

**Music**



## 'Baby Animals' displays talent from down under

By Chris Eklof  
The Battalion

Baby Animals  
"Baby Animals"  
Imago

Sometimes it takes a while for an album to catch on. Baby Animals' self-titled debut album was released about a year ago, but has only recently started to get much attention.

Late last year, Van Halen announced that Baby Animals would replace Alice In Chains as the opening act on their tour. At that time, few Americans had heard of this Australian band. That did not last for long as radio stations quickly jumped onto the bandwagon and started playing songs off of "Baby Animals." The listeners' desire to find out who Van Halen's opening act was, forced the radio stations to play their songs.

Baby Animals are a basic four-piece band with Dave Leslie on guitar, Eddie Parise on bass, Frank Delenza on drums and Suze DeMarchi on lead vocals. DeMarchi is nice-looking lady and this album proves that she can sing even better than she looks.

The song that initially received the most notice was "Painless," a slow, rhythmic song that made Baby Animals seem like an unusual choice to open for Van Halen. However, the rest of the album proves that this song does not reflect the true nature of the band's music.

Baby Animals do some heavy rocking on about half of their songs. These tracks are driven by the guitars of Leslie

and the power of DeMarchi's voice.

"Ain't Gonna Get" and "Rush You" even have a bit of thrash touch to them. "Ain't Gonna Get" is the hardest song on the album and it gives DeMarchi the opportunity to voice her anger towards men's sexual attitudes. She says, "If all you want is a little piece of ass / All you'll get is a little piece of me."

"Early Warning" kicks in with a pounding drumbeat, then Leslie's feedback-laden guitar takes over the song and make some serious noise (it is good noise, though).

Two of the slower tracks seem to borrow from the styles of other artists. "Make It End" could easily be mistaken for an Edie Brickell song with DeMarchi's warbling on this extremely slow moving song and the guitars on "Break My Heart" sound like they came straight off of Chris Isaak's "Wicked Game."

The best of the slow songs is "Working For The Enemy," which has a catchy chorus that DeMarchi moans her way through and the song's bassy tone gives it a mystic quality.

"Baby Animals" displays the talents of the people from down under. This Aussie band rips through their songs with a passion on the hard stuff and handles themselves well on the slower stuff, too.

The case of Baby Animals' recent success once again demonstrates the high value of exposure. If they had not been picked up for a national tour, then this album would probably have slipped through the cracks and Baby Animals would still be relative unknowns in America.

## Professor realizes boyhood dream as high-energy physicist

By Timm Doolen  
The Battalion

Dr. Robert Webb wanted to be a scientist ever since he was a young boy.

"When I was growing up, there was a lot of science in the news, with Sputnik and the atom bomb," he says. "Science was featured on the news and television shows. Science intrigued me."

Thirty years later, he's at the top of his field in high-energy physics, and is working on developing projects for the new superconducting supercollider (SSC) which will become operational in 1999.

Although the field of physics and science in general has changed over the past decades, he says it is still as interesting as when he first discovered its attractions as a boy.

"What I've learned is that what I thought might be sexy and exciting to do when I was a kid has changed somewhat since those times," he says. "Evolution in the field keeps up your expectations. I haven't become bored or disillusioned. It's as exciting as when I was a kid."

Currently he is working on proposals for the supercollider, which will cost an estimated \$8.5 billion to construct and maintain. And there are only two experiments planned for use in the SSC.

But don't get the idea that the experiments, which run \$500 million apiece, will mean the SSC is under-used. The two experiments, which involve hundreds of scientists from dozens of universities, will be 24-hour a day experiments that might last up to 10 years.

Although the high cost of the SSC project has drawn criticism from many sides, Webb defends

the expense as necessary for the advancement of science.

"In pure research, it's like art," he says. "You do it for the sake of looking at it. And in the future, it might have economic impacts."

"In hard economic times, people might find it more necessary to eat than buy a picture, but they still appreciate art. A world without science is a world without art."

The two experiments will run simultaneously as protons are smashed together every 16 nanoseconds, or 62.5 million times a second.

The experiments are pure research, done for the sake of science itself, with no immediate benefits to the general population.

But on the other hand, it's of immense importance to physicists around the world, because the experiments might help back up several theories, including the Grand Unified Theory (G.U.T.).

The G.U.T. and the Theory of Everything (T.O.E.) attempt to unite the basic forces of the universe (electromagnetic gravity, strong and weak forces) into a single force law. The strong force is what holds the nucleus of an atom together. The weak force causes the decay of nuclear particles.

Just within the past decade, the electromagnetic and the weak force were linked together. The experiments at the SSC will not only back those findings up, but will also make headway on the G.U.T.

Webb's other main area of research may be seen by some as more interesting, because of where it takes him - Italy - usually twice a year.

Underneath a mountain in Italy, Webb and other scientists are constructing a cosmic ray detector that is intended to detect



HUY NGUYEN/The Battalion

Dr. Robert Webb, a high energy physicist, is working on projects for the superconducting supercollider, scheduled to be operational in 1999.

magnetic monopoles. They do not exist on Earth and cannot be created in the laboratory.

What are magnetic monopoles? Webb describes them as magnets with only one end. Instead of a north and south pole, it has only one or the other. This is similar to the charge on particles, positive or negative. While on Earth there is abundant evidence of matter that has a single charge (negative or positive only), there is no matter with a single magnetic charge (north or south only).

The detector, which is about as big as a football field, has been in partial operation for three years and has not yet detected a magnetic monopole. After it comes into full operation next year, there

will more likely be some activity.

The closest man will come to achieving the forces that created magnetic monopoles will be in the new supercollider, which may produce particles with masses on the order of 1000 times the weight of a proton, five times less than is needed to help prove the Theory of Everything.

In addition to his research activities, Webb teaches an introductory course in mechanics, which he has taught for several years.

As to the future, he has about 15 years of work ahead of him just on the SSC project, as well as his ongoing interest in the magnetic monopole.

"Then I hope to retire," he says.

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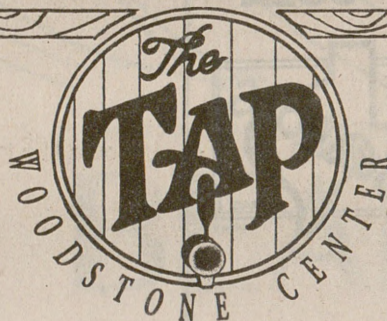
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