

The Jesus and Mary Chain

# Adding melody to madness

By Drew Diener  
THE BATTALION

The Jesus and Mary Chain  
"Stoned and Dethroned"  
Alternative Rock  
American Recordings  
\*\*\*\* (out of five)

For a decade, the Jesus and Mary Chain has churned out a noisy brand of dark and angry music. However, "Stoned and Dethroned," the JAMC's new LP, shifts gears with a more melody-oriented, acoustically-based sound.

For a band that in the past primarily dealt with distortion and feedback, the group's newest sound may not endear itself to lifelong JAMC fans. An about-face from their past efforts, "Stoned" should help the JAMC gain a wider base of listeners, much like "Jar of Flies" did for Alice in Chains.

Although the music on "Stoned" projects a sense of happiness and inner-peace, it is ironically juxtaposed with lyrics that deal with such themes as failed relationships, drug abuse and self-degradation.

"Hole," the sixth track on the album, begins with a gloomy confession by lead singer



From left to right, Ben Lurie, Jim Reid, and William Reid of the Jesus and Mary Chain combine their popular angst with a softer melody.

William Reid. "This has been my prison / Got no high got no low / This has been religion / Took my heart killed my soul," he sings.

With lyrics like those, the JAMC may be

able to retain the listening audience that has forever empathized with the band's messages of ire and hate. Anyone who can identify with the confusion and sorrow that comes with losing a lover will appreciate tracks "Wish I Could" and "Sometimes Always."

On "Sometimes Always," Mazzy Star's Hope Sandoval joins Jim Reid, William's brother and fellow JAMC frontman, in a duet dealing with a boyfriend who forecasts his return to a disbelieving girlfriend.

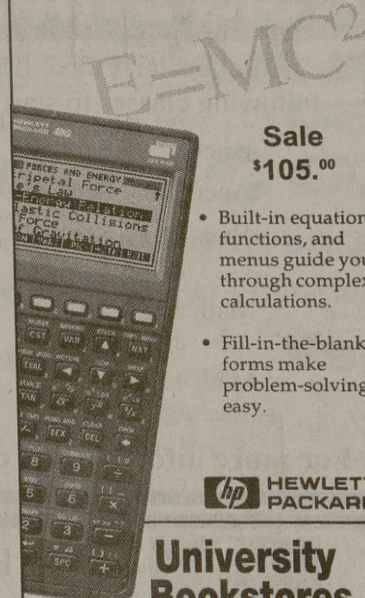
And with the songs that follow, no matter how traumatic and morbid the lyrics are, the feel of the music never lets the soul drown in pity and sorrow.

In "Save Me," Jim Reid expresses remorse to a lover for his unfaithfulness. Although he feels "sick and unholy" and has "been living like dirt," Jim does not want his lover to hate him. The words attempt to elicit some kind of harsh concern in the listener, but once again the music overrides any kind of reaction the JAMC hoped to get from its new audience.

This continuous pattern should make the

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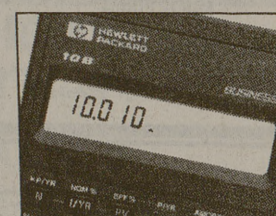
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## 'Killers' disgusts with extreme gore, violence

By Margaret Claughton  
THE BATTALION



Juliette Lewis and Woody Harrelson star in Oliver Stone's satire on violence and the American media.

"Natural Born Killers" Starring Woody Harrelson, Juliette Lewis, Robert Downey Jr. and Tommy Lee Jones. Directed by Oliver Stone. Rated R. Playing at Hollywood USA. \*\* (out of five)

"Natural Born Killers" has the market cornered on the bizarre and surreal. This film is basically the demented love story of two serial killers uncharacteristically directed by Oliver Stone.

Never before has a film completely embodied evil the way this one does. Every scene has a raunchy aspect that keeps you on the verge of purging throughout its duration.

Though a few people in the audience left towards the middle of the film, most seemed captivated. The negative energy the film exudes practically swallows the viewer with the first scene. The film

plays on their morbid curiosities and they almost have to stay, in spite of the bountiful blood and guts.

The artistic work of this gross film is amazing. The casting was brilliant. Woody Harrelson and Juliette Lewis, who play Mickey and Mallory Knox, have a demonic chemistry that makes the film hauntingly believable. At times, some viewers may wonder if Lewis and Harrelson are really good actors or just innately evil.

Other big names mark the scenes with top performances such as Tommy Lee Jones and Robert Downey Jr.

Downey's work was an asset to the film. He plays Wayne Gale, the lead dirty-laundry man for the film's version of "Americas Most Wanted," a television show called "American Maniacs." Downey plays the role perfectly as the tacky, foreign, melodramatic journalist whose sole drive is to get high ratings.

Jones' performance was also impres-

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