

Recent releases provide diversity of sound

Music reviews

by Tyson Morrow
Staff Writer

MELVINS Lysol

Those godfathers of grunge, the Melvins, come skulking back with *Lysol*, an album of glacially slow guitar torture, Dale Crover's ritalin-fit drum spasms and Buzz Osborne's enormous gut-wrenching howls. Over seven unidentified tracks they plumb the lows of tempo and frequency in a way that's disturbing, yet oddly empowering. The ears get a bit of a break with lurching renditions of Alice Cooper's "The Ballad of Dwight Frye" and Flipper's "Sacrifice."

ICE-T Home Invasion

At first it sounds like the bad guys won; from sexy stories to o.g. kissoffs, he spends too much time proving he's "Ice Muthaf___ing T". But in fact he con-

textualizes himself as shrewdly as ever. He may write misogynist rhymes -- "I got an ill side that drips from my brain," he explains -- but he leaves the worst to DJ Evil E and 2 Live Crew sicko Brother Marquis, the unspoken conceit being that some black men think women are "hoes" just like some black men wanna off cops, and every one of these black men deserves to be heard. Which I buy, sort of, while noting that in the lead track a narrator posing as Ice-T offs a cop himself, and not for the last time. Unfortunately, most of the claims to hard prowess are of small interest in themselves. "Addicted to Danger" is a shrewd gangsta fable; "99 Problems" takes bitch-talk over the top where it belongs; the carefully phrased "Race War" and the self-aggrandizing "Message to the Soldier" as well as the amazing "Gotta Lotta Love" (is that a bridge? in a rap song?) are as politically felt as the greatest

Public Enemy. But in a rapper as musically expedient as Ice-T, proforma lyrics drag the project down. Blame them on the bad guys.

SHAI ... If I Ever Fall in Love

Why are these putative paragons of sexual vulnerability so much more irritating than the rainbow-hued Color Me Badd, the blandishly stylish (with two exceptions) Boyz II Men, or the utterly forgotten Ready for the World? It's not Shai's indifferent singing and rapping, which are only to be expected. It's that they have no class and no sense of humor; they're too smarmy and too slow; they're big phonies. They epitomize the difference between seduction and betrayal -- between shared lie and imposed illusion, rascal and boulder, rouge and complete failure. There's not a winning wink on the entire album. And only "Waiting for the Day (When

you can Spend the Night)" offers up a fantasy with any educational potential for the fine females who lap up their crap.

CHRIS ISAAK San Francisco Days

Roy Orbison with the look of a young Elvis Presley, Chris Isaak embodies the romantic sensibilities of early 50s pop and dishes them out to a small cult of baby boomers. From "Silverlane," his debut, to his new release, "San Francisco Days" -- little has changed, which is a wise move on Isaak's part. His last album, "Heart Shaped World," "broke" him to the music world, and this one won't disappoint those newfound fans. There are no poor songs, yet few shine through as well as "Wicked Game." "Waiting" and "5:15" are filled with that same gorgeous tranquility. Don't miss a cover of Neil Diamond's "Solitary Man."

'School Ties' stresses self worth, identity

Video Review

by Linda Gibson
Staff Writer

Recently, the movie *School Ties* came out on video. It was a great movie with some important lessons tied in.

David Greene (Brendan Fraser, *Encino Man*) is a working-class teenager from Pennsylvania, who grew up on the wrong side of the tracks and receives a football scholarship to an exclusive New England prep school. David hopes the opportunity will open many doors for him, and possibly get him into an Ivy League school. David becomes the team hero, as he leads his team to several victories. David enjoys the "good life" as alumni invite him to socialite parties. David instantly captures the attention of a beautiful debutante, Sally (Amy Locane, TV's *Melrose Place*). Sally thinks David is intelligent, articulate, and attractive, not to mention he's the star quarterback. When David hears the other students make negative connotations toward the word "Jew," he decides to hide his religious preference. But all the ties of his newfound friendships are shattered when a student reveals the secret David has tried to conceal... he is Jewish.

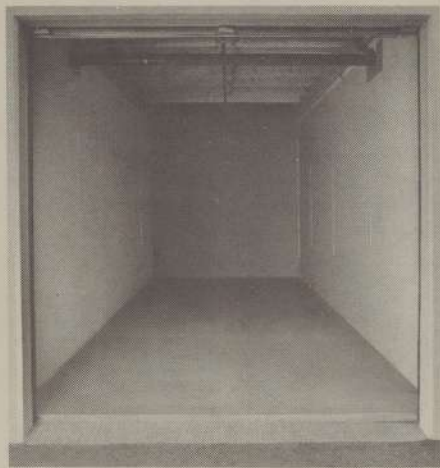
David becomes the object of harassment and scorn, and loses the respect of his peers and the girl of his dreams. David quickly learns that just because you're accepted doesn't mean you belong. After an academic exam, an instructor realizes that one of the students has cheated. All students signed a honor code which meant no cheating. The instructor threatens to flunk all of the students unless the cheater comes forward to accept responsibility. Since no one confesses, the classmates have to vote for who they think cheated. As a result of David not being honest, most of the guys think he cheated. David did not cheat, and confronts the cheater, to no conclusion. Although David knows who the real culprit is, he says that he was the one, which will result in automatic expulsion unless the real truth comes out.

This movie was great, it illustrates that self worth and self identity are imperative in all aspects of relating. You have to learn to know who you are and not to be ashamed of what you believe in. Sometimes peoples' desire for acceptance outweighs their self identity. I recommend this movie as a definite must-see. GRADE (A)

River and
andrew's asylum
will be out soon.

(the Spring Literary magazine)

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