

Rock needs more bands like the Rolling Stones

By Had Blinlon

CORRESPONDENT

Have you heard the latest? The Rolling Stones' concert tour will kick off in September. That is great. Not only is my man Keith Richards still alive, but he's actually going to tour.

He's been touring for more than 20 years, and although he looks like a pair of 12-year-old Converse high tops, he's still cranking out the tunes. I wonder how many times he really did go to Switzerland to get his blood changed. It looks like they forgot to put the drain plug back in last time.

Richards is a trooper, however. Even after the Stones' breakup, he managed to find himself someone who gave him almost as much trouble as Mick Jagger, his hero Chuck Berry. Richards put up with Berry's attitude during the "Hail! Hail! Rock-n-Roll" flop/movie about Berry, and they both lived to tell about it (a couple of times I thought one of them was going to end up in the hospital to get a Stratocaster removed from his forehead).

After reading some of Richards' opinions on new talent in a recent interview in *Rolling Stone*, I started thinking that he didn't like anything but the Stones (and INXS).

But then I analyzed things. What, Keith? You say you don't like Miami Sound Machine? George Michael is a wimp? You're my kind of guy!!!

It's time more people waged war on the garbage that is being produced for the top-40 radio market.

If we eliminate just a few bands from the mega-buck traveling concert-tour scene and put them in the Ramada Inn bar in Killeen, we would all feel better about ourselves.

Here's a list that I like to call the top 10 acts Had loves to hate.

- 10. Europe**
This group of guys has been whining and crooning too long. They look like life-size, mutant

Barbie dolls and use videotape instead of film when they shoot their videos, which makes it look like a soap opera.

- 9. Samantha Fox**
Wow! This girl's really big on uh, talent! Yeah! She needs to stick with the trashy posters and stay out of the studio.
- 8. White Lion**
I wonder exactly how many people get physically ill when they hear "Little child..." at the beginning of their popular(?) song "When the Children Cry."
- 7. New Order**
That stuff is barf.
- 6. Information Society**
That stuff is worse.
- 5. Rick Astley**
Who gave this guy permission to pollute the airwaves? He should be imprisoned (in another state) for messing with Texas.
- 4. Bon Jovi**
I'm so sick of those stupid lyrics, i.e., "Take my hand girl, we'll make it, I swear" or "I'll be there for you, these five words I swear to you."

Seems like he swears an awful lot. I wish he'd swear not to make any more stupid albums.

- 3. Debbie Gibson/Tiffany**
Same thing. I wish they would go back to high school or wherever it is they came from and try to be happy with that.
- 2. Winger**
That's amazing! The singer can play the bass without even touching it! Well, I understand that there is a lot of pointing and hair tossing to be done as a rock idol. Oh gawd!
- 1. Poison**
The mother lode. The cream of the crop. The overlords of the poser kingdom. The world's lamest band.

I really think they wish they were Kiss. They flatter themselves with album titles like "Look What the Cat Dragged In." If I had a cat, I would hope that he had better taste than that.

I affectionally refer to these kings of Clorox as Posin', but that's only because I'm a gentleman.

Film adaptation of King's 'Pet Sematary' falls victim to poor casting, weak ending

"Pet Sematary"
Starring Dale Midkiff and Denise Crosby
Directed by Mary Lambert
Rated R
**½

By Shane Hall

REVIEWER

Stephen King's books generally are not known to make great movies, although many have been adapted. The results have ranged from brilliant ("The Shining") to dreadful ("Children of the Corn," "Firestarter"). The majority have been mediocre.

"Pet Sematary," which opened Friday at the Manor East Three theater in Manor East Mall, is based on one of King's best and scariest books. Like so many other film adaptations of books by the master of macabre literature, "Pet Sematary" falls into the mediocre category, al-

though it is not without its moments. The story centers on Louis and Rachel Creed (Dale Midkiff and Denise Crosby), who move with their two children into a new home in Maine.

The Creeds' elderly neighbor, Jud (Fred Gwynne, who still looks and sounds like Herman Munster), shows them a cemetery for pets that

The chief disappointment about "Pet Sematary" is the film's casting. Both Midkiff and Crosby's performances are so lifeless that they easily could pass for dead.

Another weakness is the film's ending, which is much more explicit and much less subtle than the novel's.

"Pet Sematary" does offer some

that are so bad, they're funny. The audience at the film when I saw it was laughing much of the time.

The movie is director Mary Lambert's second film (her first was the surrealistic "Siesta").

Lambert shows talent as a director, particularly in cinematography. The constantly-moving camera helps make the movie more interesting to watch and heightens the tension of some scenes.

There are also some interesting set designs. The design of the pet cemetery itself, with its crude markers made of rotting wood, gives off the proper sense of forbiddance and the suggestion of the evil beyond.

The script, written by King (who also has a cameo role in the movie), is the greatest strength of "Pet Sematary."

