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MUSIC

Remixed, revamped AM staples are feast of vintage 1970s music

By Melissa Johnson
Freelance Reporter

In the spirit of '70s revivalism, Pravda and Backyard Records have recycled the K-Tel experience for us in their new release *Super Fantastic Mega Smash Hits!*

Packaged in distinctive K-Tel fashion, this groovy compilation takes AM radio staples of the late 1960s and early 1970s and recycles them for a 1990s audience, as well as having established up-and-coming "alternative" musicians to cover the songs.

As most of you know, K-Tel made its millions by throwing together 15 or 20 Top 40 songs, regardless of the style and kind of music they were, putting them onto records, tapes, and eight-tracks and selling them really cheaply!

This collection proves to be just as musically eclectic as the average K-Tel ever was.

The artists showcased on this CD were allowed free reign in choosing their song and deciding its treatment, and for the most part, they did the songs



Super Fantastic
Mega Smash
Hits!

★★★★

an Elton John and Kiki Dee classic.

Not only did they destroy it musically, they added their own barely intelligible words to it, making it a punkish, whiny mess.

Some of the more interesting and respectable covers that the CD has to offer are The Slugs' upbeat rendition of Blue Swede's "Hooked On A Feeling" (which is now known as an annoying Listerine commercial), Fig Dish's funky-up version of Carl Douglas' "Kung Fu Fighting" and Fastbacks' airy version of Elton John's hit "Rocket

justice in a respectful way.

One notable exception to this was Bo Bud Greene's excruciating version of "Don't Go Breaking My Heart" —

Man."

Surprisingly, the Smashing Pumpkins do a decent, heavier version of the Ozark Mountain Daredevils' "Jackie Blue" without their usual whiny tone.

Southern Culture on the Skids does a very impressive blues version of Shocking Blue's "Venus" while Vic Chesnutt makes "The Night the Lights Went Out in Georgia" even more eerie and solemn than the original.

The New Duncan Imperials do a mild but humorous spoof of C.W. McCall's anthem "Convoy," by changing the name "Rubber Duck" to "Pig-tailed Dick."

Rex Daisy does a great version of "Welcome Back" (Kotter), which is almost better than the original.

All the artists did a pretty respectable job covering the songs that some of us hold dear to our hearts, with the exception of Bo Bud Greene.

It was tasteful, humorous and a nice surprise to hear how well these artists tried to live up to these songs.

Punk-folk rock musician comes to EMU

By Anne Moser-Kornfeld
Entertainment Editor

A woman, who has been described as a singer, songwriter and punk-folk musician, will bring her dynamic sound to the EMU Ballroom at 8 p.m. on Sunday.

Twenty-four-year-old Ani DiFranco grew up in Buffalo, N.Y., and said she was raised "on a mid-'80s diet of oat bran and radio mayonnaise." Since then, she has produced and recorded music that has climbed the college radio charts.

DiFranco writes and publishes her own songs, as well as releases them on her own record company, Righteous Babe Records. She has sold more than 175,000 tapes and CDs in only five years.

Her songs tell stories about love, betrayal and self-determination. The music is candid and personal, and it combines her passion for life with a brutally honest assessment of the world.

Her latest release, *Not A Pretty Girl*, shows her fierce determination and talent, particularly in a song like, "Hour Follows Hour."

DiFranco's independence shines through nearly every strum of her guitar. DiFranco's steadfast self-reliance is one of the reasons she rarely spends time in her New York City apartment; it allows her to tour constantly.

She bucks the mainstream; she even goes so far as shaving her head to ensure that guys would lis-

ten to her.

However, she defends her use of fake fingernails as strictly having a "utilitarian purpose" — so she can play the guitar as fast as she does.

DiFranco, who insists she is a happy person, uses sarcasm, bitterness and defiance to send her messages to audiences. Sometimes, she engages in humor to break up a song that sounds too obsessive, and this is one of the appealing qualities that her audiences love.

She is incredibly original, which may explain why audiences cannot get enough of her. She stands out from the crowd and makes her own way.

DiFranco said the reason she has not signed with a major label — and she has received plenty of offers — is "If you want to challenge the system, you don't go to bed with it."

As anyone knows who has heard DiFranco either live or recorded, her music is completely danceable. The Cultural Forum, who is sponsoring DiFranco's University appearance said due to popular demand, "no chairs will be provided, as dancing will be in abundance."

Tickets for DiFranco's Sunday concert are \$10 for University students and \$14 for the public. They can be purchased at the EMU Main Desk, Mother Kali's Bookstore, CD World, Balladeer Music and House of Records.

Coup: Comedy opens Arena's season

Jensen, Eric Larson, Richard L. Lebrick II, M. Chandler Melvin and Jennifer Stewart.

The design and production staff consists of T. Coyote Days, David Hess, M. Tilden Moschetti, Brian Patrick Murphy, Matt Walser and Molly Worral.

The play will run Nov. 8-11 and Nov. 16-18. All shows begin at 8 p.m.

Tickets are \$5 for the general public; \$4 for seniors, University faculty/staff and non-University students; and \$3 for University students. For more information, call the University Theater box office at 346-4191.

Hinds: Deadheads get lost in the shuffle

lab so future generations will have a slim chance of a reunion tour.

5. Who cares, they all looked like a bunch of stiffs on that stage anyway.

4. Remaining members go back into the studio and re-release "Truckin'" as "Hearsin'."

3. Subscribe to the *National Enquirer* and follow reports of Jerry sightings around the country.

2. Business as usual. Short-term memory in Deadheads is so shot that in a few months nobody will remember Jerry died, and the Grateful Dead will make millions touring with a Jerry impersonator.

And the number one answer to what Grateful Dead fans are going to do now that Jerry Garcia is dead ... Get A Life!

Ted Hinds is an entertainment columnist for the Emerald.