

Sweet captivates with songs about decaying relationships on *100% Fun*

rin Hill
BATTALION

100% Fun
Matthew Sweet
Entertainment
#1/2 (out of five)

Matthew Sweet must date extraordinarily people. He writes all about them and their relationship problems on his new album, *100%*. Each song is about a relationship, in some of decay or another.

"I of Myself" is his first offering. It's catchy, starters, and adious too. This sticks in your as do the lyrics sick of myself I look at you ... hard to even want

Sweet creates an em for the chron- insecure. creates a beautiful ad of an un- ighy relationship Not When I Need even though it's about not having his met.

Late at night I'm with fear/That I't take for grant- that you'll always near/And it es me hate my- he sings.

"We're the Same" et another entry the "weird relation- contest," boast- prize-winning lyrics like "Baby, we're the e when we shine in each other's sky."

With "I Almost Forgot," Sweet captures the uring pangs of a soured relationship. He ten-

derly sings about those post-break-up doubts that stick in the mind like a thorn and prick the heart.

It sounds as if he is sadly singing from personal experience, especially with lyrics like "Did you say you loved me? I almost forgot ... If love leaves us for a moment/Is it gone forever?"

Sweet takes a turn for the pensive with the retro "Everything Changes." You can almost picture the three chiffon-clad back-up singers dancing around the microphone to this '50s style tune.

Picture Sweet at center stage with his wing tips and slicked hair crooning "So you look for the answer/Then pull it apart? Tear it up 'til there's nothing there 'cause it hurts your heart." Prom night, circa 1954.

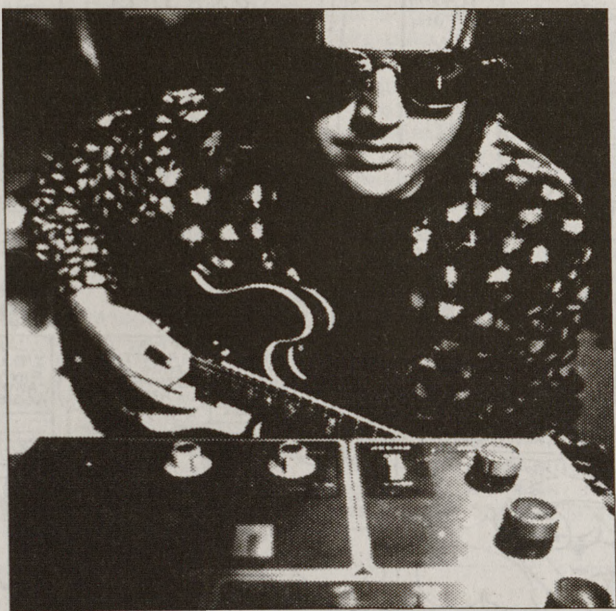
Sweet displays his bluesy side in "Giving It Back." It's a nice try. However, the instrumentation is almost too much. It overshadows the vocals and lyrics during most of the song.

For a lesser singer it might work, but Sweet's clear vocals deserve the spotlight.

"Smog Moon," his final number, hints of Toto and REO Speedwagon and their musical ilk. For starters, there is the delicious melody that steals a few bars from "Rosanna." Then come the tight harmonies. And the lyrics help to further showcase Sweet's skills as a balladeer.

Sweet can be deceptively upbeat. He can be deceptively laid back. He is a musical trickster of sorts, but he can get away with it on an album as fine as this one.

It's not always fun, but it is 100% captivating.



Matthew Sweet

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Cisneros helps nab robbers in street chase

WASHINGTON (AP) — Two youths who grabbed trays of watches from a street vendor probably didn't know a Cabinet member could run so fast.

Housing Secretary Henry Cisneros saw the teenagers as he was leaving a hair salon Saturday night, and chased them down two alleys, across two streets and over lawns as wristwatches flew from purloined trays.

One youth was grabbed by a police officer who joined the chase.

The policeman collared the other when the youth stopped short on confronting Cisneros.

Police charged the two youths, ages 15 and 17, with robbery.

"What kind of citizen or government leader would I be if I didn't try to help?" the 47-year-old Cisneros said afterward.



Henry Cisneros

Long doesn't regret leaving "Cheers"

RADNOR, Pa. (AP) — Here's the story ... of a star named Shelley Long.

Shelley Long, who plays Carol Brady in *The Brady Bunch Movie*, says people are STILL asking her why she left that Boston bar.

For the record: she's doing just fine, thank you, since her criticized departure in 1987 from the hit TV series "Cheers."

"I'm never going to give the answer that people or journalists want to hear," Long says in the March 11 issue of TV Guide magazine. "I think they want to hear that I made a mistake."

She especially resents being compared to former "NYPD Blue" star David Caruso, who jumped ship after one season to begin a movie career.

"It's just not occurring to them that I was on the show for five years," she says. "I met David at a charity function and wished him well and said, 'You know — it's probably going to be tough out there, but you're going to do great.'"

Belafonte defends NEA art subsidies

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — Harry Belafonte says Republicans in Congress should enjoy their day-o in the limelight without cutting money for the arts.

"Careless, unthinking rascals in Washington, in verbose, un-mindful and unintelligent ways, are attacking the funding of the arts," the singer-actor said Saturday night.

Belafonte maintains that federal funds have helped countless artists and writers find their styles.

"Subsidizing the arts is one of the most important subsidies this country undertakes," he said at a lecture sponsored by West Virginia's first lady, Rachael Worby.

Belafonte, now 68, led the audience in a chorus of the "Banana Boat Song" (aka "Day-O").



Harry Belafonte

March 6, 1836
For my ancestors
who died at the Alamo -

Jonathan Lindley, age 21; Galba Fugua, age 16;
Claibourne Wright, age 21.

Michael Kraft

Whoever said
"the best things in life are free"
probably had a trust fund.



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