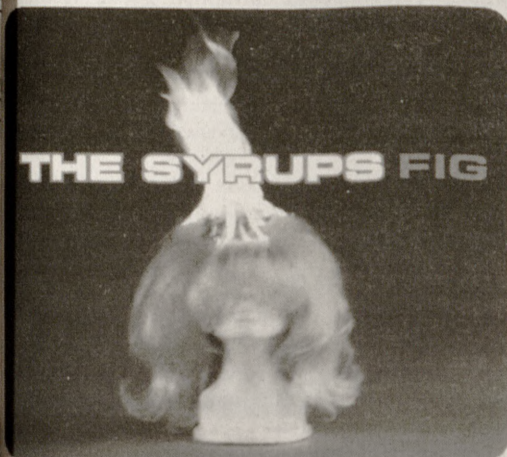


## Volume Control



**The Syrups**  
*Fig*  
Beck Records

Remember that band in high school who listened to the Goo Goo Dolls and Matchbox 20 way too much and thought if they picked up a guitar they could sound just like them?

Well, The Syrups are those kids. It's a shame when people don't realize they suck at the occupation they are trying to make a living at. Why can't record companies realize these bands have no talent? Why are people being charged \$17 for this crap? The lyrics on this album are terrible and actually grate the nerves with their unoriginality and pure mindlessness.

The music is as repetitive as the lyrics, which show the band has no songwriting skills, and the lyrics are further worsened by the poor vocals of lead singer Orion K. Walton.

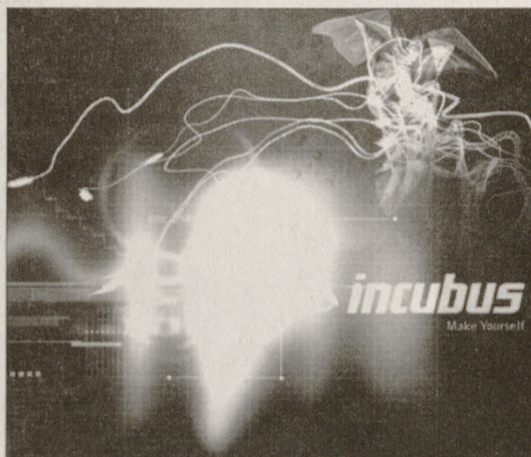
The only interesting part on the entire record is the 10 seconds of hip-hop placed randomly in front of track three, "Stain."

The beats and record scratches in these 10 seconds are good and the only sign of talent shown on the entire album.

But unfortunately, the band starts up and ruins the rest of the track. There should be a law banning music this bad. There are probably better compilations of elevator music out there.

So leave with this final terrifying thought: The Syrups and Kenny G are breeding. (Grade: D-)

— Kyle Whitacre



**Incubus**  
*Make Yourself*  
Epic Records

Incubus' newest release sounds like a combination of Tool and Sugar Ray, and the result is a mix of hip-hop and hard-rock tracks with more optimistic lyrics.

The band's new video "Pardon Me," has placed Incubus' mixed-breed style into the pop-rock limelight.

The song's chorus is of the alternative persuasion, but it features a hip-hop backdrop and fast-paced, half-spoken verses that indicates the influence hip-hop has had on the rock landscape.

The CD's first title, "Privilege," has the same sound, inviting Incubus to the party already started by Limp Bizkit, KoRn, and Kid Rock.

The difference between "Make Yourself" and an music of the other three bands is the optimistic trend in Incubus' lyrics. Though not terribly intelligent, "The Warmth" shows that Incubus is not as bitter as other bands in their class.

Adhering to a more traditional alternative sound in "Drive," Incubus again displays hope and confidence in their lyrics, asking "Whatever tomorrow brings, I'll be there/ With open arms and open eyes/ So if I decide to waiver my chance to be one of the hive/ Will I choose water over wine and hold my own and drive?"

Incubus' trendy sound and MTV backing have produced a CD that appeals to today's young audience. However short-lived the band might find their popularity, their lyrics show that they will at least enjoy the ride. (Grade: C)

— Emily Harrell



**First Love**  
*First Love*  
JWP records

Writing a negative CD review is a difficult thing. A writer can not help but feel a pang of guilt at times thinking about all the hard work that went into producing the monstrosity before him or her.

But there are exceptions.

Such as the latest release from Germany's First Love, an incredibly photogenic bunch (as evinced by their press kit) who, judging by the amount of press clippings and cheesy K-Mart-style photo poses enclosed, prove that its not just the kids in America who suffer from a lapse in good musical judgment about the time they hit the teen years.

Clearly, not much work went into the creation of this boy band who apparently wishes to join the ranks of other Backstreet Boy-influenced bands who are bent on destroying the musical integrity of this planet. If these are the songs are being carried via radio waves into space, it's no wonder no one ever sees extraterrestrials: No self-respecting life form would admit to visiting a planet that produces anything this embarrassingly terrible.

All boy bands should be shipped off to some small Jurassic Park-style island in the South Pacific where hordes of teenage girls could be flown over to enjoy them and the rest of society could go on living and actually turf on MTV to find the video of a talented musical artist.

Germany is better known for darker industrial and metal music and it is fun to imagine First Love getting beat up backstage by the gleefully nihilistic Rammstein. (Grade: F)

— Veronica Serrano

INTERESTED IN FACILITATING GLBT TOPICAL DISCUSSIONS?

