

Post-Sept. 11 America, Creed inspire recent albums

CD review

Ryan Nyburg
Pulse Columnist

Time to clean out the ol' collection of music albums from the past few months. You can't say the music industry hasn't been eclectic this year, so let's have a listen at some of the good, bad and bland among the recent releases.

First off is the debut from Socialburn, "Where You Are." Here's an idea, kids. Start a band, give it a one-word name, learn some decent but uninteresting chops, write songs with names like "The Pain Inside" or "She Left Me, Now I Want to Stick My Head in the Oven" and alternate between melodious singing and heavy metal grunts and you can be a top-40 rock radio success. Socialburn follows this advice to a tee. These guitar-heavy trend-riders are another creation from the Nickleback factory.

Teen angst as a marketing tool has to be one of the most disgusting social aberration since they started

using sex to sell clothing. What personal neurosis will they sing about next, existentialist dread? Damn you, Nirvana.

If Socialburn lead singer Neil Al-day's life has as much suffering as these songs express, he should get some serious therapy rather than sharing it with us. This band will probably end up with the same amount of cultural value as Seven Mary Three, whom it actually thanks in the liner notes, believe it or not.

Next up is the latest from Longwave, called "The Strangest Things." This fits the Radiohead mold instead of the Creed mold, so I guess it's a move up. The general idea seems to be a diluted version of My Bloody Valentine, stripped of the over-amped guitars and leaving only some feedback and pop melodies.

The question that this album poses is whether this is experimental music held back by an overdependence on pop hooks, or if it's pop music with the occasional experimental touch thrown in to give it some validity. Neither viewpoint

makes it look all that great. Not an astounding album, but not a totally wasted effort.

Now to completely change directions. Singer/songwriter Jess Grant brings us "Washington Waltz," a nice little bit of folk rock from up in Seattle. Grant seems to remember something that many a coffeehouse twit with a guitar has forgotten: Good song writing counts for a lot and can often compensate for other failings.

Grant's lyricism is good, and his songs are often funny, containing the intelligence and wit so often missing from most modern music. While the album never seems to mesh into anything great, it's a worthy effort nonetheless.

Last on the list, and best of the bunch, is Eric Idle's "The Rutland Isles." Here, Idle revives the too-long-dead style of the comedy record in the form of a travelogue, documenting the fictional island nation of the title.

An ongoing stream of songs, skits, spoofs and vignettes, the album touches on so many bases you often

longwave THE STRANGEST THINGS



Courtesy

forget its supposed focus. The comedy is often raunchy, often stupid and often dead-on satire. The island of Paranoia (motto: "Look out behind you") sounds suspiciously like post-9/11 America.

Its national anthem includes lines like "We're much better than you are / We're much bigger than you." Religion doesn't escape Idle's mockery, with songs like "Killing for God," and a description of how

bishops are trained to handle media criticism (hint: small-arms fire). Much like Idle's post-Monty Python career, the album is often hit and miss, but what hits makes the whole thing worthwhile.

Let's hope for a more consistent level of quality in our music over the next few months — probably not likely, but one can dream.

Contact the Pulse columnist at ryannyburg@dailymerald.com.

Found

continued from page 7

Rothbart said.

These days, readers send Rothbart more than just notes. Recently, he received a dead frog from a finder in Chicago. Rothbart included the animal, flattened and covered with lint, in Found's second edition. The frog is still lurking somewhere in one of the many boxes crowding Rothbart's home.

"It was pretty gross," he said. "It still sends a little chill up my spine. I have no idea where that thing is now."

Rothbart doesn't want to open anymore dead animals, but he said he hopes people will continue to send him their discoveries.

"For people to really respond, it feels good," he said. "It was a sort of stunning, overwhelming and unpredictable, but I feel like it's worth honoring. I'm learning that it does seem to really affect and touch people in ways I would have never seen or imagined."

Rothbart plans to publish a Found book in the near future, and he has just finished writing a collec-

tion of short stories, titled "The Lone Surfer of Montana, Kansas." Rothbart is on tour promoting Found and "The Lone Surfer" this

"It was pretty gross. It still sends a little chill up my spine. I have no idea where that thing is now."

Davy Rothbart
Found Magazine creator

month, and he will stop in Eugene at Sam Bond's Garage at 9 p.m. on June 12. Rothbart will travel with musician and brother Peter, as well as Virginia folk darling Devon Sproule, both of whom will perform at the show.

Visit www.foundmagazine.com for more information, and send your finds to Found Magazine, 3455 Charing Cross Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48108-1911.

Contact the Pulse editor at jacquelynlewis@dailymerald.com.

Carlson

continued from page 7

glossier paper so they would look more like prints. Total cost: \$1.68.

I put my prints in gold frames that I found at several thrift stores. I'm fully convinced that one almost never needs to buy new household items. I found five nice frames of various sizes, all in good condition, for about \$3.

The whole project took a couple of hours and cost less than \$5. It looks polished, and the idea is applicable to any design. I found a few books on the history of wall-

paper with some amazing patterns that would look incredible in a more colorful room. The process was cheap, easy and resulted in unique art that's far from standard college decor.

My new art hangs above my bed. I've never gone for the whole Goth thing, but I think the insect/lace combination is charming. It's very Victorian, Edward Gorey, "Arsenic and Lace," a strange union of lovely and macabre.

Contact the Pulse columnist at nikacarlson@dailymerald.com. Her views do not necessarily represent those of the Emerald.

WRITE for the Emerald
For more information about freelancing for the Oregon Daily Emerald, call 346-5511.

O

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

Stretch Your Summer

Check out the September Experience Program

September 2-12, 2003

- Short on group requirements?
- Looking for a unique way to wrap up your summer?
- Want to get ahead in your course of study?
- Excited to get back in the swing of classes?
- Does \$500 for 4 credits sound like a deal to you?

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, you need to find out more about the September Experience Program. Resident and nonresident students take one course for 4 credits in nine days for just \$500. All are group satisfying! Classes meet from 8:00 a.m. to 11:50 a.m. Monday - Friday. We have the courses you want, the courses you need, and the courses you should take. Courses are included in Summer '03 DuckHunt.

Course No.	Course Title	Instructor	CRN	Room
ANTH 110	Intro Cultural Anthropology	Fulton, K.	42479	360 Condon
ANTH 170	Intro to Human Origins	Nelson, G.	42480	203 Condon
GEOG 206	Geography of Oregon	Power, M.	42481	106 Condon
HIST 192	Japan Past & Present	Hanes, J.	42483	373 McKenzie
HIST 382	Latin America 1910-Present	Aguirre, C.	42482	112 McKenzie
INTL 240	Perspectives on International Development	Verdu-Cano, C.	42484	112 Eslinger
PSY 330	Thinking	Arrow, H.	42485	154 Straub
PSY 375	Development	Measelle, J.	42486	216 Allen
SOC 301	American Society	Dreiling, M.	42488	123 McKenzie

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON SUMMER SESSION SEPTEMBER EXPERIENCE PROGRAM

Register using DuckWeb <<http://duckweb.uoregon.edu/>>. Visit our Summer Session web site, <<http://uosummer.uoregon.edu/SepExp.html>>; call us, 346-3475, or send us email, <septexp@darkwing.uoregon.edu>

