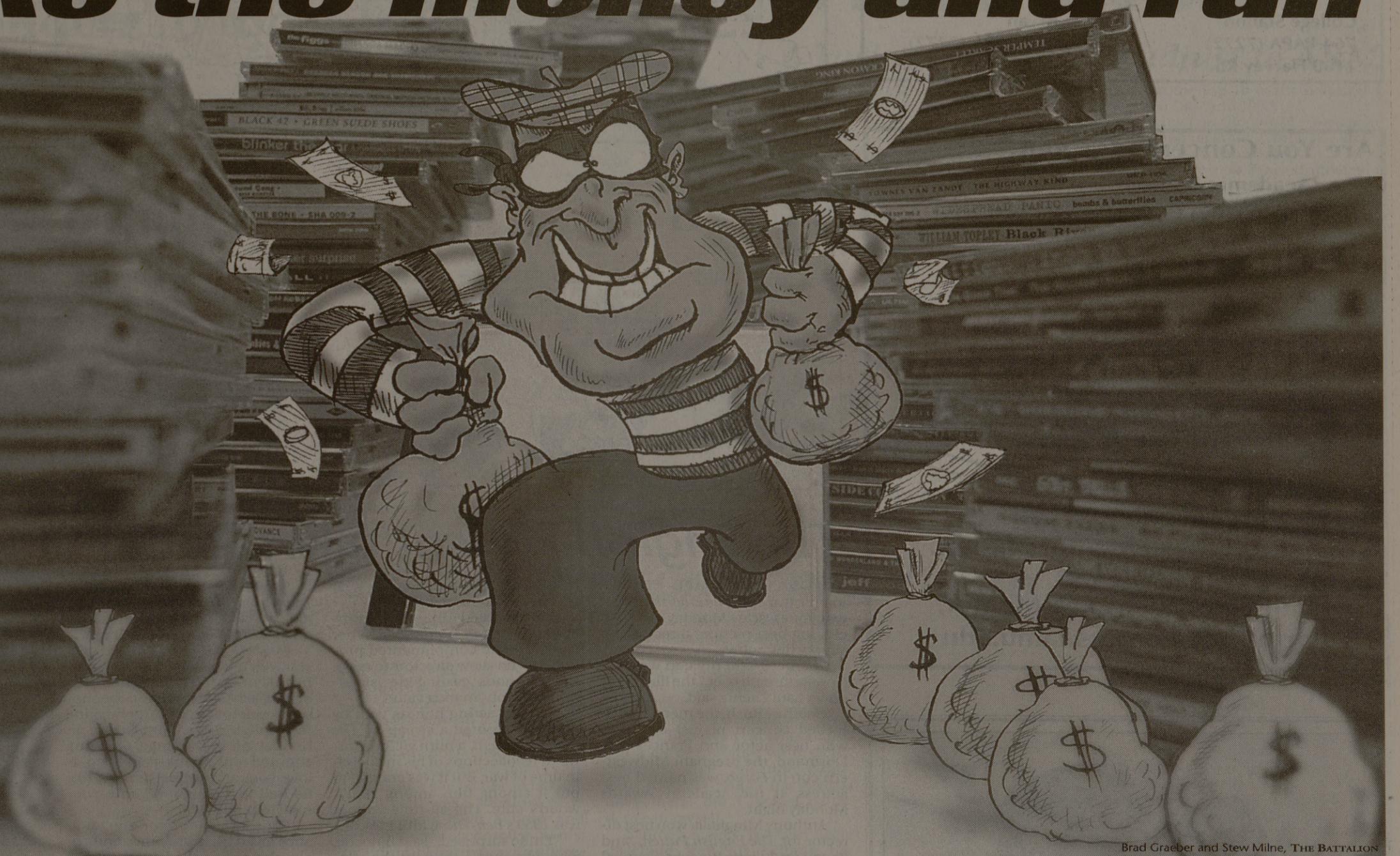


# Take the money and run



Brad Graeber and Stew Milne, THE BATTALION

## Students say CD clubs turn out to be anything but a bargain

By DAPHNE PHILLIPS  
 THE BATTALION

More music. Twelve free compact discs for the price of one. Big discounts. Music clubs reel CD-ized college students in like fish asking for the hook, line and sinker. With the first big package of free CDs sounding too good to be true, students are in for a long haul. Kimberly Campbell, a senior microbiology major, was a member of a CD club for two years.

