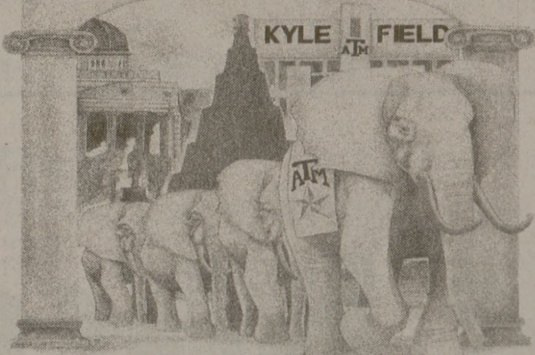


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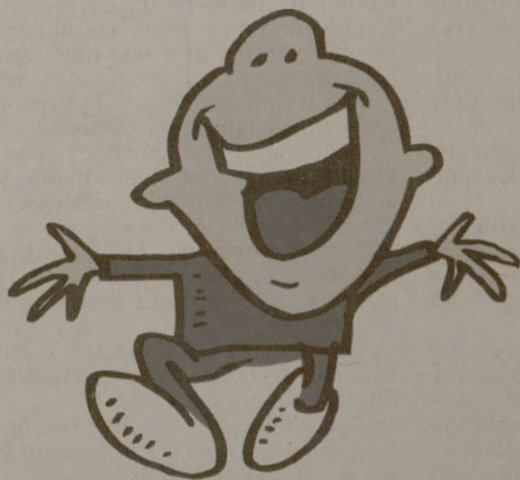
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**HAZING KILLS:**

In the last decade over 60 college students have died as a result of hazing activities.

Eight students at Frostburg State University were charged with manslaughter in the alcohol poisoning death of a freshman. John Eric Stinner, 20, was forced to drink at a party hosted by an organization he was a member of. John consumed at least six beers and 12 shots of vodka in two hours. He was found dead in his dorm room on November 9, 1997 with a blood alcohol level of .34 percent, more than three times the legally intoxicated level of .10 percent.

Similar stories are becoming all too frequent.  
**STOP HAZING.**  
The next victim could be an AGGIE.

HAZING FATALITIES ARE NOT THE RESULT OF "EVIL" PEOPLE. THEY ARE THE RESULT OF ASSUMING THAT NO HARM WILL COME. DON'T MAKE AN ASSUMPTION-IT COULD COST A LIFE.

To report hazing, contact one of the following offices:

The Department of Student Life  
Student Conflict Resolution Services:  
Call 847-7272 to report any incidents of hazing.

The Office of the Commandant:  
Call 458-1341 to report hazing involving members of the Corps of Cadets.

The Department of Student Activities:  
Call 845-1133 to report hazing involving members of a recognized student organization.

University Police Department:  
Call 845-2345 to report any incidents of hazing.

This advertisement is brought to you by Student Conflict Resolution Services-the Department of Student Life, within the Division of Student Affairs.

**AGGIELIFE**



**Static X**  
*Wisconsin Death Trip*  
CD Courtesy of Warner Bros. Music



**Virgos Merlot**  
*Signs of a Vacant Soul*  
CD Courtesy of Atlantic Records



**Blackstreet**  
*Finally*  
Lil' Man/Interscope Records

Popular music has forever been a game of follow the leader. It seems as soon as a Nirvana becomes the new rage, a Sponge will be trotting at their heels. It seems inevitable then, that following the success of such techno-metal acts as Marilyn Manson and Korn there would be a crop of less-than-mediocre bands like Static X.

Aside from the album booklet, which, among other things, thanks Beavis and Butthead and White Rain hair products in the same breath as their producer, the group initially shows some promise. The guitars are turned up loud, the lead vocalist is very angry at something, and the addition of a dedicated keyboardist/sampler should make for an interesting mix.

Unfortunately, the band fails to live up to its promise in the most spectacular way. Imagine a disco song an hour long run through a lawnmower, only without the personal charm.

The lyrics are even worse than the music. The words themselves could have been penned by any seventh grader with a rudimentary knowledge of swearing, sex and drugs and the will to offend his parents. High points are few and far between on this record, as expected from any follow-the-leader band. (Grade: F)

— Stephen Wells

In these days of opaque contact lenses and men who wear makeup, image is quickly outpacing talent as a prerequisite for entry into the music business.

At least, this is the impression left by Virgos Merlot's debut album, *Signs of a Vacant Soul*.

The band sports some heavy-artillery instrumentation ready to dish out a sonic opus on par with bands such as Radiohead, but, unlike many bands who utilize multiple six-strings, the three guitarists do not leave each other room to stretch out and seldom communicate ideas during the brief instrumental passages dotting the album.

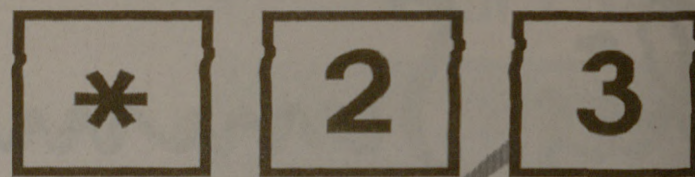
The three guitars are often found playing only two guitar parts and overdubbing each other with a third providing a background of white noise.

Lyrical, the album is a touch of goth and defeatism, an idea which plays well enough with the band's vampire-ish image to please the groupies.

The album does have its share of ready-for-radio singles, from the spin-off "Winning" to the ultra-trippy "Disregarding."

Unfortunately for these made-for-video rockers, the rest of the album is for the most part profoundly mediocre. (Grade: C)

— Stephen Wells



**KNOW THE CODE**

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