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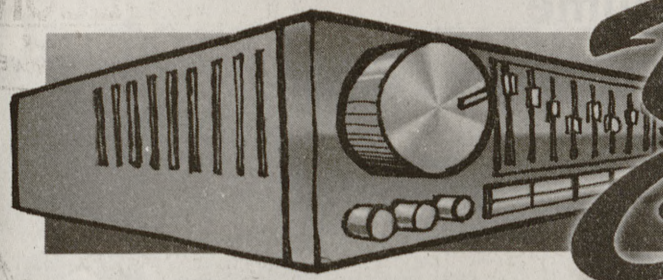
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Volume Control



Dynamite Hack
Superfast
Priority Records

Many bands on the radio have only one sound. It seems as if they use the same song for each track, then change the words.

It is difficult to tell if these groups are capable of breaking the mold. However, this is definitely not the case with Dynamite Hack.

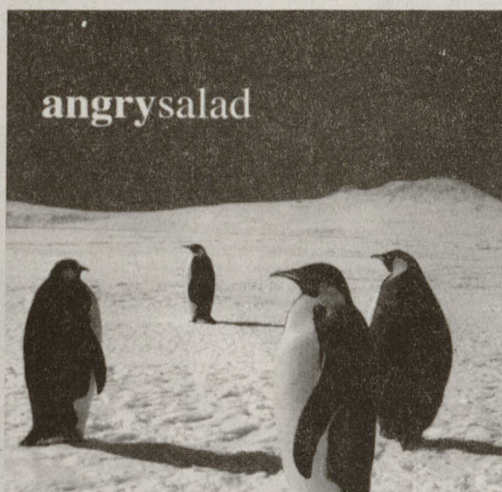
As Dynamite Hack works to get on the airwaves, its music is slowly trickling into the hands of young listeners. This Austin-based group is a great band with fresh sounds, and unlike the many groups that dominate the radio airtime, each of Dynamite Hack's tracks on *Superfast* are unique.

The group's unique sound is best demonstrated by their acoustic cover of Eazy-E's "Boyz N the Hood." On this track the group not only puts a new twist on an old sound but shows its talent and sense of humor.

It's impossible to stop listening to the album after experiencing what Dynamite Hack is capable of doing for music — *Superfast* does not get old. Listeners can enjoy the transition between the group's alternative and punk sounds and great lyrics.

Superfast is packed with great music that will keep both loyal and new fans coming back for more. Listeners will not regret spending time or money on Dynamite Hack's *Superfast*. (Grade: A)

—Jennifer Bales



Angry Salad
Angry Salad
Atlantic Records

What this band needs is more angry and less salad. Angry Salad takes all the watered down pop sound from bands like Gin Blossoms and Counting Crows and makes an album that redefines the term bland.

This album can actually suck the culture and creativity out of a person, making them a shell of thoughtless mass. The band tries hard to look like Soul Asylum in their album photos, complete with the 'artist's angst' expressions that all musicians have when they want to be taken seriously. Please, Angry Salad, find day jobs.

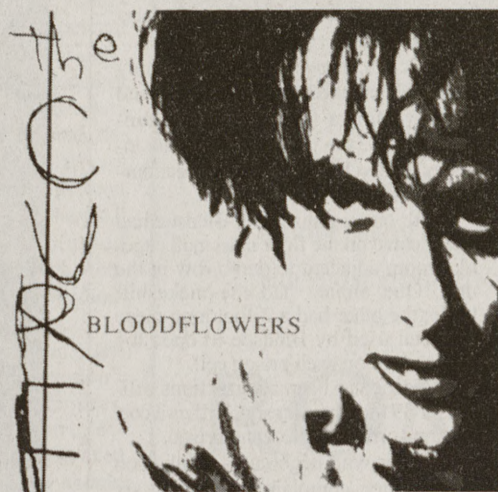
From songs like "The Milkshake Song" to "Scared of Highways", Angry Salad takes washed out pop to its limits.

The funny part of this is these guys will probably reappear in six months as a boy band.

The only good part of this album is the name of the band. Hats off for whoever thought of the name Angry Salad. It probably was not a member of the band itself.

If listeners out there enjoy bland pop like Gin Blossoms and Counting Crows, this album could possibly be worth a listen. But for anyone out there with taste in music and creative tendencies, avoid this album like the plague. (Grade: D)

—Kyle Whitacre



The Cure
Bloodflowers
Fiction/Elektra

Despite the ridicule aimed at The Cure and its fans, vindication finally arrived for the big-haired, lipsticked Robert Smith (the lead singer of The Cure) fans — in the form of a cartoon.

A few years ago, Smith lent his voice and trademark hair-do to Comedy Central's cartoon "South Park."

