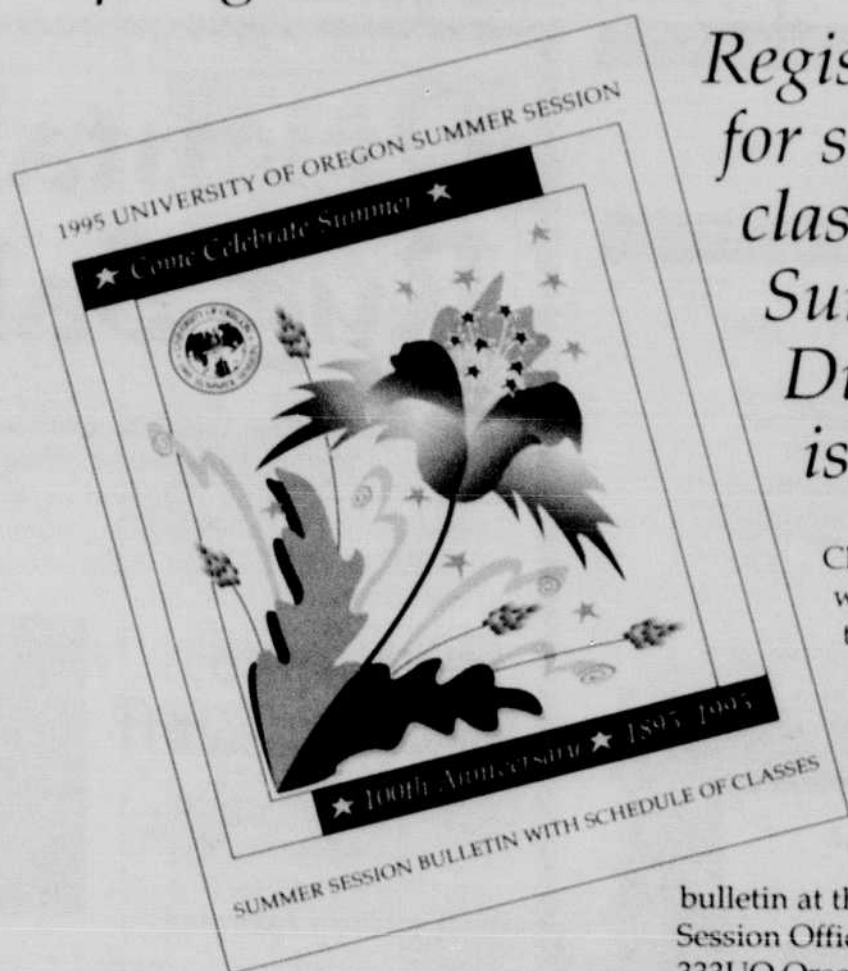
The rest of the lyrics are about failed relationships but aren't too intelligent. Especially dumb is "Go Bang" - "Isn't love the best, you find someone you want and you get them undressed... All I want to do is go bang."

There isn't a whole lot more to say about The Joykiller. It's much too boring to listen to, so don't waste your cash on it. If you like punk music, check out the early Epitaph releases or other older bands like Black Flag, Husker Du, Bad Brains or the Descendents.

—LES ZACZEK
Oregon Daily Emerald

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