"It looks like a good deal," Campbell said. "But when you sit down and do the math, it's not." Campbell ended her music club agreement after receiving a "selection of the month" she did not want. She was gone for three months during the summer when her mail backed up. Campbell said she did not send her monthly response cards in on time and she wound up with a CD she did not like. "With all the mail they're constantly sending me, I'm probably responsible for a rain forest," Campbell said. Michelle Odajima, a sophomore biochemistry and chemistry major, said she also was stuck with a selection of the month CD she did not like because she forgot to mail in the response card. Odajima said the selection of the month is good from the company's standpoint but bad from the buyer's.

"I think I had lawyers hassling me because I would never pay for this Bon Jovi CD," Odajima said. "I didn't want to pay for it, not only because I didn't want the CD, but I got tired of them bugging me." Odajima said she quit because the only thing she liked about her club was the 12 free CDs. "The regular club prices were around \$15," Odajima said. "You can go to Best Buy, pick out any CD from all kinds of music and buy it for \$10."

Regular club prices for CDs usually run from \$12.98 to \$16.98, and the clubs state that shipping and handling charges and sales tax are additional. Students may find used CD stores cheaper, considering all the money spent. Students also may find a club's selection of music lacking in variety. The type of music one checks in the membership agreement is the kind of music catalog a club often sends. This can be a disadvantage if one listens to different kinds of music.

**"It looks like a good deal, but when you sit down and do the math, it's not."**

Kimberly Campbell  
 Senior microbiology major

Kristen Miller, a sophomore agricultural systems management major, said her club's selection does not suit everyone's desires.

"The selection of the month is aimed toward elementary school-age twits," Miller said.

Miller has been a member of her club for four years and has attempted to quit, but the club still sends her mail.

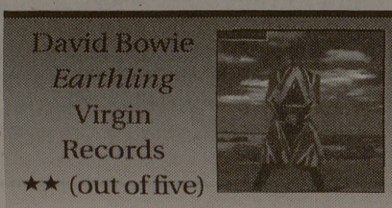
"It was the thing to do in high school," Miller said. "All these free CDs were a good way to build up your CD collection. But it's really annoying that they're consistently sending you things."

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## To all earthlings: David Bowie's newest album orbits Planet Shallow

By STEPHEN LLANO  
 THE BATTALION

David Bowie's newest album, *Earthling*, sounds as if the inhabitants of Earth were the last thing on his mind when he composed it. Released soon after the rock star's well-publicized 50th birthday bash, this album easily could have been a boring tour



of a comfortable musical style. Not many artists are in an experimental mood at his age, but

Bowie still seems to show enthusiasm and excitement about the creative process.

"It's extraordinarily exciting for me because I honestly don't know what's going to happen," Bowie said in an interview available on his Web site <http://www.davidbowie.com>. "In a way I'm taking quite a chance. I really feel that if I had to lay back on what I've done before, I'd much

prefer to stop. While I'm still wildly excited about what I do as a musician, then that's the course that I choose to take."

The new album may be exciting for Bowie, but at first listen, there is nothing truly memorable about the album. The most exciting thing about it is the fact that Bowie decided to rely primarily on computer-generated music, and not the rock band that usually backs him.

But cool sounds do not a solid album make. The songs are plagued with empty lyrics that fail to serve the critical listener's need for direction. Bowie's experimental intent, which in most cases would be good, is fairly obvious. But this time the experiment seems to lack a real purpose.

"I mean, we wrote the album, other than the two older songs that we're doing, we wrote the al-

bum in something like nine-and-a-half days," Bowie said in the same interview. "It was done incredibly quickly. But that sort of within itself was kind of the point of the exercise, was to work really quickly and write really fast and just see what happened really, more than anything else."

See **BOWIE**, Page 4



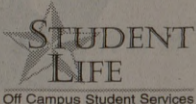
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