GENDER ISSUES EDUCATION SERVICES IS SEARCHING NEAR AND FAR FOR A FEW GREAT LEADERS

**LEADERS WILL BE TRAINED TO ORGANIZE AND FACILITATE DISCUSSION GROUPS ON TOPICS FACING GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL, AND TRANS-GENDER STUDENTS**

PLEASE APPLY FOR THESE POSITIONS BY PICKING UP AN APPLICATION FROM 211A YMCA BUILDING OR ONLINE AT <http://stulife.tamu.edu/gies/application.htm> DUE BY FEBRUARY 16, 2000

Gender Issues Education Services

STUDENT LIFE

**DINNER! DANCE! DOOR PRIZES! AUCTION!**

Live Band - Eight Second Ride  
At The Texas Hall of Fame

**FEBRUARY 14TH AT 6:30 PM**

Tickets Available At Wiggles & Wags & at the Door  
STUDENTS \$10  
NON-STUDENTS \$15/SINGLE  
\$25/COUPLE

All proceeds benefit Nature Haven's Wildlife Rehabilitation Center  
SPONSORED BY AGGIES FOR ANIMAL RESCUE

College Republicans present

**Dr. Wendy Gramm**

Businesswoman, educator, and wife of senator Phil Gramm

Today - 7pm - MSC 226  
<http://tamucr.tamu.edu>

**Y2K-5K Fun Run/Walk**

**FREE FAJITA LUNCH**

Date: Sunday, February 20, 2000

Time: Race begins at 8:30 AM  
On-site registration from 8-8:25 AM

Registration: Free!

Location: Research Park

Details: Go By Zachry 204 for an entry form or more information.  
Event T-Shirts cost \$10.  
[www.tamu.edu/swe](http://www.tamu.edu/swe)

Come to a **FREE FAJITA LUNCH** on Sunday afternoon at the REC!

Sponsored by the Texas A&M Student Engineer's Council

**MSC SCONA**

Student Conference On National Affairs

**Unmask Your Leadership Potential**

Get Acquainted Meeting  
8:30pm Wednesday Feb. 9  
MSC 205

If you need any assistance please call 845-7625 in advance

Let the TAMU Women's Chorus Sing Your Sweetie A Song

Send a Singing Valentine for only \$15 that includes:

- ♥ A Trio of Women to sing one of four songs:
  - ♥ Baby Face
  - ♥ Let Me Call You Sweetheart
  - ♥ You Are My Sunshine
  - ♥ Love Me Tender
- ♥ Balloon & Candy Bouquet
- ♥ Personalized Card

Telegrams sold Feb. 7-11 in the MSC Hallway Call 845-5974 for more information

Delivery February 11-14 on or off campus (in class delivery with professor permission)

WOMEN'S CHORUS

**Entry Level Professional Positions**

Choosing the right job is one of the most important and sometimes frustrating decisions a person can make. At UCS, we just may have the career you've been looking for. UCS has been providing software solutions for auto dealerships for the past thirty years. We are looking for adventurous professionals for our Houston and College Station offices. Opportunities available include:

|                            |                  |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| Software Training          | Sales            |
| Software Installation      | Consulting       |
| Programming                | Customer Service |
| Bilingual Software Support | PC/LAN Support   |

Positions also exist for those eager to travel or relocate to other areas of the United States. All positions provide full training. To learn more about career opportunities, please visit us at the Spring 2000 Business Career Fair, February 9th & 10th in Reed Arena from 7:30am - 4pm. If you are unable to attend, but would still like to apply, please submit your resume or visit our website. EOE.

Universal Computer Systems, Inc.  
Attn ad # 1650  
6700 Hollister, Houston, TX 77040  
(409) 595-2609  
[www.UniversalComputerSys.com](http://www.UniversalComputerSys.com)  
UCS hires non-tobacco users only

experts think innovators leaders

We have the following career opportunities

**Technical Consultants (MSIE, BSIE)**  
Full-time and Internship positions available!  
Come learn more about Sabre!

**INFORMATION SESSION**  
Thursday, February 10th  
501 Rudder  
6:00pm-8:00pm

Sabre is the world leader in electronic travel distribution and information technology for the travel and transportation industries.

**Sabre** [www.sabre.com](http://www.sabre.com)  
equal opportunity employer

LEARN TO **FLY NOW**

At United Flight Systems  
THE EXPERIENCED FLIGHT SCHOOL

AVIATION CAREER TRACKS

Get Your Pilot License for as little as \$50 a month!!

College Station  
Easterwood Airport  
409 260-6322

[www.unitedflight.com](http://www.unitedflight.com)

- Easily awarded student loans (24 hr. award notice)
- Private thru advanced training
- Aircraft rental
- Pilot Shop
- F.A.A. approved 141 school
- VA eligible Benefits

The Muslim Students' Association Presents:

**Islam 101-An Intro to Islam**

Articles of Faith

Feb. 10 @ 7 PM in MSC 231

Future sessions (Every 2 weeks): Feb 24; March 9 & 23

Free Admission!  
Refreshments served!

Future Topics:  
Prophets (Peace be upon them) of Islam  
How do Muslims view Salvation?  
What is the Quran?

e-mail: [Islam101@ramu.edu](mailto:Islam101@ramu.edu)  
Visit our table in the MSC every Thurs. between 11am - 2pm