Page 4 • THE BATTALION • Tuesday, June 11, 1996

Cody's whiny voice, lyrics destroy album

By Lisa Gamertsfelder THE BATTALION

With a mellow sound and a voice comparable to Tom Petty's, Phil Cody strums his way through a collection of songs on his latest album, The Sons of Intemperance Offering.

Cody's deep lyrics leave you straining to find out exactly what he is singing about. The first song, "House of Lust,"

has a catchy, pencil-tapping melody that forces you to hum. The lyrics, if you can find the patience to decipher them, actually tell a great story.

As the album progresses, though, the general style of



each song begins to sound the same, and Cody's whiny voice becomes annoying.

Cody plays acoustic guitar, while his band plays a little bit of everything else. The added touches of the mandolin, banjo and accordion make for an interesting combination of sound. Though Cody rarely ever holds

onto a note for more than a few seconds, the talking-singing style of his vocals makes for good listening.

The lyrics, all written by Cody, reflect his growing up in Cleveland, Ohio, between the richest neighborhood and one of the poorest. His

variance in songs and occasional soft, twangy pitch project a feeling of a man who has been through a lot. His lyrics contain references to his family, blues clubs and drugs.

Overall, each song has its own significance, but the tendency of the songs to run together is apparent and unavoidable.



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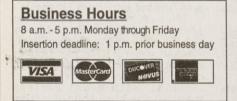
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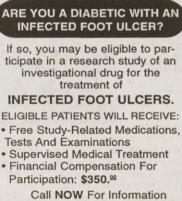
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TUTOR



Bringing Down the Horse deviates from normal pop-rock music

By Jeffrey Cranor THE BATTALION

Each song on the The Wallflowers new release, Bringing Down the Horse, has a rhythm and melody which is reminiscent of the

song right before it. ALBUM REVIEW The al-**The Wallflowers** bum, despite this, is actu-Bringing Down the ally quite en-Horse joyable **Interscope Records** Since the group's style *** 1/2 (out of five) is more suited to an au-

dience that doesn't want to hear modern, synthesized pop and catchy Top-40

ditties, the songs have good flow to give the album its cool, jazz and blues mood. Jakob Dylan, lead vocalist and

guitarist, composes lyrics that are impressive compared to most bands on the market. Dylan croons of hope, love, societal betterment and most basic song topics but subtler than most singers. In "Invisible City," the best

on the album, Dylan sings that 'The imitation of good faith is how you stumble upon hate."

This exemplifies the band's attention to the popular political issue of preaching hate through religious beliefs.

It is not to say that Dylan's prose ranks up there with that of Natalie Merchant or the embittered Alanis Morrisette, but he soars high above the lyrics of The Presidents of the United States of America.

The group recently brought in a new drummer, Mario Calire, after its original drum-

Diverse, unique lyrics key for Sincola

sound

Cannon.

led by fe-

male vocal-

ist Rebecca

commonly

considered

a better live

band, Sinco-

la is able to

effectively

Although

By April Towery THE BATTALION

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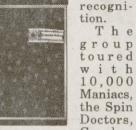
Sincola has learned it takes more than green hair, body piercing and chain wallets to succeed as a punk band.

Sincola, an Austin-based college band, has proved its true talent with the release of Crash Landing in Teen Heaven. Its refreshing punk capture its unique sound. Can-



mer left to play in Merchant's band. Michael Ward, a guitarist, is also a new addition to The Wallflowers, and Rami Jaffee plays piano and keyboards. One problem the band faces is that none of its songs have

the potential for longstanding Top-40



and Toad the Wet Sprocket but does not have the commercial

each other and succumbs to the Doctors. need for an outstanding song it Cracker will be stuck touring and not headlining.



ALBUM REVIEW

Sincola

Crash Landing In

Teen Heaven

Caroline Records

*** (out of five)

her

is



Sincola is able to do different things with their music, whereas the songs of most punk bands have the problem of monotonous verse and chorus combination.

STRACOLES.

Sincola uses unexpected breaks in its songs to remind listeners it is not mainstream punk. The female vocals add a different sound because the lyrics can be soft and pretty,

vengeful women in "Happy M.F.," to lashing against the Unabomber

terbomb.

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Let's

appeal that these bands have. The Wallflowers' commit

ment to its noncommercialized

blues and rock combination, will

prevent the album from emerg-

Band and Blues Traveler play

similar musical styles, but their

prominence is created by two or

three marketable songs that

will remain in the Top 40 and

bring the albums to the top ten.

This group has discovered a

sound that suits its talents and

has created quality music. But un-

til it distinguishes its songs from

Groups like Dave Matthews

ing into a mainstream market.

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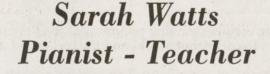
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Sincola

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ed guitarists Kris Patterson and Wendel Stivers. bassist Chepo Pena and drummer

She

Terri Lords. The album's sound is upbeat and funky allowing the individual talent of the

band members to surface. The diverse songs are all written by Sincola and

range in topics

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but loud and abrasive, to illustrate three women scorned can deliver a powerful message through lyrics. The album is well-produced,

with an unusual approach to rhythm and harmonics. The guitars sound somewhat Pixies-influenced, and the bass flows with more of a California-punk style.

The album is entertaining because it is not "textbook punk,' the same style used by every other band that calls itself punk. The sound is upbeat, but not to the level of house-cleaning music.

Although the first song, "Rundown," is one of its best, Sincola probably remains a better live band.

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