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AGGIELIFE



Vitamin C
Vitamin C
CD courtesy of Elektra Entertainment

Vitamin C looks like a bag of unabashed fun, and she delivers just that with her newest release, *Vitamin C*.

In an age of female empowerment through disenchantment, Vitamin C manages to see the silver lining in everything from one-night stands in "About Last Night," to greedy capitalists in "Money" and to the joy of smiling for the sake of smiling in "Smile." Though the middle third of the album lacks a cohesive theme and the pluck that is making "Smile" a smash single, enough life breathes from the speakers in tracks like the funk-driven "Fear of Flying" and the orchestra-backed "I Got You" to keep the jams rolling.

While not a revolutionary album, *Vitamin C* is a solid debut into the mainstream.

With the artist's cheap-soda-pop good looks and an impressive talent for building vocal hooks on what would otherwise be a drab backdrop of dance-hall backwash, *Vitamin C* is a keeper. (Grade: B-)

— Stephen Wells



Jack Ingram
Hey You
CD courtesy of Lucky Dog Records

It is no surprise Jack Ingram cites Robert Earl Keen as one of his biggest influences — his musical style greatly resembles that of Keen's on his latest album, *Hey You*.

But no matter how good his impression of Keen gets, Ingram will never be able to step out of the shadow created by the Texas great.

Compared to his earlier works, *Hey You* is a more guitar-driven, down-in-the-dirt, countrified album. *Hey You* showcases Ingram's songwriting talents, which are not lacking but are just not good enough to get him out of the minor leagues.

The album's best songs, "Feel Like I'm Falling in Love," "Work This Out" and "Hey You," make this album worth owning. The song "Barbie Doll" is Ingram's attempt at humor and almost makes this album worth burying in the back yard.

Ingram still needs a little work on his musical skills, but he definitely has talent that cannot be ignored. (Grade: C+)

— Scott Harris



The Throwaway People
Marilyn Thunderland (Back from Malibu, p.1)
CD courtesy of The Throwaway People

The latest release from the local band, *Throwaway People*, is a great, if amateur, experience in the blues.

On their most recent release, the *Throwaway People* mix Texas jams with some Harlem shuffle, spending the first few songs jamming out, Jimmy Reed-style. A few songs in, however, the band hits the listener with a slow, soulful mixture of horns and electric guitar that could make any true blues fan's eyes water.

This combination of fast Texas guitar, slow horns and magic keyboard continue through the album, and save *Marilyn Thunderland* from often amateur vocals. Although the *Throwaway People* hit all the right notes with enthusiasm, they often miss the smoky emotion that elevates a good blues album to a great one.

Overall, the band's bluesy stylings and electric slide save the album from mediocrity and ensure the listener a scorching jazz experience. (Grade: B-)

— Susan Overcash



Solar Twins
Solar Twins
CD courtesy of Maverick Records

On the cover of the promotional copy of the *Solar Twins* release is a sticker. On the release in very small letters, are the words "Obey alien commands."

Apparently, the *Solar Twins* took this advice to heart.

Simply put, *Solar Twins* is an average collection of songs that served up for an entitled rave crowd. Listen carefully to peek beyond the beat doldrums would do find a reason other than "commands" for every orchestral whine or vague duish chant.

Song placement on the album is a mystery as well. Why until the last three songs on the album to establish a new album? Apart from a truly tripping "the Casbah" cover, the first of the CD is pure space-station no yawn.

Dance-hall faithful will score a bootleg copy of "Enter," "Out There" or "Obey the Solar Twins" have to the (Grade: D)

— [unclear]

Miss America 2000 vows to use visibility to aid homeless veterans

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP) — The new Miss America, whose father is a disabled Vietnam veteran, says she hopes to use her crown to spotlight homelessness among veterans.

Miss America 2000 Heather Renee French, 24, of Maysville, Ky., a graduate design student who has done volunteer work for the Veterans Administration, will campaign for increased government assistance for down-and-out veterans during her reign.

"We have over 250,000 homeless veterans, spread nationwide," she said yesterday. "A large population, of course, are in Washington, D.C., and in large cities. You find they congregate in the larger areas because that's where the facilities are that treat those needs."

Her father, Ron French, 52, served in the U.S. Marine Corps in Vietnam and was wounded in combat during his four-year hitch.

He said he believes his daughter will make

a difference as a high-profile spokesperson for veterans.

"I've already heard from six or seven [veterans] just since last night," she said. "They're really grateful that someone like me will be a spokesperson for them. It's about time veterans had a spokesperson."

French had dreamed of becoming Miss America since she was about 9 years old.



AGGIE RING ORDERS

CLAYTON W. WILLIAMS, JR. ALUMNI CENTER

DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 21, 1999

Undergraduate Student Requirements:

You must be a degree seeking student and have completed all of the following requirements to order an Aggie ring:

- 25 cumulative undergraduate credit hours reflected on the Texas A&M University Student Information Management System degree audit. (A course passed with a grade letter of D or better, which is repeated and passed, cannot count as additional credit hours unless the catalog states the course may be repeated for credit. The lowest grade is the repeated course.)
- 60 undergraduate credit hours must have been completed in residence at Texas A&M University if your first semester at Texas A&M University was January 1994 or thereafter, or if you attended prior to 1994 and do not qualify under the successful semester requirement defined in the following paragraph. The 60 credit hour requirement will be waived if your degree is conferred with less than 60 A&M credit hours. The waiver will not be granted until after your degree is posted to screens #123 & #136 of the Student Information Management System.
- 30 undergraduate credit hours must have been completed in residence at Texas A&M University, providing that prior to January 1, 1994, you were enrolled at Texas A&M University and successfully completed either a fall/spring semester or summer term (I and II or 10 weeks) as a full-time student in good standing (A full-time student is defined in the university catalog as one that completes 12 credit hours with a 2.0 GPR in a spring or fall semester; or 4 credit hours with a 2.0 GPR in a 10 week session.)

Please remember that you will lose resident credits if you pass a course at A&M with a D or better and retake it at another institution and make a higher grade. The lowest grade is always deducted by the university as a repeated class.

- 2.0 cumulative GPR at Texas A&M University.

- Be in good standing with the University, including no registration or transcript blocks for past due fees, loans, parking tickets, returned checks, etc.

Graduate Student Requirements:

If you are a December 1999 degree candidate and do not have an Aggie ring from a prior degree, you may place an order after you meet the following requirements:

- Your degree is conferred and posted on the Texas A&M University Student Information Management System; and
- You are in good standing with the University, including no registration or transcript blocks for past due fees, loans, parking tickets, returned checks, etc.

However, if you have completed all of your course work prior to this semester and have been cleared by the thesis clerk, you may request a "letter of completion" from the Office of Graduate Studies (providing it is not past their deadline). The original letter of completion, with the seal, may be presented to the Ring Office in lieu of your degree being posted.

Procedure to order a ring:

- If you meet all of the above requirements and you wish to receive your ring on November 18, 1999, you must visit the Ring Office no later than Tuesday, September 21, 1999 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. to complete the application for eligibility verification.

It is recommended that you do not wait until September 21 to apply for your ring audit. Should there be a problem with your academic record, or if you are blocked, you may not have sufficient time to resolve these matters before the order closes out on September 23.

- Return no later than September 23, 1999 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. to check on the status of your audit and if qualified, pay in full by cash, check, money order, or your personal Discover, Visa or MasterCard (with your name imprinted).

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113 Kleberg

Questions?
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