Unlike, say, "Children of the Corn," this script adheres closely to the book. Unfortunately, the casting choices couldn't do the script more justice.

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have been killed in the road.

Beyond the cemetery, however, lies an Indian burial ground with the power to resurrect the dead. Louis unwisely uses this ground to bring his son Gage, who was killed in the road by a speeding truck, back to life.

funny moments, most of them involving a character named Pascow, a dead man whose purpose is to steer the characters away from their fates.

His role is little more than a cliché borrowed from many horror movies, but it works here because of the scenes' humor.

Then there also are some scenes

Debut album by new Michigan talent gives buyers money's worth, delivers soulful folk, rock 'n' roll

Gregg Alexander
Michigan Rain
A&M Records

By Suzanne Hoehstetter

REVIEWER

If you want the most music for your money, you need to buy Gregg Alexander's debut album, *Michigan Rain*.

This talented 20-year-old musician from Grossepoint, Mich., sings a combination of folk and rock 'n' roll in his American slice-of-life songs.

Alexander is a conglomeration of Bruce Springsteen without the factory and John Cougar without the farm. He's just a regular guy who sings about common concerns of many young Americans that range from finding real love to being afraid of what's happening in world politics. He presents

his music in poetic, sometimes painfully honest lyrics.

Alexander writes and sings all his own music, some of which he has been working on since before he was 16 years old. He also plays electric and acoustic guitars on the album.

After listening to his debut, which is described on the album cover as the soundtrack to Gregg Alexander's home movie, the listener feels that he knows the musician because he includes so much of himself in his music.

Most of the songs are not optimistic but "realistic." In "Don't Cry Mrs. Davis," Alexander sings about the futility of war as he describes the final moments of the life of a soldier who is about to be killed in action.

Michigan Rain is such a good album because the songs are varied and have so much emotion in them. Alexander sings from his soul.

The title track of the album, featuring Rick Nowels and Alexander on guitar, is a humorous look at a night of passion in which two young lovers melt the Michigan snow into Michigan rain.

Alexander uses sarcasm in many of his songs to emphasize issues he considers important. In "The World We Love So Much," he sings in an anguished voice, "Love — we know that love stuff NEVER lasts — and we'll dance on the graves of our enemies, you know it'll be a blast. Kaboom baby kaboom!"

Nothing on the album is included just for art's sake. Alexander is artistically talented, but he doesn't exploit his talent by shoving it upon the listener. He is subtle and doesn't over-do anything. He might play an occasional guitar solo, but he doesn't let it dominate the song.

Michigan Rain is symmetrical. The songs jump from sad to sexy

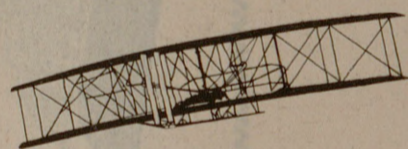
to serious. "Loving You Sets Me Free" is a ballad that comes right before "Cruel With Me," a swanky rockin' song that sounds like something the Rolling Stones would sing. The next track, "Save Me From Myself," is a song about depression and contemplating suicide.

But Alexander doesn't let the listener feel sad for very long, because the next song, "Every Now and Then" is an upbeat song about cruising the town in search of a good time.

I hope Gregg Alexander gets some recognition for his efforts on *Michigan Rain*. It's a great album that will not be outdated anytime in the near future. Like its title, it continues oblivious to time but not without affecting it.

Thanks to Music Express for lending this album for review.

FAMOUS FIRSTS



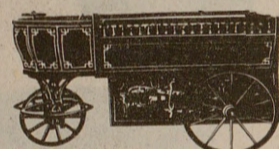
FIRST AIRPLANE

The Wright Brothers began experimenting with kites in the 1890's and in 1903 became the first to sustain flight for 852 feet over the beach at Kitty Hawk.



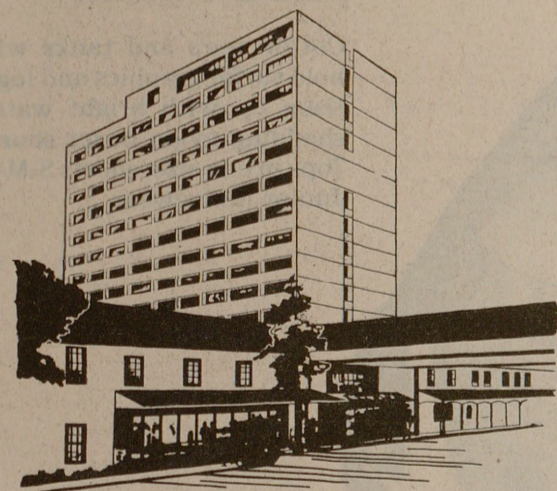
FIRST LOVE

She was the only one who didn't laugh when you fell off the jungle gym and broke your leg. She even let you win at checkers. What a woman!



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