

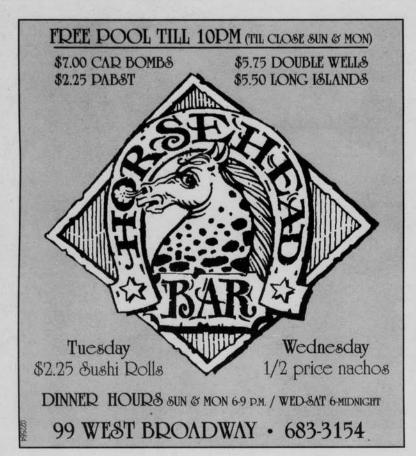
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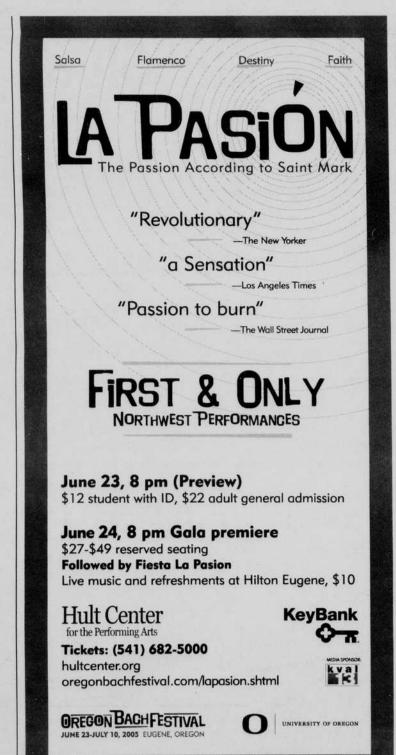
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## Review: Billy Corgan was better with original band

Continued from page 5

(or thereabouts) Fall Out Boy, "From Under the Cork Tree," is just a step above blandness, but not enough of a step to be redeemable. The band plays a combination of watered down hardcore, emo and pop rock, shifting between styles but never coming up with a distinctive sound. The group's strong points are also the root of its weaknesses, as the band's sharp and intelligent lyrics often descend into cloying self-consciousness, admitting their own clichés while still using them. The band's tight playing works well within the confines of a threeminute rock song, but is never put to the test of anything more difficult than simple emo arrangements.

Former Smashing Pumpkins frontman Billy Corgan might be starting to realize that he worked best in the confines of his original band. And if he isn't he should be. His debut solo effort, "TheFutureEmbrace" fails to reveal anything we didn't already know about this artist, other than maybe his love of Echo & the Bunnymen. Lacking the support of a band, Corgan falls back to the sounds of his childhood, filling the album with 1980s-style electro-rock that he seems unable to imbue with any serious emotions. Occasionally the album ends up sounding like Geddy Lee backed up by Tears for Fears, only not as interesting.

Going solo has also allowed Corgan to indulge in some of his worst tendencies, which leads to a lot of disengaged atmospherics and too much focus on his lyrics (which after all these years are still not his strong point). A disappointing album from an artist who is starting to move past his prime.

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