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College Rules

RULE #157- If you're sick, don't go to class.



Tyler Wintermute Emerald

Cat Power

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several songs. Vedder adds backup vocals to "Good Woman" and "Evolution." Grohl drums on "Speak for Me," "He War" and other tracks.

Listening to Cat Power is pure catharsis, especially the track "Good Woman," where the singer reluctantly gives up love. Marshall's voice radiates like a beam of light through a church window or a forest canopy as she sings "This is why I can't see you no more / And this is why I'm lying / When I say I don't love you no more / 'Cause I want to be a good woman / And I want you to be a good man."

Marshall, a Georgia native, exists on a plane much deeper than the rest of us. While she spins gold when writing her own songs, she also does an exquisite job reinterpreting other musicians' work.

Cat Power covers the John Lee Hooker song, "Crawlin' Black Spider," retitling it "Keep on Runnin'." And on "Werewolf," written by Michael Hurley, Marshall becomes the beast with the lyrics "Crying nobody knows / How I loved the man / As I teared off his clothes / Crying nobody knows my pain / When I see that it's risen / That full moon again."

Despite all its country western tragedy, the album is as close to an affirmation of hope as Cat Power

will probably ever come. Even the album art — pictures of a sunny afternoon in the tall grass — is a bit more lighthearted.

The title says it all: "You Are Free." Throughout the album's 53 minutes, Marshall reminds us that we are free: "We all do what we can / So we can do just one more thing / We can all be free / Maybe not with words / Maybe not with a look / But with your mind." It sounds like Marshall has finally realized she doesn't owe anyone anything. By overcoming some of her own demons, Cat Power helps listeners break through theirs.

Contact the Pulse reporter at helenschumacher@dailymerald.com.

cool nights. hot babes

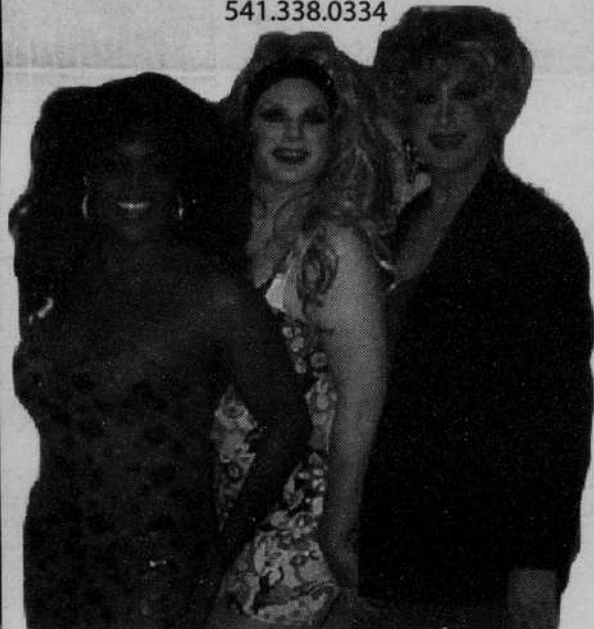
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