The episode ended with Stan Marsh (one of the show's 8-year-old protagonists) yelling after Smith, "Disintegration is the best album ever!"

This statement not only cemented The Cure's place in history but allowed Cure fans to walk with their heads held a little higher.

Now The Cure has released a new album, *Bloodflowers*, that has the same lush guitars, tortured wails and depressing lyrics that made The Cure "The Cure." Fans will not be disappointed with the album — and it may even attract new, younger listeners who are unfamiliar with the band — but it is doubtful that *Bloodflowers* will win over the bullies of old.

In a time when older groups bow to trends to keep a following (like U2, who thrilled listeners with songs like "With or Without You," then tortured them with songs like "Discotheque"), it is refreshing to hear a new album from an old favorite that manages to keep the characteristics which made the band great. (Grade: B)

—Veronica Serrano

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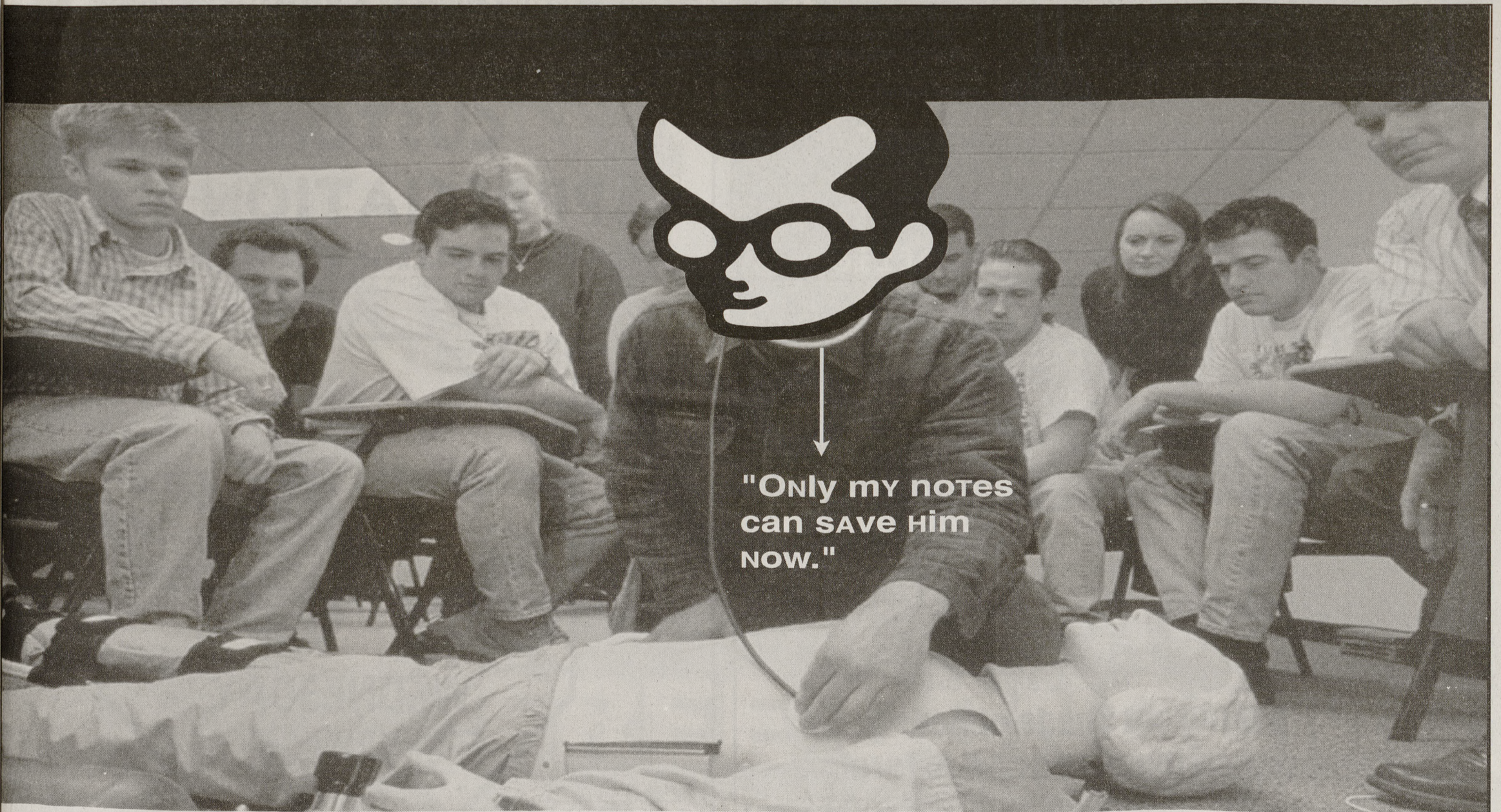
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